



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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8th September 2024

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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

This weekend I will be in Lourdes with a group of parishioners. It might be roasting with brilliant sunshine; there may be torrential rain. Pilgrimages still go ahead! There will be the torchlight procession with the magical flickering candle flames. We will make the Stations of the Cross walking with the Lord in such a realistic way as we climb up a hill. There will be Mass at the Grotto with its mystical atmosphere. We will eat and drink, think about you and many others and feel the closeness of God's presence. No matter how many times I have visited Lourdes, there is always something new the Lord calls me to experience and an 'extra' which stays with me on my return. In our Gospel reading there is a deaf man with a speech impediment who encounters Jesus through the agency of others. Christ puts his fingers into the man's ears, touching his tongue with spittle. He looks up to heaven and sighs (prays?) and utters the word 'Ephphatha! Be opened!' and the man's life is transformed for ever. What sounds do you think he heard? Did he find it easy to articulate words? What was it like for him to be so close to the Lord? Those who brought him to Jesus - were they family, friends, strangers? What went through their own minds and hearts at this point? May the connection today between Lourdes and Welwyn Garden City be a real source of blessing and a reminder of the bond/communion we share with humanity which our missionaries, Fr. Tom and Fr. Kevin, will offer us. Love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

EDUCATION SUNDAY Established by the Bishops in 1848, Education Sunday is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in the liturgical calendar of England and Wales. Education remains the largest charitable activity of the Church in this country, with many of our schools established for poor immigrant children in the 19th century. Our forebears rightly saw education as the principal means of handing on the faith and improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural lives of children and young people. Since then, the Catholic Church has become the country's largest provider of secondary schools and second-largest provider of primary schools, along with four universities. *Let us pray for all involved in education. May the academic year be filled with joy, inspiration and success.*

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

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), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM on **Saturday 21st September**. The coach is now full. *We hope everyone has a brilliant, prayerful day!*

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Saturday 14th September at 6pm at Our Lady's. The Mass is for everyone and we are enriched by the talents of those with special needs and learning disabilities. In the Trinity Hall afterwards there is the opportunity to meet and support one another. The quiz is always multiple choice and people work in teams! There is total silence as the numbers are called out in the two rounds of bingo. There are prizes too! If you have never come before, why not come this time? *Please bring food to share!*

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS and party on Saturday 28th September 6pm at Our Lady's. More information in due course.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR on Friday 13th September at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. Share in Scripture, prayer, song and silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who keep our churches clean and tidy and to those who help maintain the beauty of the grounds.

DONATIONS over £500 need to have an accompanying form attached to satisfy the Diocesan requirements in regard to Charity Law. There are 'One-off Payment' forms available at the back of our churches. Also for those who make their Sunday offering annually

MISSION APPEAL Fr. Tom Ryan and Fr. Kevin McDonagh are with us this weekend to seek support for the Columban Missionary Family in their work throughout the world. There are priests, sisters and lay missionaries working in China, Chile, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Peru, Pakistan, the Philippines and Taiwan. There will be a retiring collection after each Mass and a chance to meet these missionaries. *Thank you!*

MAT HARDYMAN RIP Mat's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Friday 13th September at 2.30pm.

JOHN McDONALD RIP John's Funeral Service will be at Oakhill Crematorium on Monday 23rd September at 11am.

BILLY MORAN RIP Billy's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 24th September at 11am

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents/carers who will need a Certificate of Catholicity for their son/daughter's transfer to a Catholic Secondary School are reminded that they need to attend Mass every week. Fr. Norbert will explain the process later in September. *This applies to St. John Henry Newman and Nicholas Breakspear Schools.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION There will be a meeting for parents and children (at least in Year 3) at Our Lady's Church on Monday 14th October at 6pm.

RCIA On Monday 7th October, the RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) will start again at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Do YOU want to join the Catholic Church? Are you interested in finding out more? Are you a Catholic baptised but never confirmed...and NOW seems the right moment to complete your initiation into the Church through Confirmation? Is there someone you know waiting to be invited to this meeting and you could give them support and encouragement? *Come and see!*

CAFOD GROUP CAKE SALE at Holy Family after the 9.30 am Mass on Sunday 15th September. Donations of cakes would be gratefully received. Buy a cake on the day!

FOCOLARE COMMUNITY MEETINGS at Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Everyone is welcome! 3-5 pm on Sunday 15th September, Sunday 20th Oct., Sun-day 17th Nov. Includes separate specific programmes for children in two age groups (4-8 and 9-13) supervised by adults with safeguarding training. Refreshments provided.

ROSARY PROCESSION in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary on Saturday 12th October starting with Mass at Our Lady's Church at 10am. All welcome.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH 24th September at 7.30pm at the Focolare Centre, the first of a series on the history and practice of different faiths, Idrees Quereshi, Chair of Welwyn Garden Islamic Society will be the speaker. All welcome

GOD OF COMPASSION Reflections on Psalms by Rabbi Jonathan Magonet on Thursday 19th September 6 - 8pm at London Jesuit Centre, Farm Street W1K 3AH near Bond Street and Green Park Tube Stations. Free tickets from westminsterinter-faith@rcdow.org.uk *Organised by the Council of Christians and Jews and the Diocese*

MASS INTENTIONS

7th September Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Agnelo D'Souza (Special Intention)
6pm Our Lady Con Gilhooly RIP

8th Sunday *TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP and
Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP
9.30am Holy Family Thanksgiving to Our Lady
10.30am St. Bonaventure Lourdes D'Cunha (Special Intention)
11.30am Our Lady Michael Fleming RIP
6pm Holy Family

9th Monday

9.30am Our Lady *Bishop Paul McAleenan celebrant*

10th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Michael D'Souza (Special Intention)
7pm Our Lady + Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

11th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Billy Moran RIP

12th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Kathleen Stokes RIP (Month's Mind)

13th Friday *St. John Chrysostom*

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady + Restoration Holy Hour

14th Saturday *THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS*

10am St. Bonaventure's 50th Anniversary of Consecration of Church
6pm Our Lady Ellen Castelo RIP (Birthday)

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Thursdays 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family

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

CHAPEL This is close to the Trinity Hall and open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Come for a moment of quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Light a candle for an intention. Experience a moment of peace and serenity!

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert will next be celebrant on 11th October.*

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