



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
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Holy Family
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2nd February, 2025

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

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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

I checked to see when 2nd February was last on a Sunday - 2020 (just before lockdown!); it will next be on a Sunday in 2031. This means that today's celebration is quite unique. We gather on the Fortieth Day after Christmas and remember the encounter between Simeon/Anna and Mary/Joseph. At the heart of this meeting in the Temple is Jesus whom Simeon calls *A Light for revelation to the Gentiles - the Light of the World!* Anna, a widow of 84 is so excited that she starts telling everyone about him! Each of us will hold a candle and be reminded that the light shine *for us, in us and through us; our light will radiate in our world the very Presence of God in and through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Prophet Malachi speaks of the messenger God will send who will refine and purify us so that we may make an offering pleasing to God. Mary in the Gospel is told by Simeon that a sword will pierce through her own soul; he thus prophesies how much Our lady will suffer as she journeys with her Son every step of the way. The Author of the Letter to the Hebrews intimates the fact that Jesus shares the same flesh and blood as we have; this means he truly is *one of us*. At Christmas we reflected on how we become like God through the Gift of Jesus; so this Feast is one of *communion, solidarity and hope*. This is Light shining out in darkness! We trust that he understands our joys and sorrows.

I invite you as you hold your candle, to bring before God your prayers for peace, reconciliation, eternal life for the dead and the numerous intentions held deep within your hearts. As the wax is consumed to provide heat, warmth and guidance, so may we feel Jesus in our lives and touching our world. God bless you! With much love, **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 3rd February.
CONFIRMATION Group B meets today (2nd) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room and Group A will meet next Sunday (9th) 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.
CHILDREN'S MASS at Our Lady's today (2nd) 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: tins, pasta, rice & toiletries.

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), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

KEN SHAW RIP Ken's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 5th February at 12 noon. *Carole Shaw, Bridget and Ken's daughter, died on Friday 31st January.*
PHYLLIS McKEOGH RIP Phyllis' Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Thursday 6th March at 12 noon. *No 9.30am Mass that day.*
ANNE DORMAN RIP Anne's Funeral has still to be arranged.

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. *Breakfast this time will be pain au chocolat and fruit juice. (Kitchen not safe for use)*

ROSARY Friday 7th after 9.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

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

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 4th February after 9.30 Mass.

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 brochures are at the back of our churches. 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. To book online, please follow this link:
<https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1035/>

ST. BLAISE'S BLESSING of the throat after 9.30am Mass Monday 3rd Our Lady's.

NEWSLETTER 15th/16th February will cover two weeks. Info to Fr. Norbert by 13th.

CIVIC SERVICE & SPECIAL NEEDS MASS A huge thank you to everyone who helped with these celebrations both in church and in the Trinity Hall. In each case the atmosphere was warm and welcoming with a great sense of togetherness. We are grateful to the children, parents and staff of Holy Family and Our Lady Primary Schools for taking part. *Next Special Needs Mass on Saturday 12th April at 6pm.*

SOUTH ASIAN CARNIVAL MASS Saturday 1st March 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. This is the last weekend before Lent begins! A WhatsApp Group has been created and plans are well underway. If you would like to be included, please contact Sharon Macauley on 07985 648169. The Bidding Prayers will be in a variety of languages and there will be a traditional welcome dance at the start of Mass. Afterwards food and entertainment to enjoy. *More details to follow!*

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.

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!*

ST. PATRICK'S DAY on Monday 17th March will be marked with 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's followed by refreshments in the Sacristy. If anyone would like to help, please let Fr. Norbert know. *Thank you.*

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2.30pm The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage. Please give Fr. Norbert these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email). Fr. Norbert will then send this information to Archbishop's House.

MASS INTENTIONS

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)

3rd Monday *Saints Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore. (Also, St. Blaise)*

9.30am Our Lady Phil Spranklen RIP Anniv

4th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Dennis Galvin RIP
7pm Our Lady Liz Davin's Intention *Monsignor Harry Turner*

5th Wednesday *St. Agatha*

9.30am Holy Family Nancy Christie RIP

6th Thursday *St. Paul Miki and his Companions*

9.30am Holy Family Phyllis McKeogh RIP

7th Friday

6.30am St. Bonaventure Special Intention
9.30am St. Bonaventure McCrave Family Intention
7pm Our Lady Souls in Purgatory with no one to pray for
them *Bishop Paul*

8th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Liz Davin (Birthday Intention)
6pm Our Lady John McShane RIP
Remembering Valerie Grice RIP (10th Anniv)

9th Sunday *FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am St. Bonaventure Barbara and Chris Wilson RIP
10.30am Holy Family Patricia Oliver RIP
12 noon Our Lady Fr. Michael Groarke RIP Anniv
6pm Holy Family Monika's Intention

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Thursday at Holy Family 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. *Will be closed during half-term 17th - 21st February*

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert celebrating this Mass on 21st March.*

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