



**St Bonaventure**  
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles**  
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP  
01707 323234

**Holy Family**  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ  
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## WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2024      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Assistant Priest** Fr. Marco Salvagnini 01707 327434      [marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk)

**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

What sort of week have you had? Coming to the weekend, are you looking for a rest or have you many tasks to complete? We are offered this time with the Lord today and every day. 'Where do you live?' Jesus is asked by two disciples of John the Baptist. 'Come and see' is the Lord's response. *And they spent the rest of that day with him.* What an amazing experience it must have been! The Lamb of God was at work: forgiving people, nourishing them, a living sign of Love in the midst of all, a pointer to heaven. There are times when we find Jesus on the go nonstop - how easy would it have been to keep up with him? At the end of the day's events and a night's rest, Andrew shares his experience with his brother Simon Peter who is brought to Jesus. The Lord nicknames him Cephas - Rock. And the rest is history both for us as individuals who make up the Church and for the world which receives this Good News.

In the heat of great busy-ness and frenetic days, the Lord *does* break into our lives - even when it isn't so obvious to us. I look at a face and see joy. I hear a voice and the humanity resonates. I enter a new situation and someone offers a supportive hand. I want to pray and I am aware of a chorus of hearts united with mine. God is good! I admit life isn't always like that and we can be weighed down by huge burdens and can't see ahead be-cause of the clouds. Nevertheless the same Lord carries the load with us and walks into the mist holding our hands. *Trust* makes all the difference and the memory of when we have known his presence.

May God bless each one of you. With much love and prayer, **Fr. Norbert**

**RCIA** is for Adults who wish to join the Catholic Church or Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger. Monday 15th January at 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** Next session today (Sunday 14th) 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** A number of couples got engaged at Christmas and the New Year! *Congratulations!* This year is a Leap Year and Valentine's Day is fast approaching! Our parish Marriage Preparation Day is on Saturday 10th February in the Trinity Hall and it will be followed by a Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. There are civil requirements, Church Papers and practical matters to sort out. We want all our couples to be enriched by our understanding of Marriage as a Sacrament. Couples who are planning on getting married in WGC or elsewhere 2024/2025 should contact Fr. Norbert.

**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.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Our thanks to all who helped at St. Bonaventure's with church cleaning last week and those who took down the Cribs and Christmas trees at Holy Family, Our Lady's and St. Bonaventure.

**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 Tuesday 16th January 8.00 - 9.30pm Vicky Woodcraft, a trustee of Herts Welcomes Refugees, will update us on what is happening in our area. By Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87835523713?pwd=UHZt10e19h1K8JkfEQFilUnL17DJSg.1> Meeting ID: 878 3552 3713 Passcode 880394

**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)

**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 this weekend (13th/14th). There are special envelopes for those able to GiftAid their contribution. Your generosity makes for those extras which give the children such a wonderful time. Thanks.

**NICHOLAS BREAKSPEAR SCHOOL** in St. Albans had an Ofsted Inspection just before Christmas and has received an *outstanding* grade in every area. We offer the Head, Mr Declan Linnane, the staff and students, the governors and parents our congratulations. We wish them well for the future and ask God's blessing upon them.

**FUNERALS** Kathleen Casey's Funeral Service at Our Lady's Monday 29th Jan 1pm. Eric Fishwick's Funeral Service at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 5th February 10am *The morning Mass at Our Lady's will have to be at 9.15am on this day.*

**JANUARY SUPPLY** Sunday 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure: Fr. Adams Tatsidjodoung from Hitchin today (14th), Bishop Paul McAleenan on 21st and the Vincentian Fathers from Mill Hill on 28th. *We are grateful to them for their support.*

**PILGRIMAGE 2024** Fr. Norbert has invited All Saints Travel to schedule a pilgrimage 2nd - 9th September. *Shrines of France* will include Paray-le-Monial where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lyons where St. Bonaventure died in 1274 and his body lies and Lourdes for Our Lady's Birthday. There are other shrines and a wine-tasting trip included! Hopefully an itinerary and a price soon.

**PEACE SUNDAY** Today we are asked to consider Pope Francis' message for World Day of Peace *Artificial Intelligence and Peace*. AI is an umbrella term for a range of technologies and approaches that often attempt to mimic human thought to solve complex tasks. As peacemakers, our concern is that there may be a direct impact of AI on war and weapons, that the most fragile and excluded may suffer hugely and that injustice, inequality and conflict may increase. The Holy Father says we must be vigilant!

His prayer is *God our Creator and Sustainer,*

*we thank you for the gifts of creativity you have given us,*

*for the ability to explore science and understand your creation.*

*We ask your forgiveness for the times we have used science for evil and not for good,*

*for war and not for peace. Make us vigilant as we develop technology,*

*that violence and discrimination may not take root,*

*that injustice and inequality will not be fuelled,*

*that the poor and vulnerable will not pay the cost.*

*May all that we create contribute to peace and justice. Amen*

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** will be 18th - 25th January. The theme chosen by the Christians of Burkina Faso for 2024 is 'You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself' which links with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Water is an image which highlights our life in Christ and this symbol will play a part in reflecting on receiving God's love and sharing it. Here in WGC, our main Service will be on Sunday 21st January at 4pm at Christchurch Baptists, Peartree site (20 Tewin Road AL7 1BW) Afterwards there will be tea and an opportunity to meet one another. The Anglican Bishop of Hertford, Bishop Jane Mainwaring, has kindly agreed to give the address. As the Chair of the Christian Leaders Group, Fr. Norbert invites you to come to this gathering and join in with brothers and sisters in Christ in this great act of praise. The Service will last around 45 minutes and the time for tea depends on you!

**COFFEE MORNING** at Our Lady's every Thursday at 10.30 in the Sacristy. All are welcome - new and older parishioners. Lifts can be organised too. Why not give it a try?

**OVER 50'S LADIES' EXERCISE CLASS** on Wednesday mornings in Trinity Hall 10.30 - 11.30. *Free 1st lesson on presenting the newsletter!* Call Lynn 01438 717013

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

**13th January**

6pm Our Lady Franco Braganza RIP

**14th Sunday** *SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Anna Malczyk RIP  
9.30am Holy Family Margaret Myles RIP (5th Anniv)  
10.30am St. Bonaventure Jane D'Souza (Special intention)  
11.30am Our Lady Martin West RIP  
6pm Holy Family Kath Casey RIP

**15th Monday**

9.30am Our Lady Kathleen Ryan's Intention

**16th Tuesday**

9.30am St. Bonaventure Suzanne Milligan RIP  
7pm Our Lady Brian Lesaux RIP

**17th Wednesday**

9.30am Holy Family

**18th Thursday** *NO SERVICE*

**19th Friday**

9.30am St. Bonaventure Christopher Rynne RIP  
7pm Our Lady Peter Alfred Cowell RIP Anniv

**20th Saturday**

10am St. Bonaventure Tessie Fernandes (intention)  
6pm Our Lady Jacque Leonard RIP

**CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)**

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

**CHAPEL** As you look at the Trinity Hall on Woodhall Lane, the Chapel is to the right and is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. *Come for a moment of peace and quiet in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Light a candle and feel God's presence!*

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

**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.

**DATES FOR 2024** Sun. 11th Feb. 3pm Welwyn Hatfield Civic Service 3pm (OL) Wed. 14th February Ash Wednesday, Sat. 2nd March 6pm Special Needs Mass Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday, 19th May Pentecost Sunday + Fr. Norbert's 60th! Saturday **15th June** 6pm Filipino Mass, Sunday 7th July 11.30am African Mass