



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

10th December 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

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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

The Church moves us on today from ‘The End Times’ to a *beginning* as John the Baptist bursts on the scene with a message drawn from the Old Testament and preparing the people for the coming of the Lord. Our text is the very start of St. Mark’s Gospel. We do not find a Nativity, Angels, Shepherds, Magi or a Star. St. Mark takes us straight into the period of Jesus as an adult and the first person we see is dressed in camel-skin and feasts on locusts and wild honey—John the Baptist! He speaks of the One to come who is going to baptise the people with the Holy Spirit. What an entry!

In these days of Advent, are you finding the time to reflect on what the Lord is going to do for you? Are there moments to go down a gear or two and be open to what you feel you really need from him this Christmas? What sort of ‘entry’ do you make when you encounter others? By the latter question, I’m thinking more about the thoughtfulness, the patience and the loving kindness which can draw those around us to the Lord Jesus because we believe. Have you been able to catch your breath or has the short Advent forced you to be even more frenetic in carrying out tasks? I’d ask you when you catch your breath to breathe in the Holy Spirit! Take in what the Lord wants to share with you as he baptises you with the Holy Spirit. This Spirit puts us in touch with Jesus Christ himself, who in turn wants us to know the Father. The communion of love and life en-rich us and make us divine, uniting us with the whole of humanity!

We still need to prepare! May God bless our efforts. With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

RCIA Next session Monday 11th December 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Second session today (Sunday 10th) in the Trinity Hall 3.30 - 5pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The first parents and children's workshop today (Sunday 10th) at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

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

MARRIAGE Couples planning on getting married in WGC or elsewhere 2024/2025 should contact Fr. Norbert. Marriage Preparation Day on **Saturday 10th February 2024**.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email foodbank@newzioncf.net to make a donation. There are Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches. Thank you.

SIGNED MASS The next celebration will be the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 17th December. Sarah Metcalfe from the Deaf Service will come to be with us. If anyone would like recordings of the signs for the hymns, give Fr. Norbert your mobile number and he will send them to you. (There won't be a formal practice.)

SCHOOLS CAROL SERVICES Commonswood Primary School in Our Lady's on Monday 11th at 6pm. Our Lady Primary School on Wednesday 13th at 5pm in Our Lady's Church. Holy Family Primary School in Holy Family Church on Monday 18th at 5.30pm.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS Friday 15th Dec. 7 - 9pm. Friends, families & children are warmly invited to sing carols in The Cloisters (bring a torch), followed by light refreshments and more carols at the Focolare Centre AL8 6JG. Bring food & drink too!

CHURCH CLEANING at Holy Family on Wednesday 20th December after coffee/tea following 9.30 Mass. Come and lend a hand if you're free. Thank you. We are grateful to the many people who have helped with church cleaning, putting up the outdoor crib and Christmas trees in each church. The teamwork has been fantastic!

CAFOD GROUP On Sunday 10th Dec there will be a Christmas stall sale after 9.30am Mass with Christmas fayre on sale. The Christmas raffle will be drawn on 17th Dec.

ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN SCHOOL in Stevenage. Students invite Senior Citizens and older adults to a Christmas Celebration on Friday 15th Dec. 10.00 - 11.30am. Cakes, music, entertainment! RSVP Mrs Berwick 01438 314643 or BerwickA@jhn.herts.sch.uk

DIANE LALLY RIP Memorial Mass in St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 19th December at 12 noon followed by refreshments in the Focolare Centre. All welcome.

TRANSPORT TO MASS If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! Drivers are urgently needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Contact Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@btinternet.com

ADVENT This great Season affords us the chance to take time and reflect on *who* is coming to be with us, *what* he is offering and *how* we can and should respond. This year with Christmas Eve being the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Season will fly by! In the three churches there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for half an hour after 9.30am Mass on Mondays in Our Lady's, Thursdays in Holy Family (except 21st) and Fridays in St. Bonaventure's.

Parish Reconciliation Service (Confessions) will be on Tuesday 19th December at 8pm in Our Lady's. There will be visiting priests and the possibility of Confession in Italian, Spanish or French and in English.

Christmas Services Card covers the period from 23rd December until 12th January. Please note that on Sunday 24th December in the morning and Sunday 31st December the Mass times will be different - *so please do not get caught out! Also, there are a few weekdays when it will NOT be possible to have Mass. We apologise.*

NEWSLETTER The next newsletter will cover the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent. The following will cover Christmas (24th December) until Friday 12th January. Please let Fr. Norbert what you would like included in these editions.

CHRISTMAS Once again we have decided to provide supermarket vouchers for local families in need at Christmas (in lieu of the Giving Tree). These are given to people struggling to buy food and while they can get some produce from food banks, they use the vouchers you provide for fresh meat, fruit and veg. In addition, last year two spare vouchers went towards buying new school shoes for a little boy. The families live in the Welwyn and Hatfield area and the vouchers are distributed by the local Community and Voluntary Services (CVS) organisation. If you feel you can help, please put your donation in a sealed envelope labelled 'Giving Tree' and return to the Presbytery at either Holy Family or Our Lady's by Tuesday 12th December. Bank transfer WRCDT Welwyn Garden City Sort code: 400520 Acct 51094459. Cheques 'WRCDT Welwyn Garden City' More info from suzanne.meenan@btinternet.com *Thank you very much!*

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S MASS 24th December 5pm at Our Lady's. Practice on Saturday 23rd at 11am in Our Lady's. All our children most welcome to take part. Parents are asked to come with their children to the rehearsal. Thank you.

ALTAR SERVERS are asked to sign up for Masses over the Christmas Season in our three churches. Thank you.

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

SHIMMY DANCE On Wednesday 20th Dec. there will be a Christmas Social Dance in the Trinity Hall from 7.15pm to 8.45pm; this will be a fun and relaxed social evening of Ballroom & Latin music with a chance to learn a few steps, watch a fantastic demonstration by a National Championship finalist couple and enjoy yourself on the dance floor - all for just £15 per person. Wednesday 10th Jan. sees the start of a new Strictly Beginners Ballroom & Latin Course, open to all adults - even get those with two left feet! The course runs for 8 weeks & costs £90 pp. info@shimmydance.co.uk or call 07824 581381. *Happy Dancing!*

MASS INTENTIONS *These can be booked through Fr. Norbert*

9th Saturday

6pm Our Lady Brian Davidson RIP

10th Sunday ***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

8am St. Bonaventure Liam Fernandes (2nd birthday intention)
9.30am Holy Family In thanksgiving to St. Jude
10.30am St. Bonaventure Ron and Mary Cade's intention
11.30am Our Lady Ursula Gertrud Mage RIP (1st anniv) RIP
6pm Holy Family Fr. Alejandro Alcaraz RIP (Aranzazo, Buenos Aires)

11th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Harry Coyle RIP (10th anniv)

12th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Anna Lawniczak RIP
7pm Our Lady Tracey Laycock RIP

13th Wednesday *St. Lucy*

9.30am Holy Family Eleanor Shannahan RIP

14th Thursday *St. John of the Cross*

9.30am Holy Family Sid Frost RIP (18th anniv)

15th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Lin Thomas (intention)

16th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Murray Hayes RIP Anniv
6pm Our Lady Derek Relph RIP & Deborah Martin RIP

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Saturdays 5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady
Thursdays 10am - 10.30am Holy Family
Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10am - 10.30am Holy Family

CHAPEL *Near Trinity Hall open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm.*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass celebrated in the Lady Chapel of St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon every Friday. *Everyone welcome!*

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Sunday's 10.30am Mass from St. Bonaventure's will be livestreamed.