



St Bonaventure
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
01707 323234

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
01707 327434

WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18th October 2026

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

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Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon 01707 323234 Tues/Wed/Fri 9am -12 noon,Thurs1 - 4pm

Parish Email: wgc@rcdow.org.uk

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

TRINITY HALL Bookings + enquiries can be made through www.wgc-catholics.org.uk which has terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” These words come at the end of today’s Gospel from St. Matthew as the Pharisees and Herodians try to catch Jesus out. He always has just the right way of responding to these verbal attacks, leaving his opponents in disarray! Whilst we rejoice that the Lord could get the better of them, what do his words mean for us personally? Are they profound or do they leave us confused in our own personal approach to life? Should there be separation between Church and State? Are God’s *things* completely different to the world’s? Surely one lesson we should draw from this and many other passages in the Gospels is that God should come *first*. Loving God and all that God has bestowed upon us lifts up our hearts in thanksgiving. May our celebration of the Eucharist be a constant song of praise!

A few days ago some of us arrived back from Mexico and the pilgrimage to Guadalupe. It was absolutely incredible! There was the whole religious experience with Masses, prayers, silence and reflection. There was history with the Incas, Aztecs and Spanish influences. We saw amazing terrain with volcanoes, lakes and grassland. There were the rich flavours of Mexican food and the fire of the tequila! 43 of us got to know one another even better and entrusted to God the intentions of everyone back home. It was tiring with early starts, plenty of walking and much to take in. This was God’s wonderful world and it was a privilege to be there rejoicing in his Creation and honouring Our Lady. A possible pilgrimage for next year is Japan with Our Lady of Akita and the Nagasaki Martyrs as well as Tokyo. We will wait for a detailed itinerary and definite costs from All Saints Travel.

Let us continue to pray for one another. God bless you. With much love, **Fr. Norbert**

BAPTISM Contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. James to arrange the Baptism of your child.

MARRIAGE Any couples planning to get married this year or next should let Fr. Norbert know. Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 6th February.

RCIA for adults who wish to join the Catholic Church continues on Monday 19th October at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. This is also for Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger. There's still time to join!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION The first workshop for parents and children will be in Our Lady's Church on Sunday 18th October 3.30 - 5pm. If you missed the registration meeting, come earlier to fill out the form.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION First session for young people 7pm on Sunday 18th October in the Trinity Hall next door to Our Lady's Church. If you missed the enrolment, come earlier to get the information and fill out the form.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am Wednesdays at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email food-bank@newzioncf.net to donate money. Please use Food Bank Baskets.

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (ask for duty chaplain) emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who keep our churches clean and beautiful and see to the maintenance. It is much appreciated.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS What a wonderful celebration on 3rd October! Much hard work and enthusiasm went into making the Mass and party so splendid. Thank you!

ITALIAN MASS Thank you to those who organised the first Italian-English Mass on Friday. Many people came and there were culinary delights and festive drinks. Surely there will be another celebration in the future?

FAITH AND REASON - the great debate Fr. James will lead this evening for the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group on Thursday 29th October 7.15pm for 7.30pm start to 9.00pm at Focolare Centre for Unity -69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG

OPEN PARISH MEETING in Trinity Hall Wednesday 4th November 7 - 9pm. Come!

RED BOXES/MISSIO It is that time of year for the MISSIO Red Boxes to be emptied and the monies to be sent on to the Missions. Please do leave your box with us in Church in the next couple of weeks if you would like us to count and bank the contents and re-turn the box to you in due course. Alternatively you can count the money yourself and donate by one of the ways listed below: Sent by cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU Online missio.org.uk/redbox By text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085 Or by phone 020 7821 9755 (office hours) By Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230 (Reference RB+ your postcode) Your generosity makes such a difference and supports the work of the Missions. On Mission Sunday we encourage you to support this important outreach. Thank you!

