



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

CHRISTMAS 25th December HOLY FAMILY 29th December
MARY MOTHER OF GOD 1st January EPIPHANY 5th January

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234 norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest Fr. Marco Salvagnini 01707 327434 marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

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

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

It's Christmas! This great moment of celebration has arrived! It comes in a *Person* - Jesus Christ. It is a *Gift* - from God the Father to the whole of humanity and creation. It fills us with *Gratitude* - for all we have received and continue to enjoy as *Blessings from God*.

In our lives there are people who support and help us, just as we reach out to others. This loving kindness puts us in touch with God. At Christmas we connect with them through cards, good wishes and meeting up. In this wonderful Season we offer gifts and receive them, reminding one another of how special they are and the giftedness of each unique person. As we celebrate the Nativity, it is a great moment to say 'Thank you!' for so many things we enjoy and express true appreciation. God is good! Christmas fires us up with a tremendous experience and celebration of Faith.

Fr. Marco and I are so grateful to the numerous people who have prepared our churches for Christmas, with beauty, cleanliness and welcome, to all who have served in the Liturgy through a variety of ministries, to everyone who comes - parishioners, family members and visitors. We thank you for cards, presents and kindness, wishing you blessings in abundance. May 2025 bring hope as the Jubilee Year begins, opening a door to a new beginning and light shining out for the world. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

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

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 Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy 7.30pm Monday 20th January.

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 to donate. Use Food Bank Baskets at the back of church.

TRANSPORT TO MASS 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

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

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

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING through Isabel Hospice isabelhospice.org.uk

DOROTHY BAGGE RIP Dorothy's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 7th January at 11am.

BILL SMITH RIP (Heather Gilhooly's father) Bill's Funeral Service will be at Oakhill Crematorium on Thursday 9th January at 11am.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE at St. John's, Monks Rise AL8 7NX on Sunday 19th January at 4pm. Come and join your fellow Christians in this act of faith and worship!

CIVIC SERVICE in Our Lady's Church on Sunday 26th January at 3pm. Councillor Paul Marsh, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, invites you to come and share in the reception which will follow. The children of Holy Family and Our Lady Primary Schools will sing

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Next celebration on Saturday 25th January 6pm at Our Lady's Church followed by a gathering in the Trinity Hall with food, drink, a quiz and bingo!

SOUTH ASIAN CARNIVAL MASS Saturday 1st March 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. This is a first! We need people from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India to lead the Mass in different languages, costumes and customs and afterwards share food, dance and song! Everyone is invited! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to be involved.

FILIPINO MASS on Saturday 14th June at 6pm at Our Lady's and then the Trinity Hall.

AFRICAN MASS on Sunday 29th June at 12 noon at Our Lady's and Trinity Hall.

POLISH MASS on Saturday 27th September at 6pm at Our Lady's and Trinity Hall.

CHURCH CLEANING will be announced in each church.

EPIPHANY CHALK In various parts of the world, the Epiphany is marked with the time-honoured tradition of “chalking the doors.” Blessed chalk is used to write above the entrance of your home: 20 + C + M + B + 25. The letters have two meanings: first, they represent the initials of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar; they also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat* - “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represents the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “25” at the end the year. This inscription is a request for Christ to stay with those who dwell or work therein. *There will be blessed chalk available at the back of our churches and the prayers which accompany the inscribing.*

JUBILEE YEAR Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Doors of St. Peter’s, Rome on Christmas Eve. Here in Welwyn Garden City, Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Mass of the Epiphany in Our Lady’s Church, the Jubilee Church for Hertfordshire. There will be Mass on Saturday 4th January at 6pm and then on Sunday 5th January at 12 noon. *All are invited. There are special booklets available at Our Lady’s.*

MASS INTENTIONS

24th Tuesday **CHRISTMAS EVE**

5pm	Our Lady	For the People <i>Livestreamed</i>
6pm	St. Bonaventure	For the People
8pm	Holy Family	For the People
9pm	Our Lady	For the People

25th Wednesday **CHRISTMAS DAY**

9am	St. Bonaventure	For the People
10am	Holy Family	For the People
11am	Our Lady	For the People

NO EVENING MASS

26th Thursday **ST. STEPHEN - First Martyr**

10am	Holy Family	Phil and Arthur Spranklen RIP <i>No Confessions</i>
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27th Friday **ST. JOHN - Apostle and Evangelist**

10am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Kate Murray’s Intention
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28th Saturday **HOLY INNOCENTS**

10am	St. Bonaventure	Chris O’Brien’s Intention <i>Confessions until 11am</i>
5pm	Our Lady	<i>Confessions</i>
6pm	Our Lady	Christina Bonass RIP Anniv <i>Livestreamed</i>

29th Sunday **HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

8am	St. Bonaventure	Private Intention (JA)
9.30am	Holy Family	Paul Hayes-Windell’s Intention
10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Philomena Tobin’s Intention
11.30am	Our Lady	Bill Smith RIP

NO EVENING MASS

30th Monday

10am	Our Lady	Tereza D’Souza RIP Birthday
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31st Tuesday

10am St. Bonaventure Frances Clemson RIP *Founder of St. Bonaventure's*

1st January 2025 Wednesday MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10am Our Lady For the People

2nd Thursday St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

10am Holy Family *No Confessions*

3rd Friday

10am St. Bonaventure Diana Attard RIP Anniv

4th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Diana Attard RIP *Confessions until 11am*

5pm *Our Lady Confessions*

6pm Our Lady Sean O'Neal RIP *Bishop Paul McAleenan*

7.30 - 8.30pm Our Lady *Polish Carol Concert—All welcome!*

5th Sunday EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Please note new schedule

9am St. Bonaventure Diana Attard RIP

10.30am Holy Family Margaret Myles RIP Anniv

12 noon Our Lady For the People *Bishop Paul McAleenan Livestreamed*

6pm Holy Family Special Intention (CW)

6th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

7th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Denis O'Brien RIP

11am Our Lady Funeral Mass for |Dorothy Bagge

NO EVENING MASS

8th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family

9th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family *No Confessions*

10th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady Dorothy Bagge RIP *and Restoration Holy Hour*

11th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Sean & Kathleen Kennedy's Intentions *Confessions until 11am*

5pm *Our Lady Confessions*

6pm Our Lady Sean Cox's Intention

CHAPEL near the entrance to the Trinity Hall. *Closed until 6th January*

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon.

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