



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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

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 Tues/Wed/Fri 9am -12 noon,Thurs1 - 4pm

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

We celebrate 100 years since the First Mass was celebrated at St. Bonaventure's on 14th September, 1926! This is a milestone and a moment for all us to take pride in the fact that the church is still here and that two other churches have sprung from the Mother Church in our Garden City - Our Lady's in 1959 and then Holy Family in 1967. Miss Frances Clemson is the benefactor who paid for the church to be built and people, religious and priests have worshipped in this holy place. Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals have taken place. We give thanks to God for the dedication of so many who have given glory and honour to God here. We ask God to bless us as we gather and the generations still to come.

St. Bonaventure's has changed over the years! After the Second Vatican Council the altar was brought forward. Individual chairs have given way to benches. New stained glass has brought vivid colours and light into the nave. We have done our best to give the church and hall a fresh look. Who knows what will be needed in the future?! For a community and a building to be alive, there will always have to be developments and change will happen. Faith, love and life keep us going in the spirit of St. Bonaventure!

I am grateful to Bishop Paul McAleenan for celebrating this Mass. We extend a warm welcome to clergy linked with the parish as well as from other Christian Churches. The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield is with us too. Let us rejoice!

With much love, Fr. Norbert

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

MARRIAGE Any couples planning to get married this year or next should let Fr. Norbert know so that all the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day for 2027 will be on Saturday 6th February 10.30am until 5pm followed by 6pm Mass.

RCIA for adults who wish to join the Catholic Church starts on Monday 5th October at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. This is also for Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger. Come and find out more!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION for children at least in Year 3 at Primary School will take place on Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm in Our Lady's Church. The meeting is for parents and children. The first workshop for parents and children will be in Our Lady's Church on Sunday 18th October 3.30 - 5pm. For children baptised outside of WGC, we will need to see their Baptismal Certificates.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION will take place on Sunday 4th October at 7pm in Holy Family Church. The meeting will last for one hour and is for parents and young people who are at least in Year 9 at Secondary School. We will need to know the Baptismal date of the young people; for young people baptised outside of WGC, we will need to see the Baptismal Certificate. First session for young people 7pm on Sunday 18th October.

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 to donate money. Please use Food Bank Baskets.

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

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

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & BREAKFAST Next celebration at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 2nd October 6.30am. It's an early start but sets you up for the day!

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who have helped with keeping our churches clean and tidy, as well as looking after the grounds.

ROSARY PROCESSION on Saturday 3rd October starting with 10am Mass at Our Lady's Church. There will be refreshments in the Trinity Hall afterwards.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS The Polish Community invites everyone to join the annual Polish-English Mass on Saturday 3rd October at 6pm at Our Lady's. After the Mass, everyone is welcome in the Trinity Hall for food, drinks and party with music and dancing. Serdecznie zapraszamy na coroczną Polsko-Angielską Mszę w kościele Our Lady w sobotę 3 października o 18:00. Po mszy zapraszamy na wspólne świętowanie przy polskim poczęstunku, z muzyką oraz tańcem. Jeśli ktoś chciałby pomóc w przygotowaniach to prosimy o kontakt: Anna Skiba, tel 07944728696.

ITALIAN MASS Friday 16th October 7pm Our Lady's with gathering in Sacristy. If you would like to be involved, please let Fr. Norbert know.

LOOKING AHEAD: South Asian Mass Sat. 27th February 6pm. **African Mass** Sunday 27th June 12 noon. **Filipino Mass** Sat. 3rd July 6pm. **Polish Mass** Sat. 2nd Oct. '27 6pm. **Special Needs Masses:** Saturdays 6pm 21st Nov, 16th Jan, 20th March, 19th June **Retreat Day in Aylesford** (Kent) Fr. Norbert will lead the day in Lent on Sat. 13th March. **Blessing of Graves** in November: Oakhill (Southway) Sunday 1st 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Sunday 8th 1.30pm and Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 22nd 2pm.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert will soon advertise in the newsletter the process for the Certificate of Catholic Practice. He reminds parents and children that this requires them attending Mass every Saturday/Sunday.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM on Saturday 19th September. Stevenage Parish has kindly agreed to book a coach which will cost approx. £25 per seat. To reserve a seat on the coach, please give your name (and the name of each person travelling with you), contact number and £25 to Fr. James who will lead the group; we also need an emergency number with the name of that person. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8am and return by 7.30pm. Booking in advance is essential. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks for the day. There are cafes but there will be many people in Walsingham that day! *There are places left on the coach, so sign up!*

