



**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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**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 has terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

Advent is a time more than ever when we look to the Scriptures and allow them to nourish us, challenge us and give us direction. We now have a fresh translation being used in this country which opens us up to a renewed reading of God's Word. The Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament are transmitted and proclaimed in a new way for our reflection. The Spirit breathes with the life-giving message from the Father putting us in touch with the Beloved Son. We are caught up in the Divine! 'What shall we do?' is the question put to John the Baptist in the Gospel reading of the Third Sunday of Advent. John is aware of each person coming to him and has a message appropriate for them. He is also aware that the Coming Christ is superior to him and is humble enough to tell those who want to promote him. The First and Second readings capture the joy of 'Gaudete (Rejoice)! Sunday' as we mark the fact that we are over the half-way mark of Advent. Purple gives way to rose/pink and the Church invites us to experience the delight of the closeness of Christmas.

On the Fourth Sunday, we are taken to Bethlehem from which will come a ruler and shepherd and to a town in Judah where Mary encounters her cousin Elizabeth and John the Baptist meets Jesus, each a child the womb of his mother. There is a huge outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us of Jesus' offering of himself and his total commitment to humanity through his sacrifice.

Let us allow this Word of God to resonate deep within us as we approach the coming Feast. May blessings come upon each one of you. *With love and prayers, Fr. Norbert*

**BAPTISMS** Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco to arrange the Baptism of your child.

**CONFIRMATION COURSE 2024/25** Please contact Fr. Marco.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION** The first session for parents and children will be on Sunday 12th January at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Please contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible if you missed the registration meeting.

**RCIA** Last session before Christmas in Our Lady's Sacristy 7.30pm Mon. 16th Dec.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** on Saturday 22nd February in the Trinity Hall 10.30am until 5pm with Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6pm Mass. Contact Fr. Norbert. Couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church in this Diocese are asked to give 6 months' notice so that all the paperwork and preparation can be initiated.

**FOOD BANK** New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email [foodbank@newzioncf.net](mailto:foodbank@newzioncf.net) to donate. Use Food Bank Baskets at the back of church.

**TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP** *Anne Maclean-Eltham will make an appeal at each Mass this weekend.* The Group is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Drivers are needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or [macleaneltham@gmail.com](mailto:macleaneltham@gmail.com)

**LISTER HOSPITAL** Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), email [spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)

**TELEPHONE SYSTEM** Our new digital system still has problems, including the voice messaging service. Apologies. Email if necessary.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Holy Family on Wednesday 18th December after 9.30am Mass. *Thank you to all who help.*

**CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)**

**Thursdays** 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Saturdays** 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure                      5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady

**CHAPEL** near the entrance to the Trinity Hall. Open Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm.

**ST. ALBANS** There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert celebrating next on 20th December*

**STREAMED MASS** on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

**ROME PILGRIMAGE** led by Fr. Marco Monday 31st March to Saturday 5th April. £900 for a shared room, £1000 for a single room. Price includes half-board accommodation at Casa Madre Nazarena, medical insurance and entry to sites. If you want to secure a place, fill out a form at back of church or on website and return to Parish Office with a deposit of £200 (non-refundable). By bank transfer WRCDT Welwyn Garden City Sort code 40-05-20 Acct number 51094459 Pilgrim's surname + Rome 2025

**Carol Service** with carols and readings at St Bonaventure's today (15th) at 3pm followed by light refreshments.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Monday 16th and 23rd at Our Lady 10 - 10.30am Thursday 19th Holy Family 10 - 10.30am. Friday 20th St. Bonaventure 10 - 10.30am *Come and enjoy moments of peace and tranquillity in the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist especially before Christmas.*

**Advent Course** through *Lectio Divina* final session Thursday 19th December 7.00 - 8.30pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**Advent Reconciliation Service** on Tuesday 17th December in Our Lady's Church at 8pm. There will be three visiting priests joining Fr. Norbert and Fr. Marco to hear Confessions. The peace and joy of God's Forgiveness and the opportunity to open oneself to God's grace in this Sacramental way are a great gift as Christmas approaches. There will be a short reflection with Scripture followed by the opportunity to go to Confession. People are free to leave after their Confession. *Parents, why not bring your children to this celebration!*

**Christmas celebrations** on Sunday 22nd December after St. Bonaventure's 10.30 Mass. Bring and share food together with carol singing. All welcome!

**Altar Servers** Please sign up for Christmas Masses on list in Sacristy.

**Christmas Children's Mass** at Our Lady's on Tuesday 24th December at 5pm. Children are invited to take part. There will be practices on Sunday 22nd December at 10.45am in Our Lady's and at 4pm on 24th December before the Mass. *Parent/s are asked to come with their children.*

**Holy Family School** Carol Service in Holy Family Church on Wednesday 18th December at 5.30pm. All are welcome.

**Polish Carol Concert** on Saturday 4th January 7.30 - 8.30pm in Our Lady's after the 6pm Mass. All welcome.

**NEW SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE** from weekend 4th/5th January.

Saturday Vigil Mass	6pm at Our Lady's
Sunday	9am St. Bonaventure
	10.30am Holy Family
	12 noon Our Lady's
	6pm Holy Family

Fr. Norbert knows that there is sadness at the change of times. However, he also has to plan for our community for the future when situations will change further across the Diocese with more and more parishes being amalgamated and an impact on us here in Welwyn Garden City. Let us all work together keeping the faith strong in our area and reaching out to the newcomer, the visitor and the stranger. There are so many volunteers who work tirelessly in a variety of ways to ensure that our parish is vibrant. Fr. Norbert is so grateful to them. There are countless parishioners in the past and now who prayer-fully enrich us with their presence and whose loving joy is crucial. Thank you!

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **14th Saturday December** *St. John of the Cross*

10am	St. Bonaventure	Tommy Harrell RIP Anniv
6pm	Our Lady	Derek Relph RIP and Deborah Martin RIP

### **15th Sunday** *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

8am	St. Bonaventure	
9.30am	Holy Family	Cath Casey RIP 1st Anniv
10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Kitty Corbett RIP
11.30am	Our Lady	Sean Cox's Intention
6pm	Holy Family	

### **16th Monday**

9.30am	Our Lady	
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### **17th Tuesday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Maria Choi RIP
7pm	Our Lady	O'Reilly Family (Deceased)

### **18th Wednesday**

9.30am	Holy Family	
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### **19th Thursday**

9.30am	Holy Family	
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### **20th Friday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	David Coates RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock RIP

### **21st Saturday**

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP

### **22nd Sunday** *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

8am	St. Bonaventure	Robi Brand's Intention
9.30am	Holy Family	Joe Pisacane RIP
10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Edmond Devine RIP
11.30am	Our Lady	Simon Francis (Birthday Intention)
6pm	Holy Family	M. Bonner's Intention

### **23rd Monday**

9.30am	Our Lady	Liz Davin's Intention
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### **24th Tuesday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
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*The next newsletter will be published at Christmas and will cover the Christmas and New Year (until 10th January). Any items to Fr. Norbert by 20th December.*