



**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

**24th September, 2023**

**Parish Priest** Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234 [norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest** Fr. Marco Salvagnini 01707 327434 [marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator** Mrs Jacqui Boon (Tuesday - Friday 9am until 12 noon)

Parish Email: [wgc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wgc@rcdow.org.uk)

Website [wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk)

**TRINITY HALL** Bookings + enquiries can be made through [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk) which contains terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

‘The kingdom of heaven is like...’ This how our Gospel passage begins today. The Lord highlights the gracious mercy of God who is generous with everyone; he notes how people seem to begrudge such compassion being shown to all and sundry. This is such a challenging aspect of the vision Jesus gives us of what God’s Reign is like: it is dynamic, it is all-embracing, it turns our expectations upside down - it is a revelation of God’s Being. At times it seems totally unfair!

On the one hand, it tests us uncompromisingly on our perception of God; on the other, it is even more difficult to be as generous with others as the Lord proclaims. God really wants us to be his children! God desires that we imitate the loving kindness of his Son. We can only carry this out by watching Jesus in action, copying what we see and learning from our own mistakes. Every time we say the Lord’s Prayer we are asking that the kingdom may come and be the same on earth as in heaven. How often do we realise that this is what we are praying for?!

This week I complete my 15th year as Parish Priest in WGC. I arrived on 1st October 2008. Every year is a new beginning as we embark on a journey into the future. Some things obviously happen on a regular basis: enrolment for First Confession and Holy Communion, our young people signing up for Confirmation, adults considering joining the Catholic Church through RCIA and then couples who seek to enter into Holy Matrimony. However, there are new and fresh possibilities, for example, in a year’s time there will be a Holy Year called for by the Pope with the outpouring of grace. In addition, the unexpected will crop up and test our resolve, calling us to new approaches and an emerging response - we faced this during the pandemic - and who knows what is still to come.

As a community we are enriched by the presence of an amazing diversity of peoples, cultures and languages. We *always* are fortunate to have visitors in our midst. God also blesses us with those who seek to join us or to find out more. Our calling is to strengthen the bonds between ourselves and with God and generously to reach out to so many around us who are in need - *to build the kingdom!*

God bless you and pray for me! **Fr. Norbert**

**RCIA** Any adults who wish to join the Catholic Church are invited to a first meeting on **Monday 2nd October** in the Sacristy of Our Lady's Church. We will start at **7.30pm** and finish by 8.30pm. It will be a chance to find out what is involved in the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and to meet others who are similarly interested. Adults who were baptised as children and who missed out on the Sacrament of Confirmation are very welcome to come as well. Sometimes there are people waiting to be invited! So, why not think about a person you know and encourage them to come along. This is such an important part of the life of a parish - growth and development in faith are crucial.

**POLISH MASS AND PARTY** There will be a Polish-English Mass at Our Lady's Church this Saturday (30th) at 6pm followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. There will be food and drink and music. Everyone is invited! To help with the celebration, contact Anna on [anna.skiba@gmail.com](mailto:anna.skiba@gmail.com)

**Polska Msza** odbędzie się w sobotę 30 września o 18.00 w kościele Our Lady. Po Mszy organizowane jest wspólne spotkanie przy polskim poczęstunku w Trinity Hall. Wszystkich serdecznie zapraszamy. Jesli ktoś jest zainteresowany pomocą przy organizacji, proszę o kontakt na e-mail: [anna.skiba1005@gmail.com](mailto:anna.skiba1005@gmail.com)

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** Fr. Norbert would like to invite parishioners to an Open Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7th November at 8pm in the Trinity Hall. We have not had an opportunity since lockdown to meet in this way. The accounts will be presented and hopefully every parish group will report on their activities. There will be time to plan for the coming year. Please put the date in your diary and come along. Everyone is welcome and needed!

**BAPTISMS** Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

**MARRIAGE** Any couples who are planning on getting married in WGC or elsewhere next year or in 2025 should contact Fr. Norbert. **Saturday 10th February 2024** - the Marriage Preparation Day.

**FOOD BANK** New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food for the needy members of our community, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, please email [food-bank@newzioncf.net](mailto:food-bank@newzioncf.net) and you will be given details as to how to make a donation. The Food Bank Baskets will be at the back of our churches and so items may be left in them. Thank you.

**HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES** are asking for any good quality second hand school uniforms or donations to buy new ones for the refugee children living in our area. If you can help please contact Vicky Woodcraft on [woodcraftvicky@gmail.com](mailto:woodcraftvicky@gmail.com)

**ANY QUESTIONS** members of five different faiths will answer questions on how they live their faith on a day-to-day basis. At the Focolare Centre on Thursday 28th September at 7.30 pm.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Next celebration on Saturday 4th November at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**SECOND-HAND BICYCLE** needed for a 13-yearold refugee from Ukraine. If you can help, contact Janet Lewis from SVP on 01707 326456. Thank you.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR** Mrs Jacqui Boon has been appointed as Parish Administrator. She will start work on Tuesday 26th September. We look forward to welcoming Jacqui to this new role.

**FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY** Standing order forms are available at the back of church. Consider setting up a standing order to make your regular gift to the church. Standing orders give us a steady income. *We also ask those of you who are tax-payers to allow the parish to claim back the tax you have paid - GiftAid.* This results in an extra source of income which doesn't cost you anything as long as you are a tax-payer. The donation must come from a bank account in the name of the taxpayer who is claiming Gift Aid which can be a joint account. Thanks!

**LISTER HOSPITAL** If someone you know goes into the Lister Hospital, the following links might be helpful: Non-urgent referrals 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), Chaplaincy Team email is spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net Please remember that the sick person must want the Chaplaincy to know that they are Catholic and want a priest's visit.

**FR. JULIO BARCUDI GODOY** left last Monday very grateful for our welcome and hospitality!

**OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION** at Holy Family Church on Thursday 28th September at 7pm. This recollection is intended for men. Call Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

**HOLY LAND MEETING** All pilgrims are invited to a gathering in the Trinity Hall on Saturday 21st October starting at 11am and ending with a shared lunch (finishing around 1pm).

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! The coordinator is Anne Maclean-Eltham 07811926002.

#### **OPEN EVENINGS**

**Loreto College** Tuesday 26th September 4.30 - 7.30pm

**St. John Henry Newman School** Thursday 28th September 5.30 - 8.30pm

**Nicholas Breakspear School** Thursday 5th October 5.30 - 8.30pm

**PRIEST'S REFERENCE** for Secondary School Transfer. Parents are asked to download from parish website a form requesting a Certificate of Catholicity. These should either be sent to Our Lady's Church (141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP) or emailed to Fr. Norbert and he will make contact with each family. *For a Certificate to be issued, families should be attending Mass regularly.*

#### **ENROLMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTS**

**1st Confession & 1st Holy Communion** (Year 3) Tuesday 17th October 6pm in Our Lady's Church.

**Confirmation** (for teenagers at least in Year 9) Sunday 12th November 7pm Holy Family Church.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY** on Friday 6th October. More info and special envelopes soon!

**FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING** on Friday 20th October 7.30 to 9pm - Jim McManus, Director of Public Health for Herts County Council: "The Importance of Faith Communities to the Health of the Surrounding Neighbourhood." Focolare Centre for Unity 69 Parkway, WGC AL8 6JG. Tea/coffee provided. Invite your friends!

**OUR LADY'S SCHOOL, HITCHIN** Year 6 will have a Retreat Day in WGC with Fr. Norbert and will attend 9.30 Mass on Monday 2nd October at Our Lady's Church.

**MASS INTENTIONS** *These can be booked through Fr. Norbert*

23 Saturday

6pm	Our Lady	Franco Braganza RIP (month's mind)
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24 Sunday ***TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anena Okechukwu RIP
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9.30am	Holy Family	Special Intention (CW)
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10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Manuel D'Costa RIP Anniv
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11.30am	Our Lady	Breda Joyce RIP
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6pm	Holy Family	Paul Tubridy RIP
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25 Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Mary O'Donoghue RIP
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26 Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Katarzyna Lacina RIP (5th Anniv)
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7pm	Our Lady	Con Gilhooly RIP (25th Anniv)
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27 Wednesday *St. Vincent de Paul*

9.30am	Holy Family	Local SVP Groups
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28 Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Dominic D'Souza RIP
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29 Friday ***St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael (Archangels)***

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Brian Haughton RIP (Birthday)
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7pm	Our Lady	Roy D'Cunha RIP
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30 Saturday *St. Jerome*

10am	St. Bonaventure	Florence Weston RIP
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6pm	Our Lady	Con Gilhooly RIP (25th Anniv)
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**CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)**

Saturdays 5pm-5.30pm Our Lady

Thursdays 10am - 10.30am Holy Family

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** 10am - 10.30am HOLY FAMILY

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's (near entrance to the Trinity Hall) is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Pop in for a moment of silence, to light a candle, to say a prayer.

**ST. ALBANS** The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome. *13th October will mark the 40th Anniversary of Catholic Mass being celebrated in the Cathedral. Fr. Norbert and other priests will be there!*

**STREAMED MASS** on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Saturday's 6pm Mass will be streamed at 10am on Sunday 24th.