MORE MONEY NEEDED! If anyone has money to spare, it would be gratefully received in paying off the remaining loan on the Trinity Hall (£99k) and the works which have been undertaken in our three churches.

BANK DETAILS To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRCDD Welwyn Garden City, Sort code 400520 No. 51094459. *It is essential that there's paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and name of donor.*

CAFOD GROUP will be holding a cake sale at Holy Family after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 27th September. Donations of home baked cakes would be most welcome and can be delivered on the morning of the sale. We operate on a cash only basis so please remember to bring cash.

CAFOD QUIZ in the Trinity Hall on Saturday 17th October starting at 7.30pm. 10 tables of 8. Ticket prices £10 per person. Please telephone Caroline Sherar to reserve a table on 07929709901. Please bring your own food and drink. There will be a raffle.

SVP REPORT (The Society of St. Vincent de Paul) During the 12 months ending March 2026, 971 calls/visits were made to approx. 80 Clients. The purpose of this contact is to provide assistance in the form of transport, financial help, shopping, keeping medical appointments, hospital visits and general face-to-face meetings. Our financial commitment includes: giving supermarket vouchers at Christmas 2025 to 20 families and similarly 17 families at Easter 2026, amounting to £3000.00, supplying furniture and purchasing school uniforms and white goods for three Clients amounting to £350.00, continuing support of our twinnage scheme with India at £150.00 per annum, a one-off payment of £1000.00 to the South Sudan appeal, organising the annual Mass With The Anointing of the Sick followed by refreshments at the Focolare Centre. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parishioners who give of their time with practical assistance when requested. We are indebted to the financial contributions made throughout the year and at the SVP annual church collection. £2200.00 was raised following the 2025 collection. The **2026 annual collection** will take place the weekend of **19th/20th September**. Should you like further details on the work of SVP, kindly contact us on 07715 5799319. Thank you and God bless you.

PARISH WEBSITE to be updated soon in line with other parishes in Westminster Diocese. Many groups in the parish need a fresh description of their work/ministry and an updated contact name and number or email. Send to Fr. Norbert soon. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

12th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure
6pm Our Lady Phyllis Roberts RIP

13th TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am St. Bonaventure Roy D'Cunha RIP
10.30am Holy Family Berry and Sheridan Family Intentions
12 noon Our Lady Andrew Scally RIP Birthday
3pm St. Bonaventure CENTENARY MASS with Bishop Paul McAleenan
6pm Holy Family Rebecca Brown RIP (2nd Anniv)

14th Monday THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

9.30am Our Lady Johanna D'Costa RIP

15th Tuesday Our Lady of Sorrows

9.30am St. Bonaventure Tereza D'Souza RIP
7pm Our Lady Maria and Manuel D'Costa RIP

16th Wednesday St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian

9.30am Holy Family

17th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

18th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Barbara and Chris Wilson RIP

19th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Noel Brady RIP (11th Anniv)
6pm Our Lady Deceased members of the Mulvany Family

20th TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am St. Bonaventure Robi Brand's Intention
10.30am Holy Family Mary + Derek Kelly's Silver Wedding Intention
12 noon Our Lady Chris Doocey RIP
6pm Holy Family

CONFESSIONS Sacrament of Reconciliation

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament also)

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am

Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL (near Trinity Hall entrance) Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel *Fr. Norbert will next celebrate this Mass on 25th September*

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

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