



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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 22nd 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

What a group of disciples Jesus chose! If you had the pick of twelve people from your circle of family and friends, what would your line up look like? Someone with great intelligence? A person with tremendous goodness? Those who are passionate about the Lord? People radiating Christ's love? Perhaps the kind of person who has learned from life's mistakes and is ready to make a new start? Having gathered *your* twelve, what would you have to offer them? How would you encourage them, support them, teach them?

Last week St. Mark shared with us the Lord's teaching about his being the One who would suffer, die and rise; today he takes up this theme again. Did they *get it* before? Of course, not! Do they understand Jesus today? No way! Sadly we hear of their lack of understanding and then their vying to be the greatest. The Lord quizzes them about their arguing with each other; silence ensues. Christ's response to his disciples is the reality of a child and the reminder that in welcoming a child, they would be welcoming him. In St. Mark's Gospel, the disciples are the Lord's *companions*, sharing with him time, meals and life's journey. There is a lovely picture of disciples sitting in a circle around Jesus, listening to him - 'Here is my family!' are the words of Jesus. In Gethsemane they are quick on their feet, abandoning the Lord; but after the Resurrection in one 'ending' of that Gospel we are told they went into the whole world with the Lord accompanying them with signs and wonders. *Blessings on your coming 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? *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

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Thank you to all who helped last Saturday - it was wonderful!

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) at 6pm, followed by food, drinks, music and dancing. *Let your friends know!*

HCPT GROUP 183 are looking for more volunteers to join us on our Easter pilgrimage 2025 to help look after disabled and disadvantaged children, giving them an amazing week away. If this is something you think you would be able to do, please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313 or email group183@hcpt.org.uk *Thank you in advance!*

HATFIELD INTERFAITH 24th September at 7.30pm at the Focolare Centre. Idrees Quereshi, Chair of Welwyn Garden Islamic Society will be the speaker. All welcome

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents/carers together with their child are asked to make an appointment to meet Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church for him to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School transfer. He will be available:

Friday 18th October 4.00 - 6.30pm Monday 21st October 4.00 - 6.30pm

Tuesday 22nd October 4.00 - 6.30pm Friday 25th October 4.00 - 6.30pm

There is a *blue* parish form at the back of each church. This should be filled in and brought to the meeting. Please wait in church until called. To make an appointment, please ring Jacqui, our Parish Administrator on 01707 323234. *If you do not understand the system or if English is not your first language, Fr. Norbert is happy to help. However, he will not be able to sign the certificates before/after Mass.*

PEACE WALK IN WGC today (22nd) in response to global conflicts, wars and recent riots. It will start at Campus West at 2.30pm (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.

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. Suggested donation £10 per person. Bring packed lunch.

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

ESTHER MICKLEBURGH Esther's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 9th October at 12.45pm.

REBECCA BROWN RIP Rebecca's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Thursday 10th October at 2pm.

GIOVANNI NEGRI Giovanni's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Friday 11th October at 2pm.

MASS COUNT for the next four Sundays - in all Catholic Churches in the land.

CAFOD GROUP CAKE SALE last week made £187.26. *Well done!*

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.

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!

SVP ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024 During the 12 months ending March 2024, 548 calls/visits were made to approx 69 Clients whom we support. The purpose of this contact is to provide assistance in the form of transport, financial help, shopping, keeping appointments, hospital visits and general face-to-face meetings. Approx 25 families were supported with supermarket vouchers both at Christmas 2023 and Easter 2024 amounting to an expenditure of over £3000.00 Our SVP was instrumental in organising the annual Mass With The Anointing of the Sick followed by refreshments at the Focolare Centre. Always such a joyous occasion! We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parishioners who contribute both financially at the SVP annual church collection and with giving of their time with practical assistance when requested. Approx. £1770.00 was raised following the 2023 collection. We welcome new members and should you like further details on the work of SVP, kindly contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you and God bless you. *There will be a retiring collection next weekend.*

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS *Check websites for more details.* Loreto College Tuesday 24th September 4.00 - 7.00pm. St. John Henry Newman School on Thursday 26th September 5.30 - 8.00pm. Nicholas Breakspear Thursday 3rd October 5.00 - 8.30pm

MASS INTENTIONS

21st September Saturday *St. Matthew*

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

22nd Sunday *TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP +
Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP
9.30am Holy Family Special Intention (CW)
10.30am St. Bonaventure McGrave Family Int. *Fr. Mark Connolly celebrant*
11.30am Our Lady
6pm Holy Family

23rd Monday *Padre Pio*

9.30am Our Lady

24th Tuesday *OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Doreen Hanley RIP
11am Holy Family Funeral of Billy Moran
7pm Our Lady + Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

25th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Martin Hawkins' Intention

26th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

27th Friday *St. Vincent de Paul*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Katarczyna Lacina RIP Anniv
7pm Our Lady Special Intention (LF)

28th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure
6pm Our Lady Polish-English Mass

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.*