



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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 31st August, 2025

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 01707 323234 (Tuesday to Friday 9am until 12 noon)

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

The final weekend in August and no Bank Holiday! Welcome back to those who have been away. Some are perhaps getting ready for a break. For everyone there has been unlimited sunshine and hopefully a time of refreshment. At the start of a new academic year there are nearly always changes with people moving away and others arriving. Children and young people moving to a next stage, for some further afield. To newcomers, I bid a warm welcome; I hope you settle into our community soon and find your place. To those entering a new chapter of their lives elsewhere, may God be with you on your journey and support you in putting down new roots. For all involved in Education, may this term lay strong foundations and bring enrichment to many lives.

Today we say 'Farewell' to Fr. Marco who has been with us for the last couple of years. We thank him for the variety of ways he has supported the life of the parish especially at school, in the Confirmation catechesis, with care of the sick at home and in hospital, the courses offered and also the brilliant pilgrimage to Rome earlier this year. There are the hidden and quiet ways he has given of himself - we thank him. The next step is his appointment to Manchester - may God be his guide and inspiration. In our Gospel reading today from St. Luke, Jesus speaks about the invitation to the Kingdom of God, likening it to a banquet. Perhaps as we all make a fresh start in September, we might reflect on the privilege of having been called by God, on all he wants to share with us and on what he asks us to share with others. In the midst of the challenges of life as well as the many joys, let us journey together, let us support one another. May we work for God's Kingdom to come here on earth as it is in heaven! God bless you.

With love and prayers, Fr. Norbert

FR. MARCO'S FAREWELL Saturday 30th August 6pm Mass at Our Lady's followed by Reception in Trinity Hall. All are welcome. A presentation will be made. If you have not had a chance to contribute and would like to do so, we will make sure Fr. Marco receives what comes in later. *We wish Fr. Marco much happiness in the next stage of his life. He takes with him our prayers, gratitude and love.*

FR. JAMES BOYLE, our new Assistant Priest will start in WGC next weekend.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am Wednesdays at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email food-bank@newzioncf.net if you wish to donate money. Please use the Food Bank Baskets.

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.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

SPANISH PRIESTS Fr. Jose Antonio Valls Fernandez and Fr. Javier Rodriguez Calmaestra, both from Cordoba, Spain, and studying in Rome, will arrive on Monday 1st September and will stay with us for three weeks. If anyone would like to invite them out or spend time in conversation with them over a coffee, please let Fr. Norbert know. All the necessary Church and Safeguarding documentation is in place.

FIRST FRIDAY There will not be 6.30am Mass on 5th September.

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS on Saturday 27th September at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. Everyone is welcome. More information soon!

READERS' RETREAT on Sunday 12th October 3.30 - 5pm in Our Lady's Church. This will be an opportunity to gather the readers from our three churches and have time to reflect on this important ministry and the new translation of the Bible.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' RETREAT on Sunday 19th October 3.30 - 5pm in Our Lady's. As we come together, we will deepen our understanding of this ministry at Mass and in service of the sick and housebound.

CATECHISTS RETREAT This has been organised by the Diocese for Hertfordshire. It will be a whole day on Saturday 15th November at Our Lady's. *Watch this space!*

OPEN PARISH MEETING Tuesday 14th October 7.45 - 9.30pm in Trinity Hall. The various groups in the Parish are asked to give a report and will look ahead to the coming year. Everyone is invited.

CHURCH CLEANING

St. Bonaventure Tuesday 2nd September after 9.30am Mass.

Holy Family Wednesday 3rd September after 9.30 Mass and tea/coffee.

Our Lady's on Saturday 6th September at 10am. Also, the maintenance of the grounds.

Come and lend a hand in our churches to keep them looking beautiful! Thank you.

CAFOD GROUP meets on Tuesday 2nd September 2pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP The first meeting of the new season will be a talk on The Naeem Foundation, a major Muslim charity who have their head-quarters in WGC. Date: Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30 pm at the Focolare Centre.

ELLEN DEVINE RIP The Funeral Mass for Ellen will be on Monday 15th September at 11am at Our Lady's Church.

