

# 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*

## ***24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 12th September 2021***

In our Gospel passage today from St. Mark, we have been immersed in a section which especially highlights the identity of Christ as Suffering Son of Man and our identity as his followers. It is useful to reflect for a moment on the two episodes which bracket the section.

In Mark 8:22-26 (which is not read on Sunday), we hear about a blind man who is brought to Jesus. The Lord takes him outside of the village, puts spittle on his eyes and lays his hands upon him. Doesn't this remind us of last week's passage about the deaf man with an impediment in his speech? Jesus asks the man if he can see anything and the man's response is that the people he sees look like trees! A second time, Jesus puts his hands upon him; his sight is restored and now he can see clearly. The gift of sight - seeing, and seeing clearly - comes in stages. At the end of this section Mark 10:46-52, we read about another blind man, named as Bartimaeus who takes the initiative and calls out to the Lord. 'What do you want me to do for you?' is Jesus' question to the blind man; 'Lord, that I may see' is the response. Immediately he receives his sight and follows Jesus along the road. There are subtle differences between the two passages but there is a clear point being made by the evangelist to us as we read or listen: to be a true disciple doesn't come all at once - it can and should be learned while mistakes can be made. Today Peter gets it so wrong as he reproaches Jesus for even suggesting that he would suffer and die. There are two more accounts like this in the section we are looking at where the disciples respond incorrectly to the powerful message of who Jesus is.

Today is Education Sunday! We are still students in this life of discipleship. Jesus teaches us through the inspirational example of his life, the power of his words and the intimacy of his presence. We are on a journey of discovery which takes a lifetime!

How wonderful to know Jesus Christ and how amazing that he has chosen each one of us - as we are - to be graced with the Good News! We thank God today for the teaching and support staff of our schools; we are grateful for the dedication of the governors in the support they give. Our children and young people are such a treasure AND they are our future; education helps them to develop talents and skills for the future, enabling them to discover their identity and the part they have to play in creating a better world.

This weekend we also remember the events of 9/11 twenty years ago. Many of us can recall the horror of what we witnessed on our television screens and the hopelessness which engulfed us. All I felt I could do was pray, and keep praying. There was such a loss of life and devastating trauma for people caught up in the events which unfolded. Our world is still desperately in need of divine love which heals and creates a future filled with light and hope.

This weekend we welcome Fr. William into our midst as he starts his ministry as Assistant Priest. May God take good care of him and enable the grace of Ordination to bear much fruit in him and for us whom he serves. I know personally how crucial the first appointment is as priest: one is still learning, the care of the parishioners and the parish priest makes such a difference, one can feel so nervous doing many things for the first time. Fr. William has all of us to support him! We have much to learn from him and the variety of his experience.

Have a good week and may God bless you and your loved ones.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

### **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/>

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.

## **FR. WILLIAM WRITES:**

Fr Norbert has asked me to write a few words of introduction as I take up my appointment as assistant priest here in Welwyn Garden City. I was ordained on 26th June in Westminster Cathedral so I have been a priest for just a few of months. I was based at the Church of Our Lady in St John's Wood for my diaconate year and it was here that I celebrated my first Mass; a wonderful and joyful occasion after the various lock downs that we experienced during the height of the pandemic.

My path to ordination has been a long one, full of twists and turns. I was born in a very rural part of Cumbria near Hadrian's Wall. My parents are members of the Church of England and on my mother's side of the family there were several generations of Anglican clergy. My education took place in the shadow of some great cathedrals; firstly at the choir school at Salisbury and later on in Canterbury. Eventually I ended up at university in Durham. It was here that I encountered the life and writings of St John Henry Newman. This had a profound effect on me and it really marked the beginning of my journey towards the Catholic Church.

Following in my grandfather's footsteps, I was ordained in the Church of England, and I served as a curate in Plymouth and then in Sunderland. However my desire to become a Catholic had increased significantly and after a retreat in a Carthusian monastery I decided to be received into the Church.

As my parents were now living in central London, I applied for priesthood in the Diocese of Westminster and I was sent to the Venerable English College by Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor. Although I completed most of my training in Rome, I decided that I needed more time to discern my vocation. I spent twelve years doing a variety of jobs, most recently working as one of the diocesan archivists. In early 2017 I felt a definite call by God to explore the idea of priesthood again and after a couple of years of parish placements (along with classes at Allen Hall) I was ordained deacon and then priest by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

So now I find myself in the Garden City and very much looking forward to my time here and getting to know you all. Please do come and say hello and introduce yourself. And please do pray for me; that I will become the priest that God wants me to be.

*We ask God to bless Fr. William and wish him much happiness here in our parishes!*

## **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 September 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**

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. Norbert on 01707 323234 and Fr. William on 10707 327434

## **SACRAMENTS**

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place.

**Baptisms** If you are thinking about the Baptism of your child, contact 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 limits on numbers.

**First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA** (for adults who wish to join the Church) Soon we hope to have an approach for the coming year and this will be advertised.

**MASS INTENTIONS** Fr. Norbert is celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let him 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 celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Florencia Muceros RIP Anniv, Miroslaw Fischer RIP, Michael O'Connor RIP, Mick Joyce (Birthday Intention), Ron Sole RIP, For Holy Souls with no-one to pray for them.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE** Soon Fr. Norbert will advertise how these will be issued reflecting the coronavirus regulations and keeping everyone safe.

