

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*

31st Sunday of the Year 30th October 2022

Have you ever climbed a tree? If so, was it a sycamore tree? In our Gospel passage today, St. Luke presents us with the hilarious scene of Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector, who is desperate to catch a glimpse of Jesus. His lack of height necessitates him climbing up a tree and it happens to be a sycamore. All these details were remembered and eventually set in writing by the evangelist.

I was wondering what the people around him must have thought was going on! Did he have to shed some of his clothing to make it easier? Were his sandals cast off? A heavy purse or money bag - was this left behind on the ground? What about his dignity as he balanced perhaps precociously on a branch? The result, however, is one of pure grace as the little man receives Jesus into his home and makes recompense for the way he has cheated others, opening his heart to the poor. What a wonderful experience of salvation and the chance to make a new start! The letting go of so much to have a glimpse of the Lord leads to riches beyond measure and a taste of heaven.

As we reflect on our own lives, are there things we should give up which would enable us to come closer to Jesus Christ? Would this be easy or would it cost a great deal? Who are the people we have hurt and in reaching out to them are we ready to express our contrition for sin? In opening our hearts, who are those less fortunate than ourselves who would gain from our generosity of spirit? Zacchaeus was totally focussed on seeing Jesus and no-one could stop him. If we keep our eyes on the Lord, what do we hope to catch sight of and how will that affect us? We can make a new beginning every day. How about starting TODAY?!

This Sunday's passage is from Chapter 19 of St. Luke; by next Sunday we will be taken well into Chapter 20 with Jesus having entered Jerusalem. This means that today's encounter is the final one we witness on the long road which has taken the Lord to his destiny which will unfold in Jerusalem. I invite you to think back over these months of walking with the Lord: What have you learnt? What challenges have you faced? How has the world and our country changed? Allow the Lord to be your companion in the coming weeks and months!

God bless you. With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Each week we will inform you of the timings. This Sunday (30th) 9.30am from Holy Family.

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. 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.

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. **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION** for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start after Christmas. After half-term 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 4th November at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

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. The Food Bank Baskets will be at the back of our churches and so items may be left in them. A parishioner has kindly agreed to collect the food and take it to New Zion.

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.*

COST OF LIVING CRISIS There will be a (free) Conference 'Firm Foundations in a Cost of Living Crisis' organised by our Diocesan Caritas on Saturday 12th November at All Saints College, St. Charles Square, Ladbroke Grove W10 6EL . If anyone would like to attend, please let Fr. Norbert know and he'll give you the link for ticket/s.

TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY The Diocese is aiming to have a neutral carbon footprint by 2030. Towards this end there will be a briefing in Westminster Cathedral Hall on Saturday 5th November 10 for 10.30am. If anyone is interested in helping us in our parishes to work on this, then please contact Fr. Norbert.

EVENING OF RECOLLECTION The next evening at Holy Family Church will be on Thursday 24th November. More details to follow.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING and maintenance of the grounds on Saturday 5th November at 10am. Volunteers are asked to come for an hour to lend a hand.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6pm. It's a quiet and peaceful place to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and light a candle.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH are delighted to announce the return of their annual shared supper which will take place at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 17th November at 7pm. See leaflets at the back of the church for further details.

FUNERALS JOHN HILL RIP John's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 31st October at 12.30pm. **RON BURGESS R.I.P.** Ron's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 23rd November at 12.45pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Our Lady's Tuesday 15th November at 7.45pm.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The annual collection will be next weekend. There are at present 66 sick and retired priests who receive support from this fund. By 2025 the number living in retirement will be double that figure. By giving to this fund you ensure that our priests are cared for. There are special envelopes for this purpose and also a QR code to facilitate online giving (www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: Our study course on the Lives of the Saints continues on Friday evenings in the Parish Room of Holy Family. Please do join us! Refreshments will be served from 7.15pm and the session start at 7.45pm.

NOVEMBER There are sheets at the back of each of our churches for you to write down the names of loved ones who have died. They should be returned to whichever church you attend and the names will be prayed for collectively during the month of November.

ALL SAINTS DAY (Tuesday 1st November) This is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. There will be 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12 noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY (Wednesday 2nd November) A day when we remember and pray for the dead. Masses as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure and 7pm at Our Lady's.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 13th November at 1.30pm (followed by the Remembrance Day Service at War Memorial at 3pm). Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 20th November at 2pm.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF DEANERY This year's Mass will be at St. Thomas More, Knebworth (72 London Road SG3 6HB) on Tuesday 8th November at 11am. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Mass together with the priests of the Deanery. All are welcome!

RED BOXES/MISSIO 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.

The CAFOD group will meet on Tuesday 1st November at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Anyone wishing to attend will be warmly welcomed.

OUR LADY'S REPOSITORY The shop is open as usual before or after Mass. An usher will open it for you. Unfortunately at the moment Rosaleen will not be to take orders, hope this does not inconvenience you too much.

SAFEGUARDING The Diocese is requesting that Disclosing and Barring rechecks are completed on all holders of a DBS, that was completed more than 3 years ago (unless you signed up for automatic rechecks at the time). The Parish Safeguarding Representatives ask that you make contact with one of them to start this process.

Ann Chappell (wgcdigswell@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Holy Family,

Mary Stephenson (wgceast@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Our Lady's

Cathy Staniforth (wgcsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) St Bonaventure's

Sending one of them an email, will allow them to add you to the system and start the process off. They will then meet with you, to confirm your identity documents. This is essential and so your cooperation is appreciated...Thank you!

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81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

PAULINE QUANTRILL R.I.P. The Funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 10th November at 2pm.

GIVING TREE Once again we have decided to provide supermarket vouchers for local families in need at Christmas time, in lieu of the Giving Tree Mass we used to hold at Holy Family church. We feel this is the best option to help families at these times of economic difficulties, as the vouchers can be used to buy food, toys or clothes - depending on what is most needed. This year we will be supporting at least 30 local families and refugees from Ukraine living in the area. So if you feel you can help, please put your donation in a sealed envelope labelled 'Giving Tree' and put it through the door of the Presbytery at either Holy Family or Our Lady's by 20th November.

MASS TIMES

29 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Derek Relph (R.I.P.) and Deborah Martin (R.I.P.)
30 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Marion and Jim and family (intentions)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Jesús Muniz Castelo (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	In thanksgiving
	11.30am	Our Lady	Martin and Margita Vrabel
	6pm	Holy Family	Pat Hilliard (R.I.P.)
31 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Augustus Joachim (R.I.P.)
	12.30pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass John Hill R.I.P.
01 Tuesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	Florence and Guillermo Muceros and Annaliza Sabalvaro R.I.P.
02 Wednesday	7pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock (R.I.P. anniv)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Holy Souls
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
	7pm	Our Lady	Holy Souls including Mike Connolly R.I.P.
03 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Holy Souls
04 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock (R.I.P. Anniv)
05 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Thanksgiving
	6pm	Our Lady	Con Gilhooly (R.I.P. Anniv)