



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

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26th January, 2025

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

Last Monday Year 3 from Holwell School came to visit Our Lady's Church, having an opportunity to explore, ask questions and learn more about a Catholic church. The teacher said to me on arriving 'You will read for us in Hebrew - as you did two years ago'! So, I went upstairs and brought down my Hebrew Bible *and* my Greek New Testament and had a chance to share with them the Scriptures in their original languages. Pope Francis has designated today as *The Word of God Sunday*. He wants us to treasure the Bible, to deepen our understanding and *to be nourished* by what we read. At the moment we are all getting used to the new translation proclaimed in church and especially to the Psalm responses which sound so different from the past! Change is challenging and I know I keep remembering the *old* words and sometimes get very distracted! Jesus was immersed in the Hebrew Scriptures; in today's Gospel, he is able to find just the right passage which sums up his identity as the Anointed One (the Messiah/Christ) and outlines his ministry to the people, especially to the downtrodden. With eyes fixed on him, he says: 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' As you ponder God's Word, do you feel it alive within you? Can you experience the past and future entering your present moment? Does this Divinely-inspired Writing bring you life? Next weekend, Candlemas (the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple) will supersede the usual Sunday, marking 40 Days since Christmas. At every Mass I will bless candles which you can take home. I want to celebrate Masses by candlelight which is so mystical and magical. I don't want anyone to catch fire!! We have purchased small battery-operated lights for children so they can be safe. Think about what it means for Jesus to be the Light of the World and the Light of your life. Look for - and share - his presence with others! God bless you. 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 next session for parents and children will be on Sunday 9th February at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church. If you missed the first meeting, please contact Fr. Norbert.
RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 27th January.
CONFIRMATION Group A meets today (26th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room and Group B will meet next Sunday (2nd) at 7.15pm.
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.
CHILDREN'S MASS at Our Lady's next Sunday 2nd February at 12 noon.

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 if you wish to donate money. Please use the Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches if you wish to give items such as tins, pasta, rice and toiletries. *Many thanks.*
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 *There is still time to offer your service in this way!*
LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

KEN SHAW RIP Ken's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wed. 5th Feb. 12 noon.

ROME PILGRIMAGE *Fully booked!*

HCPT GROUP 183 will have a Quiz Night on Friday 28th February at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 8 people £5 per person in the Trinity Hall. *Please bring your own drinks.* All money raised will help take children with disability on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes. Cash and cards accepted. To book your table, please call Barbara on 07789743703

FIRST FRIDAY EARLY MASS at St. Bonaventure's on 7th February at 6.30am. We will have to see what form the breakfast takes due to the recent burst pipe in the kitchen.

ROSARY Sat. 1st Feb. at 9.30am at St. Bonaventure's and Friday 7th after 9.30am Mass.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR on Friday 14th February after 7pm Mass - Our Lady's.

CHURCH CLEANING and maintenance of the grounds at Our Lady's on Saturday 1st February at 10am. Then at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 4th February after 9.30am Mass. *Come and lend a hand if you are free! It is much appreciated and makes a real difference!*

MEDJUGORJE Fr. Norbert will lead a group to this Shrine of Our Lady in Croatia Tues. 21st - Tues. 28th October 2025. All Saints Travel is organising everything and soon brochures & booking forms will be available. Pope Francis has recently given permission for pilgrimages to take place. What makes this extra special is that Our Lady's apparitions (which started in 1981) are *still* taking place. Fr. Norbert and his family made a private visit in 1989. What struck him was the power of prayer, the huge impact of the place on people's faith and how normal the visionaries seemed. Visits also to Split and Dubrovnik

CIVIC SERVICE in Our Lady's Church today (Sunday 26th) at 3pm. Councillor Frank Marsh, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, invites you to come to his Civic Service. Mayors of borough councils in Hertfordshire will be present as well as the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the High Sherriff and the Chair of Hertfordshire County Council. You are also welcome at the reception in the Trinity Hall. The children of Holy Family and Our Lady Primary Schools will sing. *It should be a great occasion. Why not come?*

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 25th 6pm at Our Lady's Church followed by food, drink, a simple quiz and two rounds of bingo in the Trinity Hall! *All welcome!*

SOUTH ASIAN CARNIVAL MASS Saturday 1st March 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. This is last weekend before Lent begins! 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! There will be a planning meeting today (Sunday 26th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

FILIPINO MASS on Sat. 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.

