



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
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Holy Family
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 29th September 2024

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon (Tuesday - Friday 9am until 12 noon)

Parish Email: wgc@rcdow.org.uk

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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

Today is the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is: **God walks with His people**. The Holy Father reminds us that all of us, God's people, are migrants on this earth, on our way to the *true homeland*, the Kingdom of Heaven. Here is a part of Pope Francis' message for today: Migrants are a contemporary icon of God's people on a journey, of the Church on a journey, and at the same time, it is in them and in all our vulnerable brothers and sisters that we can encounter the Lord who walks with us.

Many migrants experience God as their travelling companion, guide and anchor of salvation. They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement. Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him. How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany migrants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent!

God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalised. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation. For this reason, the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, is also an en-counter with Christ. He himself said so. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, an outsider, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted. The final judgment in Matthew 25 leaves no doubt: *I was a stranger and you welcomed me* (v.35); and again *truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me* (v.40). Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the Lord; it is an occasion charged with salvation, because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord

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. Not long to go, if you are thinking of becoming a Catholic or missed out on Confirmation as a teenager! *You'd be most welcome!*

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 22nd February in the Trinity Hall 10.30am until 5pm with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. It's just over a week after Valentine's Day! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to attend. In this Diocese, 6 months' notice is required to prepare all that is needed for Marriage. Couples getting married in 2025/26 are invited. In most places in this country and throughout the world, authorities look for a Marriage Preparation Certificate.

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

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!*

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 1st after 9.30am Mass, at Holy Family on Wednesday 2nd after 9.30am Mass and tea/coffee and at Our Lady's on Saturday 5th October at 10am together with the maintenance of the grounds. The help of volunteers makes such a difference. *Come and lend a hand! Thank you.*

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.*

OPEN PARISH MEETING on **Sunday 27th October 7.30 - 9pm** in the Trinity Hall. All groups in the parish are asked to give a short presentation about their work. It will be a chance to plan for the Jubilee Year 2025. *Cardinal Nichols has asked that Our Lady's be the Jubilee Church in Hertfordshire for the Holy Year.* There's lots to prepare and we need many volunteers. **PLEASE** put this date in your diary and **COME!**

ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE for ALL children and young people who serve at Our Lady's 11.30 Mass on Sunday 20th October at 10.45am including those who occasionally serve at this Mass. New altar servers are welcome to come to this training. *Thank you.*

EARLY MORNING MASS on Friday 4th October at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the Hall. *All are welcome!*

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.

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

TRUDA KOLLMANN RIP *No Funeral details yet.*

ROSARY PROCESSION in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary on Saturday 12th October starting with Mass at Our Lady's Church at 10am and ending at 11.45am with refreshments in the Trinity Hall. All welcome. *More details on flyers in churches.*

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 548 calls/visits were made to approx 69 Clients whom we support. This contact provides 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. *There will be a retiring collection this weekend.*

CAFOD FAST DAY COLLECTION will be postponed for a week and will take place the weekend of 12th/13th October. So envelopes will be given out weekend 5th/6th Oct.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENING Nicholas Breakspear Thursday 3rd October 5.00 - 8.30pm. *Check website for details.*

MASS INTENTIONS

28th September Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure
6pm Our Lady

29th Sunday *TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure All Souls in Purgatory
9.30am Holy Family Brian Haughton RIP
10.30am St. Bonaventure Ana Maria Cuevas RIP
11.30am Our Lady Giovanni Negri RIP
6pm Holy Family For peace in the world

30th Monday *St. Jerome*

9.30am Our Lady

1st October Tuesday *St. Therese of the Child Jesus*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Sheila Almeyda's Intention
7pm Our Lady + Novena to Our Lady Charlyne Pereira's Birthday Int.

2nd Wednesday *Holy Guardian Angels*

9.30am Holy Family Billy Moran RIP

3rd Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Special Intention (MD)

4th Friday *St. Francis of Assisi*

6.30am St. Bonaventure Mass and breakfast
9.30am St. Bonaventure Bridget Gleeson (nee Wickham) RIP
7pm Our Lady Ellen and John Bonner RIP

5th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure In thanksgiving (EA)
6pm Our Lady Andrew Myles 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)