

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. William Johnstone  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Sixth Sunday of Easter 22nd May 2022***

In these last few days, I have celebrated Leavers' Masses in a couple of our Secondary Schools for Year 13 students about to embark on exams and a new stage in their lives. These celebrations are always highly charged with emotion as young people conclude their 'school' education and reflect on what they have learned, the opportunities they have been opened up to and ponder the prospect of a world of work or study perhaps far from home. Tears and smiles, apprehension and joy, gratitude and relief are just some of the hallmarks experienced. The education of these teenagers has been dramatically affected by Covid-19 and its restrictions. Hope and promise are the light shining out in this situation. To do this remembering in the context of the Mass aligns who they are - with their varied and shared experiences - with the presence of God-revealed-in-Jesus in the Eucharist and all that unfolded in Christ's final days.

Today's Gospel passage from St. John is set at the Last Supper when Jesus spends much time talking to his disciples. The Lord speaks about love and the keeping of his commandments. He presents the vision of God who wants to dwell within us. The Spirit is the strength of the Godhead who helps us to call things to mind. Peace is his parting gift, a peace way beyond anything the world can expect. Here too the atmosphere is electric as the friends of Jesus contemplate the fact that he is going to leave them. How? Why? Where to? What about us? Try to picture their faces and the way they look at each other and at their Master as these words come from his lips. Peace - Shalom - is well-being, calmness and serenity, it is the very presence of God. In all that Jesus outlines, these words spring from a heart filled with love and willing sacrifice.

This Thursday we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord on the 40th day of Easter. Jesus leaves in order to send his Spirit. The disciples can't keep gazing into the sky for ever - the Lord has work for them. Firstly, they will be joining in continuous prayer with Our Lady. Secondly, they must be ready to wait - to be patient! Thirdly, they are going to be clothed with a treasure from on high which will change their lives and affect the history of the world as others come to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us be like them in anticipation and look forward to Pentecost and the completion of our celebration of Easter. God bless you.

With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

## **EASTER ANTHEM TO OUR LADY**

*Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia!*

*Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!*

*Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia!*

*Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!*

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

Because he whom thou didst merit to bear, alleluia,

Has risen as he said, alleluia!

Pray for us to God, alleluia!

**BISHOPS' CONFERENCE STATEMENT** Please have a look at the statement from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales which is on our website. From Pentecost on 5th June, they are urging Catholics to return to the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. They recognise that for the elderly and vulnerable this might be more difficult. Please encourage people to come back. Let's give them a warm welcome and ensure they feel safe.

**NEW PARISH HALL** Much hard work is going on behind the scenes to help us move forward towards a formal opening of our new Parish Hall - Trinity Hall. The key issue is how it will be managed and the system of bookings. So many individuals, families and groups are ready to sign up. Thank you for your patience!

**BARBECUE** organised by the African Community for the people of our three parishes and beyond will take place on Sunday 3rd July. Hopefully the new hall will be in use and so this will be regarded as a 'test event' when we can monitor safety and other issues arising from a big event. More details to follow.

**ONE CANONICAL PARISH** Now that the agreement for the Hall has been signed and sent to Archbishop's House, Fr. Norbert has requested that the Cardinal allow our three parishes to move towards becoming one canonical parish. There is a process to be followed which will involve consultation of you, the parishioners of our three parishes. Soon the steps to be taken will become clearer and Fr. Norbert will keep you informed.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wanting to marry this year or next either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork and the Marriage Course. Thank you.

**BAPTISMS** Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

**STREAMED MASS** [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) We continue to stream Mass at 10am on Sunday.

**MASS INTENTIONS** Fr. Norbert and Fr. William are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let them know. Donations for the Masses should be put in an envelope and given to Fr. Norbert or Fr. William or popped through the letterbox of one of the presbyteries. The intentions this week have been: John Maguire RIP, Anna Liza Sabalvaro RIP Anniv + Guillermo Muceros RIP, James & Lindsey's Wedding Intention, Mary & Kevin Maume's Intentions, Intentions of Manuel, Osoba & Deirdrick Families, Owen Meenan RIP Anniv, Bridget Coyle RIP 1st Anniv, Tricia Knights RIP Anniv, Carl Feeney RIP, Patricia Neale Grimer RIP.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION** Congratulations to the First Communion children and Confirmation young people who have celebrated significant moments in their lives these last few weeks. We are so grateful to the many people who have supported them and have prepared the churches and the Liturgies for each joyful occasion.

**ASCENSION OF THE LORD** on Thursday 26th May. Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

**HALF-TERM WEEK** Looking ahead there will only be 10am Mass each day 30th May until 3rd June. There are two Bank Holidays that week to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**NEWSLETTER** on 28th/29th May will cover 4th/5th and 11th/12th June. Please let Fr. Norbert have any information by 26th May.

**MISSION APPEAL** will be given by the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) at all Masses the weekend of 11th/12th June.

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) will be on Saturday 16th July at 12 noon in the Focolare Centre. There will be a buffet lunch. If transport needed this can be arranged. Contact Janet on 326456.

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 1st July followed by breakfast in the Hall. This Mass will be livestreamed. All are welcome. With 3rd June being a Bank Holiday, there will NOT be 6.30am Mass on that day.

**SUPPLY PRIESTS** Canon Michael Munnelly, recently retired Parish Priest of Stanmore, will be helping us on Sunday 29th May at 10.30. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Masses on Monday 23rd May at 9.30am, and Sunday 29th May at 6pm. We are grateful for their support.

