



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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12th October, 2025

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

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Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

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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

Today as we gather for Mass, the prospect of the beginnings of peace in the Holy Land is tantalisingly close. Our prayers for this intention must not cease and our efforts to be agents of reconciliation in our own lives should not diminish. What is clear to me is that the healing of the pain suffered will take time as will the rebuilding of infrastructure in Gaza and a sense of security in the region. In the meantime, so many other areas of the world yearning for an end to conflict, for justice, for freedom to worship, continue to groan in agony. Humanity must not give up!

In our Gospel reading from St. Luke, we are presented with the familiar scene of the ten lepers desperate for God's mercy; they want Jesus to bring them healing. The Lord's words are powerful and transform. One returns with words of praise and thanksgiving; the others are not to be seen. We are told that the grateful one is a Samaritan - from a different religion and region. His faith makes him well again - this is noted by Jesus. So much happens in this passage! Firstly, its location - Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem passing on the border between Galilee and Samaria; the Lord is not afraid to make a detour on the journey to his Passion! To be healed of leprosy means being restored to others in family, community and religion - what a gift of saving love! Thanksgiving to God, when things go well, can sometimes be forgotten - our supplications and our gratitude should go hand in hand! Finally, the fact that the one who returns is a foreigner is a challenge to those who think God can only work within certain boundaries or contexts - God cannot be contained! So, as another week begins, let us place ourselves and our world in the hands of Jesus, trusting in the One who brings life and reaches out to the multitude.

With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

SACRAMENTS 2025/26

BAPTISM Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. James 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 this **Wednesday 15th October at 6pm**. Parents/carers are asked to come with the children (at least in Year 3). The meeting will last 45 minutes. Please bring £10 to cover cost of the books.

CONFIRMATION Young people (at least in Year 9) who wish to be confirmed and missed last Sunday's enrolment should contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. James. The first session will be on Sunday 19th October at 7pm at Holy Family. There will also be a session for parents at the same time.

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, come to a meeting on **Monday 13th October at 7.30pm** in Our Lady's Sacristy. Perhaps you missed out on Confirmation as teenager - is now the right time? There will be a warm welcome! *Come and see!*

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

SEAN BROPHY RIP Sean's Funeral Mass at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 15th October at 9.30am. *No tea/coffee after Wednesday's Mass.*

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

READERS' RETREAT today (Sunday 12th) 3.30 - 5pm in Our Lady's Church. There will be the opportunity to reflect on the new translation and the ministry of Reader.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' RETREAT Sunday 19th October 3.30 - 5pm Our Lady's *Come and take time to ponder this great ministry in the Church!*

CATECHISTS RETREAT 'Reawakening blessed hope' on Saturday 15th November at Our Lady's led by the Diocese for Hertfordshire. 10am - 4pm in Trinity Hall, WGC. To book a place, please give your name and email to Fr. Norbert who will send names to the Diocese. It's a free event but bring a packed lunch.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Tuesday 14th October 7.45 - 9.30pm in Trinity Hall. Reports from parish groups. What do you want to do to conclude the Jubilee Year at Our Lady's? How should St. Bonaventure's Centenary be marked in 2026? Also, do you think now is the right time in WGC to restore Holy Communion under both kinds - receiving the Precious Blood from the Chalice as well as the Sacred Host? *Come to the meeting!*

CEMETERY MASSES Oakhill (Southway) Sunday 2nd November 2pm, starting in the Chapel. The Council is providing tea/coffee and cakes. Sunday 9th November 1.30pm Hatfield Hyde. Sunday 16th November Welwyn New Cemetery Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets at the back of the church on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. Please return them and they will be remembered at Masses in November. *There is no need to give any money.*

SIKHISM Find out more from the Interfaith Group at the Focolare Centre on Wednesday 29th October 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Speaker Darshan Singh Ji.

NEWSLETTER Next weekend's newsletter will cover two weeks

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. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH Decoration in readiness for the Centenary next year has started. Tuesday's 9.30 Mass will be at Our Lady's and Friday's 9.30 Mass will be at Holy Family. The works are progressing. *Thanks for your patience!*

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES needs men's winter clothing, especially water-proofs, for refugees living in WGC not allowed to work. Call Vicky 01707 326109.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents/carers together with their child are asked to make an appointment to meet Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church for him to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School transfer. He will be available: Monday 13th October 4.00 - 6.00pm, Tuesday 14th October 4.00 - 6.00pm and Monday 20th October 4.00 - 6.00pm. There is a blue parish form at the back of each church. This should be filled in and brought to the meeting. Please wait in church until called. To make an appointment, call Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234. If you do not understand the system or if English is not your first language, Fr. Norbert is happy to help. However, he will not be able to sign the certificates before/after Mass.

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER There will not be a 7pm Mass that day.

RED BOXES 2024 Thank you! In 2024, Welwyn Garden City parishioners raised **£2007.82** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here in Welwyn Garden City is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance improving the lives of whole communities.

RED BOXES/MISSIO 2025 It is that time of year for the MISSIO Red Boxes to be emptied and the monies to be sent on to the Missions. Please do leave your box with us in church in the next couple of weeks if you would like us to count and bank the contents and return the box to you in due course. Alternatively you can count the money yourself and donate by one of the ways listed below: Sent by cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU Online missio.org.uk/redbox By text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085 Or by phone 020 7821 9755 (office hours) By Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230 (Reference RB+ your postcode) *Your generosity makes such a difference + supports the work of the Missions. Thank you*

CAFOD HARVEST QUIZ NIGHT Trinity Hall Sat. 11th October 7pm for 7.30 start. Tables of 8. Bring drinks and nibbles. Tickets £7 from Caroline Sherar 07929709901.

FOR ALL WHO ARE WIDOWED, men and women, you are invited to Afternoon Tea and 'chat time' - a chance to share with others. Meet at Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, WGC today (Sunday 12th) at 3pm. For more information. Please contact Mary Gateshill on 07860577782 or email marygateshill@hotmail.com

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 18th October at 6pm in Our Lady's followed by a Get-together in the Trinity Hall with food to share, a quiz and bingo.

OCTOBER ROSARY PROCESSION A huge 'Thank you' to all who organised last Saturday's event. It was prayerful, beautiful and well supported.

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who help in our churches and the grounds

MASS INTENTIONS

11th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Eda Sarah Catherine Donnelly RIP <i>month's mind</i>
6pm	Our Lady	Florence O'Brien RIP Birthday

12th TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	Mucero Family Intentions
10.30am	Holy Family	Mike Morgan RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Janecka Family Intention

13th Monday ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

9.30am	Our Lady	Tom and Josephine Connolly RIP Anniv
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14th Tuesday

9.30am	Our Lady	Ged Connolly RIP Birthday
7pm	Our Lady	

15th Wednesday St. Teresa of Avila

9.30am	Holy Family	Sean Brophy Funeral Mass
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16th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	John Beckett's Intention
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17th Friday St. Ignatius of Antioch

9.30am	Holy Family	Rita and George's 60th Wedding Anniversary
7pm	Our Lady	

18th Saturday ST. LUKE

10am	St. Bonaventure	Linnette Piedade Gurjao (Birthday Int)
6pm	Our Lady	Michael Caulfield RIP Anniv

19th TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	Nelson D'Lima RIP (2nd Anniv)
10.30am	Holy Family	James Shakeshaft RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Maher RIP Birthday
6pm	Holy Family	Cherna Family Intention

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am

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. *Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 17th October.*

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's at 12 noon Mass. Children's Mass on Sunday 19th October at Our Lady's at 12 noon.