

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 29th August 2021

I have had an opportunity to enjoy time away! My passport is gathering dust and the new experience of staycation is opening me up to so many possibilities. I have visited relations and friends in different parts of the country. I have gone for long walks and enjoyed a boat-ride on a river. I attended my first Premiership League match - Southampton versus Manchester United - and was warned that I would be thrown out if my behaviour was not impeccable! A friend took me 'forest bathing'...a walk through ancient woodlands taking in the aura of the trees and feeling the power of nature. It is so good to connect with people, creation and God too.

Last Sunday I celebrated Mass in St. Edmund's Church in Southampton during a few days' stay with a cousin in that city. I had to remember the name of the Bishop (Philip) in the Eucharistic Prayer! More importantly, it was wonderful to be with a Christian Community sharing in the familiar elements of the Liturgy handed down through the centuries and yet to do so in a fresh setting. I have celebrated four family Funerals in various churches in that city and last year a fifth could only be graveside because of the pandemic. There was a Wedding too at St. Edmund's. I was in Southampton the weekend Princess Diana died in the car crash of 1997. I am truly grateful for what I can do, see and rejoice in despite the restrictions. I am fortunate.

As we cast our gaze towards Afghanistan, our hearts are broken by the scene of total devastation and the sheer horror of human suffering inflicted by human beings on the defenceless, powerless and vulnerable. There seems to be no end to the injustices which are being perpetrated. All we can do is pray hard and ensure that in our own situations we are fair with others and generous in reaching out to those in need. It is a sad state of affairs and soon we will be remembering the events of 9/11 twenty years ago.

In our own parishes change has taken place with Fr. Tony leaving us to take up the reins in Stonebridge Park. We have been enriched by his presence and now await Fr. William Johnstone's arrival next month. He will learn the tools of his trade in Welwyn Garden City as a newly ordained priest! Another chapter of history will begin and in no time I will start my 14th year as your Parish Priest.

This summer we have journeyed through much of St. John Chapter 6 on Sundays together with the Visitation from St. Luke on the Assumption. Now we finally return to St. Mark's Gospel which will be our companion Sunday by Sunday until we enter Advent at the end of November. The evangelist takes us straight to controversy about the keeping of commandments and laws. There's much to chew on as we climb aboard the ship of St. Mark! Jesus is exasperated by the need of his opponents to cling to traditions and regulations while their hearts appear to be far from God. The Lord condemns lip-service as he quotes from the prophecy of Isaiah. Perhaps today as we listen to St. Mark we might consider our attitude to faith? Is our religion only about rules and regulations? Are our hearts aligned to God? What does it truly mean to be the Lord's follower and a bearer of Good News? Without parading our belief, do others see in us qualities that are found in Christ? Maybe the Bank Holiday weekend will afford us a few moments to take stock, reflect and respond?

I keep you in my prayers. God bless you all. With much love, **Fr. Norbert**

FR. TONY 'This week I have celebrated my final Masses in Welwyn Garden City before taking up my new appointment as parish priest in Stonebridge, north London. I am very grateful for all the kind cards and messages you have sent me. It has indeed been a privilege to serve you over the last two years. This is not quite my final "farewell" as Fr Norbert is kindly going to organise a party to mark my departure later this autumn. I hope to see many of you there! In the meantime, be assured on my prayers. God bless you all.' Fr Tony

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place.

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 No limit on numbers.

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

This schedule of Masses will continue at least until September/October. We are keeping to the simple form of Mass for the time being. Also, the precautions with the use of sanitiser will continue. By the end of August, we should have a good idea of how things are going with the rate of infection and people's sense of security. We would rather not keep chopping and changing every few weeks.

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

10am 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. Norbert on 01707 323234.

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.

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.

BANK HOLIDAY Please note that on Monday 30th August Mass will be at 10am at Our Lady's as it is a Bank Holiday. So, there will not be an evening Mass that day.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES There has been a very positive response to the setting up of standing orders. We ask all of you to consider this if you are able. There are forms for each parish. Just to be clear: YOU set up the standing order with your bank (right hand part of form) and return the left hand side to us so that we can claim back GiftAid if tax is paid. Thank you for your co-operation, generosity and encouragement, all of which are much appreciated.

STEWARDS We are so grateful to the stewards who have worked tirelessly in our parishes at every Mass, offering a warm welcome to those attending, ensuring people feel safe and then cleaning the churches afterwards. We are continuing with the regime now established. If any of you are willing to help in the coming weeks, please let Fr. Norbert know. Thank you!

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.

SIGNED MASSES From Sunday 5th September, the monthly Signed Masses will take place again in Westminster Cathedral Hall at 4.30pm. They will be streamed directly from there. Fr. Norbert will celebrate the first one and then the rota of 6 priests who sign will start up again. Thank you for all the encouragement and interest from parishioners in the last 18 months. We are grateful to Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service for her input.

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!