**DEFIBRILLATOR** At the instigation of the Catholic Women's League, a defibrillator has been installed just outside Our Lady's Church to be available for the local community. Please note that for those who live near Holy Family Church there is one outside the Hedgehog pub. Let's hope they never have to be used but in an emergency, help is at hand.

**FOOD BANK** New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food for the needy members of our community, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, please email [foodbank@newzioncf.net](mailto:foodbank@newzioncf.net) and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

**ST ALBANS** The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, All are welcome. Fr. Norbert will next be celebrant on 24th June.

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** If any parishioners need a lift to Mass the Transport to Mass Group is there! If anyone can offer a lift, please contact Kay Mason on 01707 335633.

**LORETO COLLEGE** will be holding a Centenary Garden Party on Sunday 10th July 12 noon until 5pm. For more information go to [www.loreto.herts.sch.uk](http://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk)

**THE PARADOX OF ABUNDANCE** Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See [www.cafod.org.uk/food](http://www.cafod.org.uk/food) for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our food with our Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey resource.

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**SVP Request for a single mum.**  
Dining chairs, kettle, girls clothes  
4,7 and 8 year olds. Contact Janet  
on 01707 326456. Thank you.

**OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION** at Holy Family Church on 23rd June at 7pm: An Evening of Recollection is a couple of hours when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. Two meditations will be given by a priest, along with a talk and Benediction at the end of the evening. A priest will also be available for confession throughout the evening. This recollection is intended for men, however, there is also one for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 15th June at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

**COFFEE AT OUR LADY'S** If you are free on Thursday mornings 10.30-12.00 come and join us in Our Lady's Sacristy for a cuppa and a chat. We would love to see you.

### **MASS TIMES**

23 Monday	<b>9.30am</b>	Our Lady
24 Tuesday	<b>9.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>7pm</b>	Our Lady
25 Wednesday	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
26 Thursday	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
	<b>12noon</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>7pm</b>	Our Lady
27 Friday	<b>9.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>7pm</b>	Our Lady
28 Saturday	<b>10am</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>28 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady
<b>29 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady
	<b>6pm</b>	Holy Family

<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	Saturdays	5pm-5.30pm	Our Lady
	Thursdays	10am - 10.30am	Holy Family
	Saturdays	10.30am - 11am	St. Bonaventure

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

### **Saturday 21st May**

Acts 16:1-10 The Good News is taken to Macedonia

John 15:18-21 The disciples and the world

### **Sunday 22nd May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 15:1-2,22-29 The Apostles in Jerusalem deliberate on what is required of the Gentiles who convert

Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23 Jerusalem, the holy city, coming from God out of heaven.

John 14:23-29 'Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you.'

### **Monday 23rd May**

Acts 16:11-15 The Lord opens Lydia's heart to faith.

John 15:26-16:4 The Spirit will be Jesus' witness; the disciples will also bear witness to the Lord

### **Tuesday 24th May**

Acts 16:22-34 Paul and Silas. Faith comes to a household.

John 16:5-11 The Advocate will come after Jesus leaves the disciples.

**Wednesday 25th May St. Bede the Venerable (673-735)** Monk and outstanding ecclesiastical author.

Acts 17:15,22-18:1 Paul's speech to the Council of the Areopagus in Athens.

John 16:12-15 When the Spirit of truth comes...

### **Thursday 26th May ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

Acts 1:1-11 A cloud took Jesus from their sight.

Ephesians 1:17-23 God's power at work in Christ.

Luke 24:46-53 Jesus blessed them, withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven.

**Friday 27th May ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY** Died 605. Sent to re-evangelise England by Pope Gregory the Great, landing near Canterbury in 597.

1 Thessalonians 2:2-8 'God gave us the courage to proclaim the Good News.'

Luke 10:1-9 Say: 'The kingdom of God is very near to you.'

# Returning to Mass at Pentecost

*An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales*

*This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)*

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.” Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply. We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound. We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person. As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the

Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

# CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

## Migration issues in the UK

A Statement by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales In his 2014 message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees Pope Francis wrote, 'We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees... are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved'.

1. This plea of Pope Francis is as urgent as ever. Given the events of recent weeks it is of particular relevance for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Our appeal for refugees and asylum seekers to be welcomed and respected is based on the fundamental principle of the dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. Every nation should recognise this dignity and the rights which flow from it.

2. We appreciate the complexity and magnitude of the challenges being faced in the ongoing migration crisis. With over 80 million people across the world displaced by war, poverty, persecution and the effects of global warming, this challenge requires collaborative international action. Although resources are limited and there are many competing demands, wealthy countries, including the UK should give leadership in this endeavour.

3. The value we attach to each person and the compassion which the afflicted deserve demands that we welcome asylum seekers, treating them justly and honouring their dignity as human persons.

4. The Nationality and Borders Act fails to do this. Those seeking refuge in the UK should be provided with safe routes for travelling, have the opportunity to tell their story, be listened to and have their cases assessed justly. We keep in mind that there is no illegal asylum seeker; to claim asylum is a human right.

5. People smugglers and modern-day human traffickers profit from the desperation and misery of refugees. We fully support their prosecution. It is imperative however to make a clear distinction between victims and those who exploit them. Crime is defeated by confronting the perpetrators not by punishing the victims.

6. Many British people have given witness to justice through hospitality, providing a compassionate welcome and campaigning on behalf of refugees. We applaud their efforts and kindness. Our Christian faith demands that we respond generously to asylum seekers whose dignity must be protected and upheld. Jesus taught us, "I was a stranger and you made me welcome." (Matt 25:35) so we will continue to advocate their cause.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference

Friday 6th May 2022