



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7th December, 2025

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

jamesboyle@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

I just started printing this newsletter and realised I hadn't done my piece! As I read my words, they were from last week! Isn't it strange how time and jobs-to-be-done can get all mixed up in this very busy period? The Church asks us to slow down, draw breath and consider our lives as we await Christ's Coming. We see in our Gospel passage from St. Matthew the image of John the Baptist in the wilderness by the River Jordan with countless people flocking to him. We *hear* his voice crying to us: 'Prepare the way of the Lord!' We *learn* from him that someone is coming after him who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. What a sight! What a sound! What a message! The real question we must ask ourselves is 'What are we going to do about it?' Jesus challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees - esteemed religious leaders - calling them 'Brood of vipers!' He is not afraid to call them to account. This week try to picture John and imagine him speaking personally to you. What words would he direct towards you? What do *you* need to hear this Advent 2025? Are you ready to take the plunge and start afresh? Do you long for the Lord Jesus to come to you with his Holy Spirit and fire you up? A re-set button triggered this Advent offers us the opportunity to ponder these and many other questions. The grace of this Season is God's gift to us in readiness for Christ's Coming. Let us seize the moment and respond!

Soon some of you will be going away to join loved ones for Christmas, perhaps even abroad. Others will be here supporting others in so many ways. Visitors and newcomers will be in our midst. May God watch over each one and enrich us with the dawning Presence of his Son.

May God bless you and all you hold dear. With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

ADVENT Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes after Our Lady's 9.30 Mass on Monday, after Holy Family's 9.30 Mass on Thursday and after St. Bonaventure's 9.30 Mass on Friday. *Come and enjoy peace and serenity in the Lord's Presence.*

Advent Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday 16th December at 8pm at Our Lady's Church. You are invited to share in the joy of God's forgiving love revealed in Jesus in this beautiful Sacrament. Talk about what weighs on your conscience. Experience reconciling grace through the Absolution. Make a fresh start as Christmas approaches. Parents, why not bring your children to this Service? 4 priests will join Fr. Norbert and Fr. James.

JOHN PRIDMORE a one-time gangster, who had a conversion experience some years ago, will speak at the end of each Mass this weekend and then speak at length at 7.15pm at Our Lady's Church. On Monday 8th December there will be Mass at 6pm at Holy Family Church followed by another input from John. *All are welcome.*

RESPOSITORY Christmas cards, calendars, candles and gifts are now available in the repository at Our Lady's and at Holy Family. Why not have a look!

CARITAS ADVENT GIVING CALENDARS See posters in each church.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS PRACTICE Sunday 21st 11am at Our Lady's. All children are invited to take part. Parents should stay with their children for the rehearsal.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS Friday 12th December 7 - 9pm. All are invited to sing for those who live in The Cloisters and then continue in the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway AL8 6DU where there will be refreshments.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES Sherrardswood 6pm at Our Lady's on 8th. Commonswood 6pm at Our Lady's on 15th. Our Lady at Our Lady's Church 3.30pm on 17th. Holy Family at Holy Family Church 5.30pm on 17th.

SALVATION ARMY APPEAL for Christmas presents for children and young people. The local Salvation Army in Cole Green Lane WGC AL7 3TN will receive them Mon-days: 9am - 1pm, Tuesdays: 9am - 7pm and Thursdays: 9am - 4.30pm. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY on Mon 8th Dec. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation in this country. Masses 9.30am Our Lady's & 6pm Holy Family.

CAROL SINGING IN THE HOWARD CENTRE on Saturday 13th December 2 - 4pm. Join the Christian Churches in supporting the Food Bank and cheering shoppers!

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will not take place in December.

POLISH-ENGLISH CAROLS in Trinity Hall, on Sunday 14th December. 4pm for 4.30 start. Cakes, tea, coffee and mulled wine. Everyone is welcome.

SATURDAY CLUB for adults and children with learning disabilities, their families and friends. 2 - 4pm in the Trinity Hall on 13th December. There'll be a Christmas flavour! One of our parishioners has made toys/artefacts to raise funds for the Saturday Club. They will be on sale the weekend 13th/14th December after each Mass.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING on Sunday 14th December after 9am Mass. There'll be presents for children, mulled wine, mince pies and carol-singing.

