



**St Bonaventure**  
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles**  
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP  
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**Holy Family**  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ  
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## WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Parish Priest** Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234      [norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk)

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

Parish Email: [wgc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wgc@rcdow.org.uk)

Website [wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk)

**TRINITY HALL** Bookings + enquiries can be made through [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk) which has terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

As I look above, I see two Sundays rolled into one! The Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent book-end this final week of Advent, given that the 24<sup>th</sup> is Christmas Eve. It makes me think even more deeply about what I need to do, how I should be and the responsibilities I still have to carry out. What about the Lord? He is a Word becoming flesh in Mary. She is open and says 'Yes!' Her word is total cooperation with God's grace. She shows us how to let the Lord in! This will come in next Sunday's Gospel from St. Luke. Last week we were out in the wilderness with St. John the Baptist at the beginning of St. Mark's Gospel. Today St. John the Evangelist highlights that John the Baptist is a witness *speaking for the light*. As we journey through this final period of Advent, perhaps we might think about what it means for us to be 'witnesses'? What do we know about Jesus from personal experience? What joys have come our way...or challenges? How does my life resonate with his? Are there still opportunities in these coming days to encounter him more intimately in readiness for Christmas?

I am sure many of you will be away over Christmas and the New Year visiting loved ones. Have a blessed time! For visitors and newcomers to Welwyn Garden City, you are most welcome and I pray you will be uplifted by God's grace. There are now many who are unable to come out because of illness, frailty or the necessity of caring for others or having to serve others through your work. May the Lord's Birth be a light shining in your lives! There are scores of parishioners working hard up front and behind the scenes ensuring everything is beautiful, heavenly and just right - thank you!

With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

**RCIA** Next session Monday 18th December 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy

**CONFIRMATION** Next session today (Sunday 17th) in the Trinity Hall 3.30 - 5pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Next parents and children's workshop on Sunday 14th January 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](mailto:foodbank@newzioncf.net) to make a donation. There are Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches. Thank you.

**SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** Holy Family Primary School in Holy Family Church on Monday 18th at 5.30pm.

**DIANE LALLY RIP** There will be a Memorial Mass for Diane at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday at 12 noon. All welcome and afterwards at the reception in the Focolare Centre.

**CHURCH CLEANING** at Holy Family on Wednesday 20th December after festive coffee/tea following 9.30 Mass. Come and lend a hand if you're free. Thank you.

**CAFOD GROUP** The Christmas raffle will be drawn on 17th December.

**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](mailto:macleaneltham@btinternet.com)

**HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES** On 16th January at 8pm Vicky Woodcraft a trustee of Herts Welcomes Refugees will update us on what is happening in our area. By Zoom ID 878 3552 3713 passcode 880384

**PARISH OFFICE** will close on Friday 22nd December and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January.

**LISTER HOSPITAL** Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), [emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto: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, with Ballroom & Latin music, 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 adults. The course runs for 8 weeks & costs £90 pp. [info@shimmydance.co.uk](mailto:info@shimmydance.co.uk) or call 07824 581381.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** for half an hour after 9.30am Mass on Monday 18th at Our Lady's and Friday 22nd at St. Bonaventure's. *Come and enjoy some moments of silence before the Lord as Christmas approaches.*

**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. The Service will include music, Scripture and then time for individual Confession. It's a wonderful way of feeling the Lord's peace and healing in readiness for Christmas. After the Confession, the penitent is free to go home.

**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. Wednesday 3rd January at 9.30am is now not possible either. (Fr. Norbert has a family Funeral the other side of London.)

**NEWSLETTER** The next newsletter will cover Christmas (24th December) until Friday 12th January. Please let Fr. Norbert know by Thursday 21st December what you would like included.

**CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S MASS** 24th December 5pm at Our Lady's. Practice on Saturday 23rd at 11am in Our Lady's. All our children are 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.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** will be transferred to Sunday 7th January with the Vigil Mass at 6pm on Saturday 6th. This means the Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated on Monday 8th January.

**SUPPLY PRIEST** Fr. Adams Tatsidjodoung from the Assumptionist Church in Hitchin will celebrate 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's today and will help with Confessions on Tuesday evening. We are grateful to him for offering support.

**SIGNED MASS** Today we welcome Sarah Metcalf from the Deaf Service who will help with our Signed Mass at 11.30am. The celebration raises awareness of the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing and how we can make things more accessible. There will also be a Signed Mass for Christmas which Fr. Norbert will sign. This will be streamed at 8pm on Christmas Eve Visit [www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/deafservice](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/deafservice)

**CHRISTMAS TREES** If you have started thinking about your Christmas tree disposal, the Isabel Hospice will be providing a collection and recycling service with a suggested donation of £15. Last year several thousand pounds was raised to support the hospice. Visit [isabelhospice.org.uk/treecycle](http://isabelhospice.org.uk/treecycle) or call 01707 954850

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

**16th December**

6pm Our Lady Derek Relph RIP & Deborah Martin RIP

**17th Sunday** *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

8am St. Bonaventure Robi Brand's intention  
9.30am Holy Family Brian Clarke RIP  
10.30am St. Bonaventure Michael Mulrennan RIP & Alice Farell RIP  
11.30am Our Lady Jack Steel (in thanksgiving)  
6pm Holy Family Tereza D'Souza RIP

**18th Monday**

9.30am Our Lady Breda Joyce RIP

**19th Tuesday**

9.30am St. Bonaventure John Dineen RIP  
12 noon St. Bonaventure Memorial Mass for Diane Lally RIP  
7pm Our Lady  
8pm Our Lady Service of Reconciliation with Confessions

**20th Wednesday**

9.30am Holy Family Pat Kennedy RIP

**21st Thursday**

9.30am Holy Family Inno van den Berg RIP

**22nd Friday**

9.30am St. Bonaventure Edmond Divine RIP Anniv  
7pm Our Lady Simon Francis (birthday intention)

**23rd Saturday**

10am St. Bonaventure Agnes, Alexander and Danny Kennoy RIP  
6pm Our Lady Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP

**24th Sunday**

9am St. Bonaventure Eleni Kouli RIP  
10am Holy Family Manuel D'Costa RIP  
11am Our Lady Maria D'Costa RIP

**CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)**

Saturdays 5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

**CHAPEL** Near Trinity Hall open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. *Chapel will be closed from Monday 18th December and reopen on Monday 8th January.*

**ST. ALBANS** Catholic Mass celebrated in the Lady Chapel of St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon every Friday. *Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 22nd December.*

**STREAMED MASS** on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Sunday's 11.30am Mass from Our Lady's will be livestreamed.