



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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27th October 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

Every three years we hear from St. Mark about Bartimaeus, a blind beggar. This passage is powerful in a number of ways and gives us much to ponder. The Evangelist has a large section on discipleship which is rounded off today. The Lord has been teaching his followers that the Son of Man must suffer and die after being treated badly by the authorities; Resurrection ensues. Three times he explains to them his fate and three times they show a total misunderstanding!

The story of Bartimaeus reveals to us key elements of true discipleship: firstly he is persistent! Nothing will stop him from calling out to the Lord. He must have had a strong piercing voice! The blind man recognises that there is something important about Jesus when his cry is 'Son of David, have pity on me!' Jesus then *calls Bartimaeus to himself*. Our following of Jesus is patterned on his desire for us and the response we make. The people who had previously told the beggar to keep quiet now encourage him to take those steps towards the Lord. Discipleship does involve others - their challenge and their support. 'What do you want me to do for you?' is the question Jesus poses. Do you remember last week that Jesus put the same question to James and John? The brothers wanted seats of glory; Bartimaeus wants to see again. The latter trusts the Lord and his plea results in sight returning and his following the Lord along the road. Of course, we know this road will take Jesus to the Cross. How will Bartimaeus respond to what he will see? Will he follow Christ *all the way*? This is the final miracle in St. Mark's Gospel. So this is a momentous event. I invite you today to take stock and reflect on what it means to be a genuine follower of the Lord Jesus. Sometimes we get it right; other times a fresh start is required. Jesus is so patient!

God bless you. 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 Enrolment Evening with Presentation for parents and young people (at least in Year 9 at school) will be next Sunday (3rd November) at Holy Family Church 7.15 - 8.30pm. *Forms at back of church or on parish website*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION If you missed the meeting, please speak to Fr. Norbert.

RCIA There's still time to join if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or if you are a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation as a child. Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 4th November. The meeting lasts an hour.

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. 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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE If for any reason you missed the meetings held recently, please speak to Fr. Norbert *as soon as is possible!*

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

NEW BOOKS If anyone would like to contribute towards new Mass books (with the new Scripture translation) for use in our 3 churches, let Fr. Norbert know. Thank you to those who have contributed. There's still time before the order is placed.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM Our new digital system still has teething problems, including the voice messaging service. Apologies. Email if necessary.

CHURCH CLEANING Our Lady's on Saturday 2nd November at 10am plus the maintenance of the grounds. St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 5th November after 9.30am Mass. Holy Family on Wednesday 6th November after 9.30am Mass. *Come and lend a hand! Thank you.*

ROSARY on Friday 1st November at St. Bonaventure's after 12 noon Mass and before 10am Mass on Saturday 2nd November (at 9.30am).

OPEN PARISH MEETING TODAY (Sunday 27th) 7.30pm - 9pm in the Trinity Hall. There will be tea/coffee from 7pm. We will start on time! 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

JOHANNA NEALL RIP Johanna's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 11th November at 9.30am.

VERA CHASE RIP Vera's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Monday 11th November at 2pm.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Oakhill Cemetery, Southway, (formerly Hatfield Lawn) AL10 8HS Sunday 3rd November at 3pm. *The Council would like to take the opportunity to open up the Chapel for people to see. There will be light refreshments on offer and the availability of toilets.*

Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane AL7 4JU Sunday 10th November 2pm

Welwyn New Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane AL6 9NJ Sunday 17th November 2pm

ALL SAINTS DAY Friday 1st November is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY Saturday 2nd November is a day when we especially remember and pray for the dead. There will be morning Mass at 10am at St. Bonaventure's and the 6pm at Our Lady's will be an All Souls Day Mass (which counts for Sunday!)

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST Lists for you to write the names of loved ones who have died are at the back of the churches. Please return to the Presbytery. And they will be remembered throughout November. *There is no need to give money!*

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!

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will take place on Friday 8th November after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. It is a great opportunity to rest in the Lord's presence with music and silence. Everyone is welcome!

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass for First Friday will be on 6th December at 6.30 at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All are welcome!

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS We wish all involved in Education a wonderful and refreshing break in the coming period. The hard work of staff and governors makes such a difference to lives of our children and young people - as does the support of parents and carers! *Thank you!*

OUR LADY SCHOOL KS2 will be joining the 9.30am Mass on Mon. 4th November.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE The annual Regional Mass will be held at Our Lady's on Sat. 9th November at 11am. Members from across the Diocese will gather with Fr. Norbert celebrating the Mass. *No 10.30 Confessions at St. Bonaventure's on 9th*

MASS INTENTIONS

26th October Saturday

6pm Our Lady Brian Davidson RIP
Remembering Milena Braganza's Birthday Intention

27th Sunday **THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am St. Bonaventure Janecka and Stepankova Families
9.30am Holy Family Mary Tempany RIP Anniv
10.30am St. Bonaventure Raphael Attard (In thanksgiving)
11.30am Our Lady Lara Ignatius (Birthday Intention)
6pm Holy Family Roza Joan D'Cunha RIP

28th Monday *ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE*

9.30am Our Lady In honour of St. Jude

29th Tuesday *Blessed Martyrs of Douai*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Efrain Escobar RIP
7pm Our Lady + Novena to Our Lady Veronica Emerick RIP

30th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family In thanksgiving (JB-G)

31st Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Augustus Joachim RIP (4th Anniv)

1st November Friday **ALL SAINTS**

9.30am Holy Family Florencia & Guillermo Muceros RIP,
Analisa Muceros RIP and Arnold Muceros RIP
12 noon St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP
& Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP
7pm Our Lady Anthony Swift RIP (10th Anniv)

2nd Saturday **ALL SOULS DAY**

10am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls
6pm Our Lady Holy Souls

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Thursdays 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family (with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure (*Not on 9th November*) 5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady

CHAPEL *will be closed during half-term (28.10 - 3.11)*

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert celebrating next on 22nd December*

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