

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*

25th Sunday of the Year 18th September 2022

In today's Second Reading from St. Paul to Timothy, he writes: 'My advice is that there should be prayers offered for everyone - petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving - and especially for kings and others in authority...' How powerful these words are as we gather knowing the Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is imminent. What petitions do you hold in your heart? For the late Queen? For her Son, Charles III who now reigns? For our Government? In regard to intercessions, who has asked you to pray for them? The sick or those who are weighed down by anxiety? Those off to make a start at university or beginning training or college or a job? The Royal Family needs our prayers of intercession for them as they mourn the death of the Queen in such a public way with the eyes of the world upon them. In terms of thanksgiving, we are grateful for the over-70 years of service given by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and her ability to adapt to changing circumstances. What are you thankful for today? People, events, your situation?

We join all of these with Jesus Christ in his great Act of Thanksgiving which is the Mass. The Lord Jesus, Son of God and truly one of us, expresses his gratitude to the Father in the power of the Spirit. This thanksgiving for Love is made known in his Sacrifice and the Father's response of Resurrection. What an amazing BOND! And we are caught up in it through the Holy Spirit. Christ who sits at the Father's Right Hand, intercedes for the whole of Creation; he is aware of us and prays for us. The Lord Jesus hears our petitions, however great or small they are, and presents them to his Father. Indeed, the Spirit inspires the words we need to form our prayer of petition.

As we come to the end of our time of grieving for Queen Elizabeth II and prepare to enter completely into the reign of King Charles III, let us not forget that we are living through, and ourselves creating, history. May petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving be hallmarks of our commitment as Christians. May God's Spirit guide, protect and inspire. God bless the King! May God bless each one of us!

With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

DEC PAKISTAN APPEAL Thank you for your generous giving last weekend. There is still time today using one of the special Cafod envelopes and left at one of the Presbyteries or online cafod.org.uk/give

MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER Mass will be at the usual time of 9.30am (even though it is a Bank Holiday). This will give people time to get home to watch the Queen's Funeral on television.

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION There is a short summary of the responses so far as we reflect on a possible merger of our three parishes. There is still time for parishioners to express their views. Please write to Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's or email norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk Please come to the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 28th September at 8pm in the new Trinity Hall (we hope). On 28th September the more detailed report will be available for discussion and result in a final draft to be sent to the Cardinal. Each one of you is so important in this consultation process. We need MANY of you to come to the meeting!

SUPPLY PRIEST Monsignor Harry Turner is helping us this Sunday at 10.30am. We are so grateful for his support.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICTY Some of our Catholic Schools require the Parish Priest to provide a Certificate of Catholicity for entry to Primary or Secondary School. In due course Fr. Norbert will publish how this will be done. However, he wants to emphasise that attendance at Mass is a requirement. Covid has placed many burdens on individuals, families and households; now is the time to do your best to return regularly to church. Children can only get here if they are brought by their families. Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start after Christmas. Soon we will ask parents to enrol their children for Communion and young people to enrol for Confirmation. We will let you know when the application Forms are on the website. Also, if any adults would like to be catechists for these Sacraments, please let Fr. Norbert know. There would be training and all the necessary safeguarding guidelines would have to be followed.

RCIA The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults for adults who would like to join the Catholic Church will start on Monday 7th November at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. There are a number who have made themselves known. If you are interested please speak to Fr. Norbert. This is also a great way for adults, who missed out on Confirmation when they were younger, to prepare for Confirmation. In some countries you cannot get married in the Catholic Church if not confirmed.

FIRST FRIDAY Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 7th October at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

ST. BERNADETTE Some of the relics of St. Bernadette are now in our country. Details can be found on stbernadette.org.uk They will arrive at St. Joseph's Church, Bedwell, Stevenage on Monday 17th October at 1pm and leave on Tuesday 18th October at 8.15am. There are various forms of prayer as well as Masses being planned for Stevenage. Please see the item on the parish website with the details.

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.

STELLA MARIS Invitation to webinar: Catholic charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) invites you to join a webinar on Tuesday 27th September from 7.30pm to 9pm GMT to learn more about the issue of seafarer abandonment, and how donations to this charity are supporting those in crisis. If you would like to attend, please register in advance at www.stellamaris.org.uk/abandonment

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: 'Following the successful Lent course this year we have decided to offer another study course in October this time exploring the importance of the saints in the life of the Church. It is envisaged that this will take place on Wednesday evenings with the first session beginning on the 5th October. More information about this will be given in due course.'

SPANISH PRIEST Fr. Antonio Guerrero Quesada from the Diocese of Jaen in Spain leaves us on Tuesday. We wish him well as he returns home to Spain. A week later he will be back at his Scripture studies in Rome. Let us keep him in our prayers! May God bless him!

ST. JOSEPH'S CENTRE (which supports adults and children with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends) is celebrating its 45th Anniversary with Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 2.30pm. It would be really great if we (from WGC) could take a group to this Mass and join in the celebrations. There will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall afterwards. It would be a significant moment in starting up again our Special Needs Masses in WGC. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested so he can inform St. Joseph's. Thank you.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. It is a quiet, reflective place to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, light a candle or experience a moment of serenity. Why not pop in? *The Chapel will not be open on the Bank Holiday Monday (for the Queen's Funeral)*

OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION at Holy Family Church on 22nd September 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 21st September at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

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 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 celebrate this Mass on 18th November.

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. All necessary safeguarding and health and safety guidelines will be followed.

COFFEE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S Sundays after 10.30am Mass, more volunteers welcome.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches This Sunday 18th September, Mass will be livestreamed at 11.30am from Our Lady's Church. Each week we will inform you of the timings.

INTER FAITH MEETING Following Fr. Norbert's talk on Sacred Numbers we will be presenting a similar evening featuring the Muslim, Jain, Hindu and Sikh Faiths on Thursday 29th September at 7.30pm at the Focolare Centre. All welcome.

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CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 5pm-5.30pm Our Lady
Thursdays 10am - 10.30am Holy Family
Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wanting to marry in 2023/2024 either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork. We are hoping to have the Preparation Day on Saturday 18th February (after Valentine's Day!) It will be the whole day and end with a Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6pm Mass. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to attend. 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.

RED BOXES - MISSION ST. BONAVENTURE'S It's the time of the year for collecting in the money in the Red Boxes, so please leave your box at the back of the church. Cheques are acceptable made out to Mission.

USED STAMPS 'I will be sending off several thousand used stamps this week to St. Patrick's Missionary Society. Many thanks to everyone. Please keep up the good work.' Mavis Cleasby

WGC MALE CHOIR has a concert at the WGC United Reformed Church, Church Road AL8 6PS on Saturday 24th September at 7.30pm in aid of Christian Aid (Tickets £5.00: from Robert Harvey 01707 322339)

MASS TIMES

17 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Miroslav Vajdik and all his family
18 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Aneme Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Michael Mulrennan (R.I.P. Anniv)
	11.30am	Our Lady	
	6pm	Holy Family	Peader Hyland (R.I.P.)
19 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Ann O'Keefe (R.I.P.)
20 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Helen Portelli (R.I.P.)
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Teresa Sturt (R.I.P.)
22 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Dorothy Bagge's intentions
23 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Aneme Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Neil Gilhooly's intentions
24 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Alan Hallett (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Frantishek and Emilia Brish