SIGNED MASS on Sunday 14th December 12 noon at Our Lady's. Please tell others!

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. *Christmas will soon be here! Your generosity towards the Food Bank really helps!*

CWL will be selling raffle tickets (£1 a strip) this weekend to raise money for the charities they support. Prizes are Christmas hampers. Draw on 11th December. *Good luck!*

CHILTERN WEST GALLERY QUIRE invites you to learn and sing some of the joyful old Christmas carols from Cornwall and Dorset. URC Church Road AL8 6PR 2 - 4pm Sunday 14th December. It's free, including the music, tea/coffee and mince pies

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. In addition to Mass and devotions, works of charity or mercy are possible elements. *Bishop Paul McAleenan will close the Jubilee Year with 12 noon Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 28th December.*

HOSPITALITY THANKS There have been - and are - many events in our churches which require a huge amount of work, preparing, serving and clearing up. *THANK YOU!*

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES needs men's winter clothing, especially water-proofs, for refugees living in WGC not allowed to work. Call Vicky 07905454150.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO 6th - 14th Oct 2026. BA from Heathrow. £1947 per person + £40 tips for guide. Brochures are in each church.

MARGARET O'NEILL RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 12th January at 12.30pm.

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to everyone who has helped in our churches!

HCPT GROUP 183 is looking for a nurse to join the Easter Pilgrimage (6th - 11th April) which supports children and young people with additional needs. Contact Emma Moore, Group Leader, on group183@hcpt.org.uk or 07740858313

FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED men and women, you are invited to Afternoon Tea 'chat time' 2 Kingsley Court, WGC AL7 4HZ on Tuesday 9th Dec. 1.30 - 3pm. Contact Mary Gateshill on 07860577782 or marygateshill@hotmail.com

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

FIRST COMMUNION The next Workshop for parents and children will be on Sunday 18th January Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm.

CONFIRMATION Young people's next session 7.15pm today (Sunday 7th) in Our Lady's Church.

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) Final session before Christmas on Monday 15th December 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

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.

MARRIAGE MATTERS is a delightful resource to feed and promote the vocation of matrimony. <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/two-in-one-flesh/>

CAREERS FAIR at Nicholas Breakspear School Tues 10th March 9am - 3.15pm. The aim is to expose students to multiple professions, to inform and inspire students, and demonstrate how they could contribute and help 'Build a Better World' through their future career. More info from Elizabeth Obada: obadae@nbs.herts.sch.uk

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

SVP Thank you for generous response to support the single mother. Carpets and rugs are still required. Please call Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you.

BANK DETAILS To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRCDT Welwyn Garden City, Sort code 400520 No. 51094459. *It is essential that there is paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and who has made the payment. Thanks!*

MASS INTENTIONS

6th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	John Ling RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Arthur Rangel RIP

7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9am	St. Bonaventure	Michael D'Souza (Special Intention)
10.30am	Holy Family	Raphael Attard (Birthday Intention)
12 noon	Our Lady	Chris and Mary Doocey RIP
6pm	Holy Family	All Souls in Purgatory

8th Monday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

9.30am	Our Lady	Mary Laggan's Intention
6pm	Holy Family	For the People

9th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Geraldine Reynolds RIP Anniv
7pm	Our Lady	Ursula Mage RIP (3rd Anniv)

10th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Geraldine Reynolds RIP
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11th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Luke & Elizabeth Delaney & Family's Intention
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12th Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Charles Harnell RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Frank Cafferty RIP

13th Saturday St. Lucy

10am	St. Bonaventure	Tommy Haugh RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Miroslav Vajdik and all his family

14th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9am	St. Bonaventure	Tommy Harrell RIP Anniv
10.30am	Holy Family	Private Petition to St. Rita
12 noon	Our Lady	Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Enzo Antoniazzi RIP

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am

Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL 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. The Jubilee Icon will be at St. Albans on 12th December. After 12 noon Mass there will be an explanation and a time of guided prayer until 1.30pm. All are welcome. *Fr. Norbert will celebrate Mass on 19th December.*

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's at 12 noon Mass.