**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](mailto:foodbank@newzioncf.net) and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

**SIGNED MASS** Last Sunday the sun shone at Westminster and the Deaf Community returned to their monthly Signed Mass. There was so much chat before, during (!) and after Mass! A real delight.

**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! *Fr. Norbert will be the Celebrant on 8th October.*

**SVP** There has been a request for gardening tools to be donated for a single father bringing up his young family. If you can help, please ring Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you.

## **CUP OF TEA FOR AFGHANISTAN - Fundraising Event in Welwyn Garden City.**

We all, in one way or another, have been impacted by what happened in Afghanistan and in the whole region. Death, suffering, prosecution, devastation, lack of hope for a better tomorrow. I am sure that we all, in one way or another, are desperate to find a solution to combat this terrible crisis, which has already affected so many lives. Now, there is an opportunity to do something tangible, even if on a small scale. Do join or support a fundraising event, which next weekend, will be happening in Welwyn Garden City.

**What: Cup of tea for Afghanistan**

**When: Sunday, 12th September, 4pm - 6pm**

**Where: Focolare Centre for Unity, Welwyn Garden City**

For more information, email:

Vicky Woodcraft: [woodcraftvicky@gmail.com](mailto:woodcraftvicky@gmail.com)

Michal Siewniak: [michal.siewniak1@gmail.com](mailto:michal.siewniak1@gmail.com)

or call: 07825021746

Booking is essential.

P.S: If you can't make the event, please support the Afghan arrival and refugees appeal, led by the Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

More can be found here: <https://www.hertscf.org.uk/hertfordshire-afghan-arrival-and-refugees-appeal>. Thank you.

### **WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP NEWS**

**Monday 13 September 2021 7.45p.m. – 9.15p.m.**

**Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG**

#### **WHAT DO JAINS BELIEVE?**

Speaker: Mrs Hina Vora

Jainism is an ancient religion and way of life.

- What is the origin of Jainism?
- What is Jain philosophy?
- What is Karma theory in Jainism?
- What is the aim of human life?
- What are Jain views on the dilemma of the modern world?

These are some of the questions that will be answered in Mrs Vora's presentation. We are hoping to provide a Zoom link for those who cannot come to the meeting to observe the talk. The link details are below:

<https://zoom.us/j/98125135849?pwd=bFRoRC9DYINqR0xyY2R6c21EYUxuUT09>

## **Welwyn Garden City's THIRD MAN**

For any project to succeed it needs a Visionary, a Designer and a Maker. You will be familiar with the names of Ebenezer Howard and Louis de Soissons, the Visionary and the Designer but who actually Made our beautiful town? The memorial of WGC's Maker stands at the top of Parkway facing across The Campus but not many people know who he actually was. Theodore Chambers was the Maker of WGC.

Chosen by Ebenezer Howard in 1920 to be the Chairman of the Board of the company he remained in post until the company was taken into the New Towns programme in 1948/50. During that time, he oversaw the creation of what is now recognised worldwide as one of the finest examples of town planning, but who was he?

**Tuesday 14th September at 7:30pm** a FREE Online Webinar by Geoffrey Hollis & Guests

The talk is based on extensive research by Geoffrey following the extraordinary revelations in his talk about Louis de Soissons. It will become clear what a huge debt of gratitude we owe Theodore Chambers, an exceptional man, and some fascinating history of his Scottish roots. The talk, supported by WGC Heritage Trust, will include a memory from his grandson, live from Hawaii, and other contributions.

To join the audience, you will need to register well in advance in order to get your unique access code. Please register as soon as possible and by midnight on 13th September at the latest. Simply click on the link below. All personal information will be treated as confidential to WGC Heritage Trust only.

[https://itrinegy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_M3RgLnfQRlaUhT4l\\_9xcfQ](https://itrinegy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M3RgLnfQRlaUhT4l_9xcfQ)

For more information see [www.welwyngarden-heritage.org](http://www.welwyngarden-heritage.org) and our Facebook page.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
BEGINNING 12TH SEPTEMBER**

**Saturday** 11th September

Timothy 1:15-17 Christ Jesus came to save sinners

Luke 6:43-49 What it means to listen to the Lord's words and act on them

**Sunday** 12th September **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Isaiah 50:5-9 The Suffering Servant

James 2:14-18 Faith and good works

Mark 8:27-35 Jesus and Peter. Discipleship

**Monday** 13th September St. John Chrysostom (349-407) Bishop of Constantinople.

A great preacher and an energetic reformer.

1 Timothy 2:1-8 God wants everyone to be saved

Luke 7:1-10 The faith of the centurion

**Tuesday** 14th September **THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Numbers 21:4-9 The bronze serpent

Or Philippians 2:6-11 Jesus accepted death on the Cross

John 3:13-17 God loved the world so much

**Wednesday** 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Timothy 3:14-16 'Jesus was made visible in the flesh...taken up in glory.'

John 19:25-27 Mary stands at the foot of the Cross

**Thursday** 16th September St. Cornelius Pope (Died 253) and St. Cyprian Bishop of Carthage (210-258) Both Martyrs

1 Timothy 4:12-16 'You have in you a spiritual...do not let it lie unused.'

'Luke 7:36-50 The woman who loves much and is forgiven

**Friday** 17th September

1 Timothy 6:2-12 'You must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle...'

Luke 8:1-3 Jesus proclaiming the Good News and those accompanying him