



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

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15th September 2024

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 week I wrote about the pilgrimage to Lourdes. The pilgrims prayed hard and remembered you at Masses and at the Grotto. What I did not expect was the 'mystical experience' I had at the Grotto last Saturday morning. I arrived at 6.30 in readiness for the 6.45am Mass. I put on my vestments and sat alone in the sacristy. Suddenly an official came and tried to usher me out; this left me wondering what was going on. He then called out 'Dangerous!' When I exited the sacristy I could see that the level of the River Gave had almost reached the wall separating it from the Grotto. Not long after the whole area was flooded! However, by the afternoon everything had been cleared up and the Services were able to continue. *I was saved!*

On Saturday 14th September, the Evening Mass will be of the Exaltation of the Cross. We will celebrate the triumph of Love through the Wood of the Cross. On Sunday the Gospel will be from St. Mark, where we will hear of Jesus' identity as the Christ who would suffer, be rejected, be put to death and, after three days, rise again. Poor old Peter who having attested to the Lord being the Christ, then can not accept the way Jesus predicts things will unfold. 'Get behind me, Satan!' the Lord says to Peter. Sometimes we can find it hard to embrace the Cross as it comes to us or to others. We feel sorrow for the intense suffering put on Jesus Christ by humanity. Remember he did it out of obedience to the Father and for our sake. *We are saved!* This is Good News to be shared. Have a blessed week. Love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

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

CONFIRMATION COURSE 2024/25 The course should begin at the start of December. More info next month for registration.

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!*

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 For those booked to go on Saturday 21st, please be ready to leave Our Lady's Church at 7am sharp! Be ready for any kind of weather and don't forget food and drink! *The prayers of the parish are with you*

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS 6pm today (Saturday) at Our Lady's followed by bingo and a quiz in the Trinity Hall. We are delighted that the Deaf Service will be joining us and a representative from Caritas Westminster.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS Serdecznie zapraszamy na coroczną Polsko-Angielską Mszę w kościele Our Lady w sobotę 28 września o 18:00. Po mszy zapraszamy na wspólne świętowanie przy polskim poczęstunku, z muzyką oraz tańcem.

The Polish community invites everyone to join the annual Polish-English Mass on Saturday 28th September at 6pm. After the Mass, everyone is welcome to join us at the Trinity Hall for food, drinks and party with music and dancing. *Please let your friends know!*

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents and carers who seek a Certificate of Catholicity for their child's transfer to a Catholic Secondary School are reminded that they need to attend Mass every week. Fr. Norbert will outline next weekend the way the process will happen. *This applies especially to St. John Henry Newman and Nicholas Breakspear Schools in our area.*

PEACE WALK IN WGC In response to global conflicts, wars and recent riots, the Welwyn Hatfield community is organizing a Peace Walk, starting at Campus West at 2.30pm on Sunday 22nd September (library entrance) and progress in silence along Parkway, via Focolare Centre and Baptist Church, before walking up Barleycroft Road and turning right on to Handside Lane to finish at the Welwyn Garden City Quaker Meeting House (AL8 6SP) where there will be refreshments, music from Helen Shabetai and Laura Cowan, and some words from Michal Siewniak. This event is an opportunity to show solidarity with people in other countries where there is a lack of peace and unity. The event will not be a demonstration, but an opportunity to show that the best way of solving problems and conflicts is dialogue. No banners allowed. No road closures are planned - walking on the pavement. Info: michal.siewniak1@gmail.com

CATECHISTS' RETREAT DAY 10am -3.30pm, Saturday 19th October, Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG Are you a catechist in the parish? Do you help with the Children's Liturgy, RCIA, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage preparation? If so, come for this retreat day led by the Agency for Evangelisation team in our diocese. To book a place, please email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk and include your name and the name of the parish in the email. There is a suggested donation of £10 per person. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

MISSION APPEAL *Thank you for your generous response!*

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

CAFOD GROUP CAKE SALE at Holy Family after the 9.30 am Mass today (Sunday)

FOCOLARE COMMUNITY MEETING at Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Everyone is welcome! 3-5 pm today (Sunday 15th) There will be programmes for children in two age groups (4-8 and 9-13) supervised by adults with safeguarding training.

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.

GOD OF COMPASSION Reflections on Psalms by Rabbi Jonathan Magonet on Thursday 19th September 6 - 8pm at London Jesuit Centre, Farm Street W1K 3AH. Free tickets from westminsterinterfaith@rcdow.org.uk

COFFEE/TEA Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and Thursdays 10.30am - 12 noon in Our Lady's Sacristy. Come and meet fellow parishioners!

THANK YOU to Jean and the Team who help with breakfast on the First Friday of the month. Also, to Marcel, Alethea and their family for providing music and song at the Restoration Holy Hour. There are so many others who offer support with teas/coffees, music and song, counting money and a myriad of other acts of service. *This is all very much appreciated!*

MASS INTENTIONS

14th September Saturday *EXALTATION OF THE CROSS*

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

15th Sunday *TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Jirka Cherny
9.30am Holy Family Patricia Oliver RIP
10.30am St. Bonaventure Noel Brady RIP (9th Anniv) 1
1.30am Our Lady Andy Burke RIP
6pm Holy Family Billy Moran RIP

16th Monday *St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian*

9.30am Our Lady Helen McElhinney's Intention

17th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure In thanksgiving to St. Jude
7pm Our Lady + Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

18th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Patricia Doherty's Intention

19th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Romualdo Gurjao RIP (Birthday)

20th Friday *St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Korean Martyrs*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Lilly Bourke RIP
7pm Our Lady Deceased members of Mulvany Family

21st Saturday *ST. MATTHEW*

10am St. Bonaventure Mary Lyttle's Intention
6pm Our Lady Con Gilhooly RIP

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 next 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) Saturday's 6pm Mass will be recorded and streamed on Sunday at 10am