



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

Christmas, Holy Family (31st December), Epithany (7th January)

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) Office reopens 2nd January.

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

So, we have made it to Christmas, jumping through the double-hoop of the Fourth Sunday of Advent tagged onto the Nativity! How are you feeling? And those around you? Often exhaustion sets in as we begin to relax and all the adrenalin which kept us going starts to ebb! What strikes me, as I write on the verge of the Lord's Birth, is that we have only just BEGUN! The discovery of the Christ Child in the manger opens us up to the Mystery of God-with-Us. The Word-made-Flesh living among us is God's pledge to stay with humanity always. The message of the Angel on the Bethlehem hillside continues to stir our hearts, just as it touched the shepherds. The Star in the East sets us off on many journeys in a variety of directions but the destination is GOD. So, as we celebrate and remember, as we rest and look ahead, may our hearts allow that Child to be our Companion, our Saviour and our Lord in 2024.

This is my 16th Christmas in WGC and I never cease to thank the Lord for the hard work, faith and loving service of a multitude. Beautifully clean and decorated churches, heavenly Liturgy with music, song and ministries, People coming with dedication to be together and proclaim Christ's Birth and the behind-the-scenes activity which keeps everything going! My thanks to Fr. Marco as he marks his first Christmas here and to Jacqui Boon in the new role as Administrator.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES! MAY 2024 BRING YOU MANY BLESSINGS!
With my love and prayers, Fr. Norbert

RCIA Next session Monday 15th January 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Next session (Sunday 7th) in the Trinity Hall 3.30 - 5pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents + children's workshop Sun. 14th 3.30pm Our Lady's.

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

MARRIAGE Preparation Day on **Saturday 10th February 2024**. *Contact Fr. Norbert.*

FOOD BANK at New Zion Christian Fellowship every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Contributions received from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email food-bank@newzioncf.net to make a donation. Food Bank Baskets at back of our churches. Thanks.

CHURCH CLEANING Our Lady's will have church cleaning on Saturday 6th January at 10am. St. Bonaventure's Church will be cleaned on Tuesday 9th January. All welcome!

MAINTENANCE GROUP at Our Lady's will be in action on Saturday 6th January taking down the outdoor Crib at 10am. There has been a powerful appeal for more help from those who are younger to support the existing team which does work in the grounds every first Saturday of the month at 10am. Please come if you can. It makes a real difference!

CAFOD GROUP will meet Tuesday 9th January at 2pm in HF's Parish Room. All welcome.

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Drivers needed too! Contact Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@btinternet.com

HCPT COLLECTION Group 183 will be flying to Lourdes on Easter Sunday with children with various needs. We will have a retiring collection at all Masses the weekend of 13th/14th January. There will be special envelopes for those able to GiftAid their contribution. Thanks.

SUPPLY Fr. Adams Tatsidjodoung from the Assumptionist Church in Hitchin will celebrate 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's during the month of January. We are very grateful to him.

THANK YOU Fr. Marco and Fr. Norbert would like to thank you for your Christmas cards, gifts and offerings which have been received with great appreciation. Your kindness, good wishes and the huge wealth of support make such a difference for them in their ministry. They ask God's Blessing upon you all.

PILGRIMAGE 2024 Fr. Norbert has invited All Saints Travel to schedule a pilgrimage the first week of September. He is waiting for an itinerary and a price!

DATES FOR 2024

Sunday 21st January 4pm Unity Service for WGC at Christchurch Baptists (Peartree Site)

Sunday 11th February 3pm Welwyn Hatfield Civic Service 3pm at Our Lady's

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday (and Valentine's Day!)

Saturday 2nd March 6pm Special Needs Mass

Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday

Sunday 19th May Pentecost (and Fr. Norbert's 60th birthday 11.30 Mass and Party for all!)

Saturday 22nd June 6pm Filipino Mass

Sunday 7th July 11.30am African Mass

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

24th Sunday *CHRISTMAS*

5pm	Our Lady	People of the Parish
6pm	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
7pm	Holy Family	People of the Parish
8.30pm	Our Lady	Carols
9pm	Our Lady's	People of the Parish
9.30pm	Holy Family	Carols
10pm	Holy Family	People of the Parish
11pm	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish

25th Monday *CHRISTMAS*

9am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
10am	Holy Family	People of the Parish
11am	Our Lady	People of the Parish

26th Tuesday *ST. STEPHEN*

10am	St. Bonaventure	In thanksgiving (MF)
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27th Wednesday *ST. JOHN*

10am	Holy Family	Mary Feeney RIP
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28th Thursday *HOLY INNOCENTS*

10am	Holy Family	Philomena Tobin's Intention
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29th Friday *ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY*

10am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Kate Murray's Intention
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30th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Sheila and David Thomas RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Christina Bonass RIP Anniv

31st Sunday *HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Hayes RIP Anniv
10am	Holy Family	People of the Parish
11am	Our Lady	Zosia's intention

1st Monday *DIVINE MOTHERHOOD OF OUR LADY*

10am	Our Lady	People of the Parish
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2nd Tuesday *St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Roy D'Cunha RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Gregory Kiekuch RIP Anniv

3rd Wednesday *NO SERVICE*

4th Thursday *NO SERVICE*

5th Friday

6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Diana Attard RIP 6th Anniv
7pm	Our Lady	Christine O'Brien's Intention

6th Saturday (Please note Epiphany transferred to Sunday)

10am	St. Bonaventure	Diana Attard RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Teresa Mary Grumley RIP

7th Sunday *THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD*

8am	St. Bonaventure	Kathleen Casey RIP
9.30am	Holy Family	Special intention
10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Diana Attard RIP
11.30am	Our Lady	Brian and Teresa Sturt RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	

8th Monday *BAPTISM OF THE LORD*

9.30am	Our Lady	
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9th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Margaret O'Brien's Intention
7pm	Our Lady	

10th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	
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11th Thursday *NO SERVICE***12th Friday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
7pm	Our Lady	

13th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Kathleen & Sean Kennedy's Intentions
6pm	Our Lady	Franco Braganza 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 closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday 8th January.*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass celebrated in the Lady Chapel of St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon every Friday. *Everyone welcome! Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 19th January.*

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