



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

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9th February 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

After the candles and joy of last weekend, the rain is coming down and we continue journeying with St. Luke. Today we are standing by the Lake and witness the call of Peter. The crowds are there and Jesus sets to teaching them, sharing the Word of God. Peter is then asked to cast his net into the water in spite of an unsuccessful night of fishing. He listens, makes a huge catch and is overwhelmed at the goodness of the Lord. Jesus says to him: 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men' - and the rest is history!

What a wonderful account and such a challenge to Peter, his companions and ourselves as this encounter is contemplated. How have you experienced the Lord's calling? Was it straightforward? Did you resist? Are you still searching? God has a place for us here on earth. God has a home for us in heaven. As we listen to his voice and as we ponder the Word, there is a resonance which stirs us. God is rich in patience and lavishes on us loving mercy which can make up for our failings. However, we should respond! This can have an impact on the choices we make in life - sometimes in a dramatic way or else a gentle change of heart.

Finally, this Word of God is a gracious gift to us: to be cherished, meditated upon and shared. Our lives can radiate this presence and open up others to meaning, direction in life and a realisation of God's love for humanity. Who knows who we will catch?! Let our co-operation be in harmony with God's will.

Have a blessed week. 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 today (Sunday 9th) at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.
RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 10th February.
CONFIRMATION Group A meets today (9th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room and Group B will meet on Sunday 23rd February 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.

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

DUKE BARRACLIFFE RIP Duke's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 24th February at 11.30am.

ANNE DORMAN RIP Anne's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 26th February at 12.30pm.

PHYLLIS McKEOGH RIP Phyllis' Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Thursday 6th March at 12 noon. *No 9.30am Mass that day.*

HCPT GROUP 183 has 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

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR on Friday 14th February after 7pm Mass - Our Lady's. There will be Scripture, music, song and silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament. *Come!*

CHURCH CLEANING at Holy Family Church on Wednesday after morning Mass and coffee. *Come and lend a hand if you are free.*

CAFOD CAKE SALE next Sunday (16th) after 10.30am Mass at Holy Family. Contributions of cakes for the sale would be greatly appreciated. *Thank you.*

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. Visits also to Split and Dubrovnik. To book online, please follow this link: <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1035/>

FOCOLARE OPEN AFTERNOON on Sunday 16th February 3 - 5pm in the Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway AL8 6JG. (Parking The Cloisters AL8 6DU) Programmes for children too. Refreshments provided. *The Focolare Community look forward to welcoming you!*

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

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. *There's a meeting today (9th) 7.30pm Our Lady's.*

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. The Cardinal will celebrate Mass at 12 noon. Time for lunch. Then Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 2.30pm concluding with Benediction.

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 (7PM START), 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. 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 LUNCHEAS 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.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Next meeting Wednesday 26th February at Focolare Centre on Ba'hai Faith 2.30 - 4.30pm. Barney Leith will be speaking on the origins of the Ba'hai Faith, beliefs and customs and how it is practised today. All welcome. Looking ahead Thursday 3rd April 7.30pm - Learning about Judaism.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 4th April at 2pm. A chance for family and friends to be together, remember and pray for comfort.

MASS INTENTIONS

8th February Saturday

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

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 (17th Anniv)
6pm	Holy Family	Monika's Intention

10th Monday *St. Scholastica*

9.30am	Our Lady	Mary O'Driscoll RIP (8th Anniv)
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11th Tuesday *Our Lady of Lourdes*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Patrick Jackson RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock RIP Birthday

12th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Patrick O'Donnell RIP
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13th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Cade Family Intention
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14th Friday *ST. CYRIL AND ST. METHIDIUS*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Augustus Joachim RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Dave Eisenthal

15th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Thomas Kelly RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Ken Shaw RIP

16th Sunday *SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Ellen and John Bonner RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Aileen Leahy RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Wanda Labuz RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Frank Larkin RIP (1st Anniv)

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)