



**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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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

**Assistant Priest** Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434      [jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator** Mrs Jacqui Boon 01707 323234 (Tuesday to 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

### WELCOME TO FR. JAMES BOYLE

who starts this weekend. We pray that his first appointment as priest will bring him and us much joy and many blessings!

*Fr. James writes:* I was born in Omagh, in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland to Glaswegian parents, Charles and Mary Boyle. My father was stationed there at the time in his role as Medical Officer to The Argyll and Southern Highlander Regiment. On leaving the army my father took up the post of GP in the small rural village of Roslea, in County Fermanagh, in Northern Ireland, close to the border with the Irish Republic. I am the fourth of seven children, with 2 sisters and four brothers, although we lost the eldest tragically in a road accident when I was five. We are all fairly close. I was a bright, gregarious child and enjoyed school, playing football, hanging out with my brothers, and serving Mass several times a week, something I kept up until secondary school. After primary school, I went to St Michael's Grammar in Enniskillen. After my 'A' levels I went to study in Queen's University, Belfast and once qualified, I worked as an IT consultant, mostly in the finance industry. The work took me all over the British Isles and I met many wonderful, inspiring people along the way. I received a clear call from the Lord to Priesthood in my mid-thirties, and went forward to begin my studies in Maynooth, Ireland. Later I came to Westminster Diocese and completed my studies in Rome. I served as a Deacon in Brook Green, Hammersmith and was ordained to the Priesthood in Westminster Cathedral on June 28th this year. I am delighted to have been appointed to serve in Welwyn Garden City as Priest, assisting Canon Norbert, and am very much looking forward to getting to know you all in the weeks and months ahead.

**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. Adults for Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church usually receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil (Saturday 4th April, 2026). 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! Come and see!

**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.

**FR. MARCO** Thank you to everyone who made Fr. Marco's Farewell such a great occasion. He had a brilliant time! We ask God's blessing upon him in his new appointment.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:macleaneltham@gmail.com)

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Mass for start of the year at 9.15am on Friday 12th September in school. All welcome.

**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)

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

**SPANISH PRIESTS** Fr. Jose Antonio and Fr. Javier from Cordoba are here. Let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to invite them. Safeguarding documentation is complete.

**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.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' RETREAT** Sunday 19th October 3.30 - 5pm Our Lady's

**CATECHISTS RETREAT** Saturday 15th November at Our Lady's.

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** Tuesday 14th October 7.45 - 9.30pm in Trinity Hall. Reports from parish groups and looking ahead to the coming year. Everyone is invited.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Thank you to everyone who helped this week!

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP** Talk on The Naeem Foundation, a major Muslim charity Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30 pm at the Focolare Centre.

**ELLEN DEVINE RIP** Funeral Mass on Monday 15th September at 11am at Our Lady's.

**NEIL McGREEVY RIP** Funeral Mass on Thursday 18th September 10.30am Our Lady's.

**HARVEST QUIZ NIGHT** in Trinity Hall Saturday 11th October 7pm for 7.30 start. Tables of 8. Bring own drinks + nibbles. Tickets £7 from Caroline Sherar 07929709901

### **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** 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. *Next Special Needs Mass on Saturday 18th October at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a Get-together.*

### **WALSINGHAM JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE**

Stevenage Parishes have kindly made all the arrangements for WGC to go to Walsingham in Norfolk on Saturday 20th September. The 49-seater coach will leave from Our Lady's Church at 8am *sharp*. The programme is as follows:

11.30am Welcoming of parish and other pilgrim groups and banners

12 noon Pilgrim Mass

1.30pm Picnic lunch

2.15pm Gather for the procession along the Holy Mile

3.45pm Prayers, Benediction and final prayers in the Abbey Grounds

4.30pm Departures We should arrive back by 7.30pm.

If you wish to go, please fill out one of the forms at the back of the church and return to Fr. Norbert with £25 (which includes the coach and Walsingham pilgrim levy). Some of you have already given in money; fill out a form and let Fr. Norbert know you have paid. It is best to come with clothing for all weathers and to bring sufficient food for lunch and drinks. There are cafes but there might be many customers! The Shrine at Walsingham dates back to 1061 when the Lady Richeldis, who had a great love of the Mother of God, asked Our Lady for a way to honour her, and it was from this desire in her heart that the events of Walsingham unfolded. She was a woman of faith, she pondered, meditated and prayed. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the House of the Annunciation where the Angel greeted Mary, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial. *So, come!*

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **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

### **8th Monday OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY**

9.30am	Our Lady
--------	----------

### **9th Tuesday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Private Intention
7pm	Our Lady	Joachim Family (In thanksgiving)

### **10th Wednesday**

9.30am	Holy Family	Jill Mercer RIP
--------	-------------	-----------------

### **11th Thursday**

9.30am	Holy Family
--------	-------------

### **12th Friday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Noel Brady RIP (10th Anniv)
7pm	Our Lady	Noonan Family's Intentions

### **13th Saturday St. John Chrysostom**

10am	St. Bonaventure	NO MASS
11am	Our Lady	Jubilee Year Mass
6pm	Our Lady	Con Gilhooly RIP Anniv

### **14th THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

9am	St. Bonaventure	Private Intentions (JA)
10.30am	Holy Family	Rebecca Brown RIP (1st Anniv)
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Robert & Val Cunningham and family Intentions

## **CONFESSIONS** *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30

Our Lady Saturday 11.45 - 12.15pm

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.

**RESTORATION HOLY HOUR** on Friday 12th September following 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. There will be Scripture, Prayer and Song in front of the Blessed Sacrament led by Fr. Jose Antonio and Fr. Javier. *Come and enjoy the Lord's Presence!*