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents/carers together with their child are asked to make an appointment to meet Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church for him to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School transfer. He will be available: Monday 19th October 4.00 - 6.30pm. There is a green parish form at the back of each church. This should be filled in and brought to the meeting. Please wait in church until called. Please ring 01707 323234 to book a time.

MORE MONEY NEEDED! It would be gratefully received in paying off the remaining loan on the Trinity Hall (£99k) and works which have been undertaken.

BANK DETAILS To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRC DT Welwyn Garden City, Sort code 400520 No. 51094459. *It is essential that there's paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and name of donor.*

PARISH WEBSITE is being updated. Many groups in the parish need a fresh description of their work/ministry and an updated contact name and number or email. Please send information to Fr. Norbert as soon as possible.

CLOCKS will go back one hour when British Summer Time ends next weekend. Enjoy the extra hour!

BLESSING OF GRAVES Oakhill (Southway) Sunday 1st November. Welwyn Hatfield Council will open the Chapel at 1.30pm and serve tea/coffee + biscuits. The Service will begin in the Chapel at 2pm. Priests will bless individual graves as requested. Hatfield Hyde Sunday 8th 1.30pm and Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 22nd 2pm.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets marked Holy Souls on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. They will be remembered at Mass during the month of November. *There is no need to give any money.* On Monday 2nd November - All Souls Day - the Masses will be at 9.30am and 7pm at Our Lady's.

MARY'S MEALS is hosting a free screening of its powerful new feature film, Lettie; a woman's survival against all odds. All welcome to St Albans Cathedral, 22nd of October, 7pm tickets free, booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marys-meals>.

KARAOKE NIGHT Friday 23rd Oct. 7.30pm Trinity Hall to support youth activities.

HCPT GROUP 183 QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm in the Trinity Hall. Teams of up to 8 people, £5 per person. Bring drinks and snacks. All money raised will help take children with disability on holiday pilgrimage to Lourdes. Cash and cards accepted. To book a table contact Barbara on 07789743703

JHN SCHOOL writes: We're excited to welcome senior members of the community to The Saint John Henry Newman School's Annual Christmas Community Morning on **Friday, 27th November 2026**, from **10.00 to 11.30am** in our school hall. Guests will enjoy live music filled with Christmas cheer featuring everything from classic carols to modern festive favourites. There will be light refreshments to enjoy while you soak up the atmosphere and share in the celebration. To help us plan for numbers, please RSVP by emailing events@jhn.herts.sch.uk . Contact the school office on **01438 314643**.

MISSION APPEAL BY THE SPIRITANS (Holy Ghost Fathers) Thank you for your generous response to Fr. Fidelis' appeal last week.

MASS INTENTIONS

17th Saturday *St. Ignatius of Antioch*

10am	St. Bonaventure	For the Focolare Community
6pm	Our Lady	Chizite and Anyina Osefo's Intention

18th TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	Frida + Stepan Janecky RIP and families
10.30am	Holy Family	Ellen Curruthers RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Caulfield RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	Tadeusz Kozbial RIP Birthday

19th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Cristina Newman RIP
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We welcome Year 6 from Our Lady's School in Hitchin.

20th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Tessie Fernandes (Special Intention)
7pm	Our Lady	Teresa and Piotr Gestwa RIP

21st Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	
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22nd Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	
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23rd Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Special Intention (CW)
7pm	Our Lady I	n honour of the three Archangels

24th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	Maria Jasionowicz RIP

25th THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	James and Helen Gallagher RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Raphael Attard (Birthday Intention)
12 noon	Our Lady	Fr. Andrew Moore RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	Roza D'Cunha RIP Anniv

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament also)

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am

Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL (near Trinity Hall entrance) Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass St. Albans Cathedral Fridays 12 noon Lady Chapel *Fr. Norbert will next celebrate this Mass on 6th November*

STREAMED MASS on youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's 12 noon Mass Family Rosary in the Chapel Sunday 18th October at 11.30am.