

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas*

*Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 11th July 2021***

If today had not been a Sunday, we would have celebrated on 11th July the feast of St. Benedict, Patron Saint of Europe. This great Saint (from Italy) died in 547, having founded communities of monks and nuns guided by a 'rule'. The charism of this Order is to live in community, growing together and becoming more and more themselves as God intended them. The Rule of St. Benedict has much to say to us too: 'it drags our eyes up to the stars but keeps our feet firmly on the ground; it calls us to perfection but keeps us sane' (from Universalis). The motto of Benedictines is 'Ora et labora...Pray and work'. This forms a wonderful combination of talking/listening to God as well as using our talents to give glory to God through our labours.

This all came to mind because today is the UEFA Euro 2020 Final! I know we have a number of Italian parishioners as well as a huge throng following our national team. There is going to be excitement and expectation, happiness (for the winners) and tears (from the losers); only one team can win! I remember many years ago when I was in Watford where there were many Italians, Portugal was playing Italy in the World Cup. Candles galore were lit at the statue of St. Anthony who was born in Lisbon, Portugal and died in Padua, Italy. Some people came to the Presbytery door asking to pray in church because the tension at home was too much for them! I must admit that I don't recall who won but the whole episode certainly left its mark.

In our Gospel passage today, the Twelve are sent out in pairs by Jesus. They are to carry out his mission and ministry, bringing healing in particular in a whole variety of ways through repentance (and forgiveness), through the relief of those troubled by evil and by the curing of the physically sick. They are to embark on journeys

which will bring people the loving care of Jesus Christ himself. It is demanding and they will depend on the warm welcome they receive. Next week we will hear about their return and the refreshment and rest they will require. Let us for a moment consider St. Benedict again: prayer and work are essential; our eyes should be lifted up to the heavens while our feet are firmly on the ground. Let us pray that as the holidays approach, we will be renewed by God's grace and the opportunity to catch our breath. Let us ask the Lord to help humanity face the enormous burden of pandemic with hope, trust and confidence.

God bless you in all you do and are. May others discover through you the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives! With much love, Fr. Norbert

## SACRAMENTS

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place. *Please note that it is important to check in advance with Fr Norbert or Fr Tony to find out how many people can attend these liturgies*

**Baptisms** If you are thinking about the Baptism of your child, contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert to arrange a date.

**Weddings** If you are planning to get married this year or next in WGC or beyond, please let Fr. Norbert know so that the necessary preparation and paperwork can be organised.

**Funerals** Potential Funeral attendees MUST check with the immediate bereaved family that there is space and NOT turn up unexpectedly.

**MASS INTENTIONS** Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let Fr. Norbert or Fr. Tony know. Donations for the Masses should be put in an envelope and given to one of the priests or popped through the letterbox of one of the presbyteries. The intentions will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Geoffrey Turner's Intention, Simon Stanton RIP, Paul Leech RIP, Rodger Moore RIP, Ursu Family Intention for Dorothy and Arthur RIP, Michael Maher RIP Anniv, Bridget Daley RIP, Michael Sinnot RIP, Brenda Sanders RIP, Marilyn Gray RIP

**FR. TONY** should be able to announce where he is going this week! In due course, we will find a way of expressing our appreciation and saying 'Farewell'. Please keep him in your prayers.

**PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS  
IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

This schedule of Masses will continue at least until September/October. *Guidance from the Bishops' Conference based on the Government's relaxing of regulations will come through at the end of next week. We will keep you posted.*

**Saturday**

10am Mass at Holy Family  
6pm Mass at Our Lady's

**Sunday**

10am Mass at Our Lady's  
6pm Mass at Holy Family

**Monday**

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

**Tuesday**

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

**Wednesday**

No Mass

**Thursday**

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

**Friday**

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

**CONFESSION** Only by appointment - Fr. Tony on 01707 327434 or Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234. *All necessary precautions have to be undertaken in terms of distancing and the safety of priest and penitent.*

**STREAMED MASS**

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

**FACEBOOK PAGE**

[https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches - 113038463699672/](https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/)

Gospel reflections, the latest news, and so on.

## **MASS ON RADIO**

If you are aware of someone not on the internet who would like to follow Mass, RTE Radio broadcasts Mass on 252 Longwave. For those who have a digital radio, Radio Maria broadcasts in London on DAB+ and in the Cambridge area on DAB.

**OUR LADY'S CHAPEL** looks out onto the car park of the new Parish Hall which means that people can come to the windows and look into the Chapel and see the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's statue.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES** *Fr. Norbert writes:* We have had the standing order campaign and many of you have taken the forms. Please return them to one of the presbyteries. If you did not get one, ask either Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert. Thank you for your co-operation, generosity and encouragement, all of which are much appreciated.

**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.

**SIGNED MASSES** On the first Sunday of the month at 4.30pm, there will be a signed Mass streamed with a split screen: Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service, will respond in sign as Fr. Norbert celebrates the Mass in sign. This will be in place of the monthly Mass from the Cathedral. All welcome to follow and please give the details to any deaf or hard of hearing people you know.

**ST ALBANS** The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday. Admission to the Cathedral Mass does not require ticketing and there is social distancing in a very big space in the nave. All welcome!

## **WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY PEOPLE**

25th July 2021 will be the inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the Catholic Church. Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes:

'Pope Francis is not young. In fact, he's getting on in years, but he has this terrific sense of the connection between generations and its importance. So I'm not surprised that he's established for this year on 25th July, a World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly. One of the most remarkable things I remember him saying to a million young people at one of the World Youth Days was this: "If you want to be a sign of hope for the world, go and talk to your grandparents." And in that way, he expressed so much of what we need in our society of the continuity between the generations. And a day of prayer is important because we're lacking in that often. Elderly people

get isolated, grandparents often get forgotten. But a day of prayer will help us to remember that we are gifts to each other because we are gifts of God. And if we give thanks for those gifts, we'll appreciate them. So please remember to pray for grandparents and the elderly on 25th July, and remember, if you want to be a sign of hope, go and talk to your grandparents and may God bless you all.'

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 11TH JULY**

### **Saturday 10th July**

Genesis 49:29-33, 50:15-26 Jacob and Joseph

Matthew 10:24-33 'Do not be afraid...'

### **Sunday 11th July FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Amos 7:12-15 Amos carries out God's call.

Ephesians 1:3-14 God chose us...

Mark 6:7-13 The Twelve are sent out in pairs.

### **Monday 12th July**

**Exodus** 1:8-14,22 The oppression experienced by the people of Israel in Egypt

Matthew 10:34-11:1 More challenges of discipleship!

### **Tuesday 13th July**

Exodus 2:1-15 The story of Moses

Matthew 11:20-24 The towns of Chorazin and Bethsaida which refuse to repent

### **Wednesday 14th July**

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12 Moses encounters God in the burning bush

Matthew 11:25-27 God's revelation

**Thursday 15th July** St. Bonaventure (1218-1274) Scholarly Franciscan who became a Bishop. As head of the Franciscan Order (from 1255), he guided it with wisdom and prudence.

Exodus 3:13-20 God's name

Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus' invitation: 'Come to me!'

### **Friday 16th July**

Exodus 11:10-12:14 Passover instructions

Matthew 12:1-8 Sabbath controversy