



**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

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2024      3rd 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

Pope Francis has designated this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate, study and disseminate the Word of God. The Bible is already the blessed Word of God; it does not require a blessing. So, the following Blessing asks for God's blessing upon us as we commit to read our Bibles and let God's Word guide our lives. When you get home, pick up your Bible in your hands and hold it close to your heart and pray the following:

May the Holy Spirit encourage us to give greater honour to this holy Bible, enthrone it in a place of honour in our homes, and commit to frequent reflection on its pages.

**Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.**

May the Holy Spirit instil in us a deep desire to know God's word so that we will grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.**

Through the Holy Spirit, may our reading of Scripture lead us to a deeper faith, a more lively hope, and a more fervent love for the Lord and his holy Church.

**Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.**

Saving God, you have revealed your life and your love through the lives of our ancestors in the faith. From Abraham and Sarah, Moses and David, to Mary and Joseph, to Peter and Paul, you have spoken your Word and called your people to fuller life. We honour your presence in these Scriptures, and we pray that the words of this sacred Book may become for us more deeply the living Word of God, forming our thoughts, desires, and actions. We ask your blessing on this Holy Bible and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**RCIA** is for Adults who wish to join the Catholic Church or Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger. Monday 22nd Jan. at 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** Next sessions for our young people today (Sunday 21st), 28th January and 4th February in the Trinity Hall 3.30 – 5pm

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Next parents and children's workshop on Sunday 3rd March at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

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

**MARRIAGE** 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 to marry 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** This Wednesday after Holy Family's 9.30am Mass and tea, there will be the cleaning of Holy Family Church. New volunteers are always welcome.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY** will be on Saturday 27th January. It is an opportunity to remember the millions murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in the genocides which followed. The theme this year is *Fragility of Freedom*.

**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)

**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)

**SCAFFOLDING** is on Our Lady's Church to try to locate exactly where water has leaked in at high levels. *We also need to check St. Bonaventure and Holy Family!*

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

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 (& Fr. Norbert's 60th birthday 11.30 Mass and Party for all!)

Saturday 15th June 6pm Filipino Mass

Sunday 7th July 11.30am African Mass

**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.* Maureen Ryan's Funeral Mass will be on Wed. 7th Feb at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure's.

**JANUARY SUPPLY** Sunday 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure: 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. *Fr. Norbert is still waiting!*

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** is from 18th to 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 today (21st) 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 with brothers and sisters in Christ in this great act of praise. The Service will last around 45 minutes and the length of time for tea depends on you!

**CIVIC SERVICE** The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Pankit Shah, has asked for his Civic Service to be in Our Lady's Church on Sunday 11th February at 3pm. He has also requested that the choirs of Holy Family and Our Lady's Schools sing. *Parishioners who wish to attend are asked to let Fr. Norbert know of their intention so that he can inform the Council.* Mayors from across Hertfordshire come as does the High Sherriff, the Lord Lieutenant (or a Deputy) and the Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council. The Service has a formality with hymns and the clothes people wear. Last year's Civic Service had a great atmosphere and the guests from other parts of the county had a wonderful time as did the locals!

**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*

**20th January**

6pm Our Lady Jacque Leonard RIP

**21st Sunday** *THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP +  
Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP  
9.30am Holy Family Cade Family Intention  
10.30am St. Bonaventure Dominic D'Souza RIP Anniv  
11.30am Our Lady John + Teresa Knowles 50th Wedding Anniversary  
6pm Holy Family Kath Casey RIP

**22nd Monday**

9.30am Our Lady

**23rd Tuesday**

9.30am St. Bonaventure Sheila Almeyda's Intention  
10.30am St. Bonaventure Memorial Mass for Isabel Francisco Da Silva RIP  
7pm Our Lady

**24th Wednesday** *St. Francis de Sales*

9.30am Holy Family

**25th Thursday** *THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL*

9.30am Holy Family

**26th Friday** *St. Timothy and St. Titus*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Sheila Linga-Theva's Intention  
7pm Our Lady Brian Hall RIP Birthday

**27th Saturday**

10am St. Bonaventure  
6pm Our Lady

**CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)**

Saturdays 5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure  
Thursdays 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family (with Exposition of Blessed Sacrament)

**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.

**STREAMED MASS** on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Saturday's 6pm Mass will be recorded and streamed at 10am on Sunday.