PLEASE SPONSOR One of our parishioners Spencer White is raising money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie by participating in the Swimathon on Sunday 12th September at Hatfield swimming pool. This will be a 5km swim, a half marathon is swimming terms. Please keep him in your prayers as he trains for this event which he is aiming to complete in under 2 hours. To contribute towards this fantastic cause please see Spencer's Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/swimathon-20211516>

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert is celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let Fr. Norbert 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: Patrick McEvoy RIP, Philip and Joan McEvoy RIP, John and Tony McEvoy RIP, Dorothy Collins RIP 1st Anniv, Michael, Pamela, Alice and Sheila Giblin RIP, Peter, Anne and Paul Giblin RIP, Martin McLaughlin RIP, Maura Myles RIP.

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.

OUR LADY'S On the first Saturday of each month volunteers gather to look after the grounds of Our Lady's Church, cutting the grass and pruning shrubs. Obviously with the COVID worries and restrictions it has not been possible for as many to come. Please consider joining the group next Saturday 4th September at 10am. The session usually lasts for one hour and all help offered is much appreciated. The work creates a beautiful environment for people coming to Mass or passing the church. Let's hope the weather is okay!

SCHOOLS Let's keep in our prayers the children and young people of our schools as they start a new year that they together with staff, governors and families may have a successful year and be able to respond to whatever challenges the pandemic continues to bring. In a few weeks students will start at college and university, some leaving home for the first time. Let's remember them too.

RETROUVAILLE Covid 19—a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings different challenges. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage . . .and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing 24th October 21st- 2021, Call or text 086 8211795. Email: info@retrouvaille.uk – or visit www.retrouvaille.

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HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES

Here is an update from Herts Welcomes Refugees (HWR) in the light of the unfolding crisis in Afghanistan:

You will all be concerned about the horrific situation in Afghanistan so here is an update on related activities in Hertfordshire.

There are already 24 Afghan families (130 individuals) in two hotels in the Watford area. They came here under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP Scheme) and have been given emergency, short term support from the Red Cross and assistance from the Home Office.

HWR, mainly via Kate Scott, our very active Area Convenor for Dacorum, and several other charities are taking, or have already delivered, clothing, children's toys and books and other urgently needed items.

At the moment we do not need any more of these - but we will let you know if we are asked for more.

What we do need are mobile phones - wiped - and/or Sim cards with £10 or £20 on them.

If you are able to provide any of these they can be posted to Kate at 80 Oak Cross Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HZ.

We realise that phones would be more expensive to post and if you prefer these could be dropped off at my house - 106 Handside Lane, WGC, AL8 6SY. (If the package won't fit through the letter box and there is no reply please go round the back of the house and leave on one of the cushioned chairs under the porch.

According to the Watford Observer Welwyn Hatfield is one of three Hertfordshire boroughs to have committed to taking in Afghan refugee families under the ARAP scheme.

Can you email your local councillors to say how glad you are about this? Apparently Grant Shapps has said he is looking forward to welcoming Afghans to the area so we should email him as well.

The HWR Management Team are discussing the impact the new arrivals will have on us and how we can help the local authorities who take in Afghan refugees. Obviously there will be more work to do but we will continue to support the refugees and asylum seekers who are already here and still need our help.

Vicky Woodcraft,

Trustee and Safeguarding Officer, Herts Welcomes Refugees.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 29TH AUGUST

Saturday 28th August St. Augustine (354-430) A great mind who spent much of his life searching for the truth. His mother Monica prayed hard for his conversion which took place in 387 just before she died. He became Bishop of Hippo in North Africa and wrote many works still with us today. A few lines addressed to God from his Confessions: 'Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you!' 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11 You have learnt from God to love one another. Matthew 25:14-30 The parable of the talents

Sunday 29th August TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 The Lord our God is so near to us whenever we call to him
James 1:17-18,21-22,27 Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you.
Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 A dispute about traditions and regulations

Monday 30th August St. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586), St. Anne Line (1565-1601) and St. Margaret Ward (Died 1588) Three courageous women martyred in Penal Times for being Catholic and giving refuge to priests in hiding holes. They suffered torture and gruesome executions.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and that it will be the same for those have died in Jesus.

Luke 4:16-30 Jesus goes to the synagogue in Nazara

Tuesday 31st August St. Aidan (Died in 651) A native of Ireland and monk of Iona who came to Lindisfarne. He had a huge influence in the spread of the Gospel in the north of England.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11 Give encouragement to each other and keep strengthening one another.

Luke 4:31-37 Jesus teaches with authority

Wednesday 1st September

Colossians 1:1-8 We remember you in our prayers and give thanks to God for you.

Luke 4:38-44 The ministry of Jesus to so many people

Thursday 2nd September

Colossians 1:9-14 God has created a place for us in the Kingdom of the Son that he loves. Luke 5:1-11 The calling of disciples

Friday 3rd September ST. GREGORY THE GREAT (540-604) First monk to be elected pope...on 3rd September 590. Sent St. Augustine and a group of monks to England. A Doctor of the Church

1 Thessalonians 2:2-8 'God gave us the courage to proclaim his Good News to you...' Matthew 16:13-19 "'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'...'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.'"