



St Bonaventure
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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

28th January 2024 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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

*“Seeing one another in the life of the Church -
we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background.”*

Fr. Norbert writes: Today is Racial Justice Sunday and the Church invites us to take time to reflect on the above. Each one of us has been created in God’s image and likeness and so as we look at ourselves (in the mirror!) we see a revelation of God. There IS goodness and diversity; there is a story with history and yet still awaiting completion. Sometimes when we think about ourselves, it is so very easy to focus on what has gone wrong or on complications and challenges. Remember the Lord in his ministry was on the lookout especially for the marginalised and the rejected, for the sick and for sinners. Here in our churches there is such a spectrum of races, backgrounds, languages and cultures. *We are blest!* Our responsibility is to welcome all and to create a harmony of praise to the glory of God, learning from what our brothers and sisters share with us and we in turn can offer them. This mutual dynamic can very much offer others a picture of the Trinity of diversity and yet oneness! I am very proud of my heritage with my grand-parents from Goa, a former Portuguese colony in India, their journey to Kenya and my birth in Nairobi and then with my family coming to England to Edgware in NW London! I love meeting all of you with the many ways you enrich my life. God is good! *God of light and truth, you call all men, women and children to live lives of holiness and justice. Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble and a care for our brothers and sisters, so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY The theme for 2024 is: “*Seeing one another in the life of the Church*” - we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. For resources go to <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday>

RCIA is for Adults who wish to join the Catholic Church or Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger. Monday 29th Jan. at 7.30pm Our Lady’s Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Next sessions for our young people today (28th) + 4th Feb. @ 3.30pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents and children’s workshop Sun. 3rd March 3.30pm

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 to make a donation. There are Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who helped last week at Holy Family.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will start up again on Friday 9th February after 7pm Mass. Gentle time in front of the Blessed Sacrament with Scripture, song and silence

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@gmail.com *Please note the new email address.*

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

SCAFFOLDING is on Our Lady’s Church to locate where water has leaked in at high levels. *Investigations have begun on St. Bonaventure and Holy Family.*

METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION is one of the art world’s unexpected treasures including some of the most powerful and arresting religious art of the 20th and 21st centuries. This exhibition will come to Welwyn Garden City in Lent and Easter of 2024. The Focolare Centre for Unity will host these priceless treasures. For more information see Facebook: Art 2024 at WGC or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk There will also be a Lenten Course linked with the art work and the Easter Mystery.

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

FIRST FRIDAY 6.30 MASS 2nd February followed by breakfast at St. Bonaventure.

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.
Alice Hurley's Funeral has yet to be confirmed.

JANUARY SUPPLY This Sunday's 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure will be celebrated by a Vincentian Father from Mill Hill. *We are grateful for this support.*

FINANCE The Diocese is soon to close the 'old' *Our Lady Queen of Apostles* and *Holy Family* accounts. The St. Bonaventure account is the 'new' WGC account. It appears that many parishioners still have not set up new Standing Orders in the new account. Please, please check that you have altered your contribution so that the parish does not lose money which is estimated to be £1600 a month. It is possible that some parishioners did not stop their previous Standing Orders or that others assumed the Parish would create the new Standing Order—the latter had to be done by the donor. As a reminder the account is called WRCDT Welwyn Garden City Sort-code 400520 Account no. 51094459 (WRCDT stands for Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee) Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

CANDLEMAS The 40th day after Christmas is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. Simeon called Jesus the 'Light of the Nations' and for this reason candles are blessed and carried in procession - hence *Candle-Mass!* As well as the usual Friday 9.30am and 7pm Masses, there will be the First Friday Mass at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure. The Masses will be by candlelight!

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!*

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?

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

27th January

6pm Our Lady Alice Hurley RIP

28th Sunday *FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Joan Finnegan RIP
9.30am Holy Family Tricia Oliver RIP
10.30am St. Bonaventure Terrence Burke RIP
11.30am Our Lady Ann Devlin RIP
6pm Holy Family Luke Howe RIP + Intentions of Howe Family

29th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Kath Casey RIP
1pm Our Lady Funeral Service Kath Casey

30th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Joan Finnegan RIP
7pm Our Lady Liz Davin's Intention

31st Wednesday *St. John Bosco*

9.30am Holy Family Pat Frost RIP 1st Anniv

1st Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Joan Cotes RIP Anniv

2nd Friday *Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)*

6.30am St. Bonaventure Nicholas Breakspear School (in thanksgiving)
9.30am St. Bonaventure Joan Finnegan RIP
7pm Our Lady

3rd Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure
6pm Our Lady Mary O'Driscoll RIP Anniv

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