OTHER EVENTS:

Christian Churches' Outing to Winchester on Saturday 7th June. There will be a Bible and Praise Service, guided tours, picnic lunch and free time.

Jubilee Afternoon for Hertfordshire at Our Lady's, WGC on Sunday 6th July culminating in catechesis given by the Cardinal and a concelebrated Mass at 4pm.

Jubilee Day at St. Edmund's Old Hall Green on Saturday 12th July.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Gathering at Campus roundabout at 11am on Mon-day 27th January.

INTERFAITH GROUP Talk on Hinduism by Raj Nayer Wed. 29th January 2.30pm at Focolare Centre, Parkway AL8 6JG

WALKING WITH MARY A three-evening retreat on the Blessed Virgin Mary. A great opportunity to grow in intimacy with Our Lady building on our love of the Rosary and other devotions. The meetings will be in Holy Family's Parish Hall on Thursday 13th February, Thursday 20th February and Friday 28th February 7.30pm - 9pm. Through *Lectio Divina* Fr. Marco will look at Mary as Mother of God, Daughter of her Son and Bride of the Holy Spirit. Entrance is free but please register your presence by emailing Fr. Marco on marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

FLAME 2025 Our parish is organising a trip for young people to attend 'Flame 2025' on Saturday 15th March at Wembley Arena. This the largest Catholic youth event in the country. Fr. Marco will lead the group. He has witnessed the beauty and impact it had on the hearts of young people, fostering connections and providing opportunities for deeper reflection. If you are a young person and would like to attend, please contact Fr. Marco as soon as possible on marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk. The tickets are £35 but must be in a group of at least 10. Some parishioners have kindly offered to subsidise the cost. We will also need to arrange transport. Why not sign up?

LENTEN LUNCHESES hosted by the Catholic Women's League every Saturday from 8th March until 12th April 12.30 until 1.30pm. £5 per person with soup, roll, cake and a hot drink in the Trinity Hall. *Enjoy a simple lunch in good company!*

MASS INTENTIONS

25th Saturday *THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE*

10am St. Bonaventure Carmen Farrugia (health)
6pm Our Lady Dorothy Bagge RIP

26th Sunday *THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am St. Bonaventure Dominic D'Souza RIP Anniv
10.30am Holy Family For the People
12 noon Our Lady Brian Hall RIP
6pm Holy Family Anne Feeley RIP and Jane McDonnell RIP

27th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

28th Tuesday *St. Thomas Aquinas*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Romualdo Gurjao RIP (1st Anniv)
7pm Our Lady Cettina and Antoine Mangion Intentions

29th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family In thanksgiving to St. Jude

30th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Cettina and Antoine Mangion's Intentions

31st Friday *St. John Bosco*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Richard Ashcroft RIP (10th Anniv)
7pm Our Lady In honour of Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

1st February Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Mary, Alice and Joan Coates RIP
6pm Our Lady Alice Hurley RIP

2nd Sunday *THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD*

9am St. Bonaventure For the Wilson Family
10.30am Holy Family Chris Ross RIP (1st Anniv)
12 noon Our Lady Brian and Teresa Sturt RIP
6pm Holy Family Sophie Constable (Baptism Anniv) +
Pat Frost RIP (2nd Anniv)

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30am with Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am Our Lady's 5.00 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL near the entrance to the Trinity Hall. Open Monday to Friday 8.30am until 4pm. Come and enjoy peace and quiet in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

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)