OCTOBER ROSARY PROCESSION on Saturday 4th October. More details soon.

JUBILEE YEAR *Pilgrims of Hope*

Our Lady's WGC has been designated as the Jubilee Church for Hertfordshire. This means that by receiving Holy Communion, going to Confession, saying the Creed and praying for the Pope's Intention, you can receive a Plenary Indulgence for yourself or for someone who has died - helping you or the deceased towards eternity. In addition to Mass and devotions, works of charity or mercy are possible elements.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S & ST. ALBAN + ST. STEPHEN'S in St. Albans will come by coach to Our Lady's on Saturday 13th September as Jubilee pilgrims. The programme will be as follows:

11am Mass.

11.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions

12.15pm Benediction.

12.30pm Picnic lunch in Trinity Hall.

1.30pm Visit around the church and reflection on being Pilgrims of Hope

2.10pm Solemn Jubilee Blessing and Farewell

There will NOT be 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on 13th September or Confessions. Everyone is invited to Our Lady's for the whole or part of the day. So bring sandwiches! Fr. Norbert needs volunteers for the welcome and for coffee and tea at lunchtime. Please let him know if you can help.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Our local Catholic Secondary Schools are oversubscribed and so governors have to look for the Certificate of Catholic Practice given by the Parish Priest. Fr. Norbert urges families to think about their weekly church-going as this is the main criterion for him issuing the certificate. Also, sometimes parents/carers, who have considered Baptism and First Holy Communion for a long time and never got round to it, should seek the next steps for the sake of their children.

NEW SATURDAY CLUB Please join us for the launch of a new club for those with learning disabilities, their friends, families and carers on Saturday 11th October 2025 2pm- 4pm in the Trinity Hall. Volunteers will meet on Wednesday 10th September in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7pm. *Our next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 18th October at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a Get-together.*

SACRAMENTS 2025/26

BAPTISM Please contact Fr. Norbert to arrange the Baptism of your child.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration for children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will be in Our Lady's Church on **Wednesday 15th October at 6pm**. Parents/carers are asked to come with the children who should be at least in Year 3 at Primary School. The meeting will last 45 minutes. Dates for the First Communion Masses will be given at this meeting. *The first parents and children's workshop will be before Christmas.*

CONFIRMATION Young people who wish to be confirmed next year are asked to come with their parents to an enrolment meeting on **Sunday 5th October at 7pm** in Holy Family Church. Young people should be at least in Year 9 at Secondary School. The meeting will last around 45 minutes. *The course will start on Sunday 19th October.*

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, come to a meeting on **Monday 6th October at 7.30pm** in Our Lady's Sacristy. There will be an opportunity to find out more. Adults for Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church usually receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil (next year on Saturday 4th April). Perhaps you are a Catholic adult, baptised as a child, who missed out on Confirmation as teenager, why not consider preparing for this Sacrament? There will be a warm welcome and an explanation of the journey towards Easter.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples planning to get married in 2026/27 should let Fr. Norbert know. The Marriage Preparation Day will be in the Trinity Hall **Saturday 7th February, 2026** starting at 10.30am and concluding with the 6pm Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS

30th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	Fr. Marco's Intention

31st TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	Bill Smith RIP Birthday
10.30am	Holy Family	Franco Tiramani RIP Birthday
12 noon	Our Lady	Augustus Joachim RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	For the People

1st September Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP
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2nd Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Erna Schnider RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Mary Doocey RIP

3rd Wednesday St. Gregory the Great

9.30am	Holy Family	Angelina Ostafijczuk RIP (1st Anniv)
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4th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Florencia Muceras RIP
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5th Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
7pm	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP

6th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Doocey RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Pat and Mary Dever RIP

7th TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	In thanksgiving (LD)
10.30am	Holy Family	Thanksgiving to Our Lady (CW)
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Robi Brand's Intention

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30
St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am
Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL *Near entrance to Trinity Hall. Open Monday to Friday 8.30am until 4pm*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass in St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome.

STREAMED MASS resumes on 14th September.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's 12 noon Mass starts on 14th September