

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 in Ordinary Time 19th September 2021

In today's Gospel passage from St. Mark, Jesus continues to teach his disciples about his role as the Son of Man: he will suffer, die and rise from the dead. He takes them on their own and really wants them to learn from him. What is their response? They start arguing about which of them is the greatest! How do you think the Lord feels? What does he do? He sets before them a child, a little one filled with simplicity, gentleness and straightforwardness. To welcome the child is to welcome Christ, which in turn is a welcome to the Father who sent his Son. There is so much for the disciples still to discover about their calling, many mistakes to learn from and the power of a Lord who never gives up on them!

How do you feel today as we enter another Sunday? Is it easy to be a disciple? What frustrates you as you do all you can to follow the Lord? Are there others with whom you are sharing - or trying to share - this Good News? Sometimes not being too complicated might be just the right approach; at other times another person might be probing deeply and a longer response is required. Let each of us do our best!

So many have been longing for normality to return, a chance to get back to the life we enjoyed at the end of 2019 and early 2020. There are steps everywhere to do this and the Church is no different. You will see in the newsletter that we will reopen all three churches with the previous schedule of Masses from 8th November. It does seem a long way off but it gives us a chance in these coming weeks to discern how things will be done in regard to the Sacraments, the style of Mass and the enrichment of ministries in the Liturgy. It is a great responsibility for me as your Parish Priest and I want things to unfold in a manner that is enduring which keeps everyone as

safe and secure as possible. If you have questions or concerns, do let me know. As we step forward tentatively, please cooperate. If there are suggestions, I am ready to listen. Please pray for me in the task I have in this community.

Soon another week will begin. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you and all who make up your life.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION On the parish website wgc-catholics.org.uk there are forms for parents to download to enrol children and young people for these Sacraments. First Communion children should be at least in Year 3 at school and Confirmation candidates in at least Year 9. Preparation will begin after the February half-term in 2022 with the Sacraments being celebrated next summer. The enrolment forms will help us to know how many are involved and to plan the respective preparation courses.

ADULTS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CHURCH (RCIA) Please contact Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234 in the first place. Once we have an idea of numbers we'll plan the preparation. Thank you.

MASS IN WGC From Monday 8th November, the times of weekday and weekend Masses will return to their usual schedule. This means that St. Bonaventure's will be open again. The safety and security of all people is important. Mass intentions can be booked from that date in all three churches. Obviously with COVID-19 and all the restrictions we have faced, things might change but the desire is to establish a strong pattern which can be carried on for some time. In the coming weeks we will reflect on the way Mass is celebrated, the use of ministers and altar servers and also singing at Mass. The scheduled times of Confession will be reinstated from 8th November too.

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.

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.

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

The precautions with the use of sanitiser will continue for now.

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 01707 327434

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place.

Baptisms If you are thinking about the Baptism of your child, contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William 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.

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.

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. The intentions celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below. This week Masses have been celebrated for: Ellen Castelo RIP Birthday, Kathleen Brady's Intentions, Chris Doocey RIP 2nd Anniv, Hannah Byrne RIP Anniv, Moses and Irene Fernandez RIP, Will McGrandles RIP Funeral, Josie Bell RIP and Louise Fearn's RIP, Janine Fernandes Birthday Int, Simon Stanton RIP

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website wgc-catholics.org.uk there is a form to download requesting a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Please fill it out and return to Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's and he will prepare the document and return to the family. Thank you.

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.

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.

OUR LADY'S The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's Church will start up again on Saturday 2nd October at 10am. Volunteers are asked to come and help for an hour. There are many cobwebs waiting to be cleared away! At the start of this month, a number of people came to help with the maintenance of the grounds of Our Lady's and did a fantastic job - Thanks! The next session will be on Saturday 2nd October, also for an hour.

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.

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE FOR CAFOD This has raised a total of £2328.36! We are so grateful to the riders and parishioners who helped to make this possible. WELL DONE!

SEASON OF CREATION This is a time of sustained prayer and action which started on 1st September and lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Prayer

Father, Lord of all creation,
we praise you with all your creatures
and the whole universe that comes forth from the work of Your hands.
We acknowledge the privilege and responsibility
that You give us as stewards of Your creation.
In our ignorance we have done damage to our common home
and our brothers and sisters are suffering.
Through faithfully following your Son
guide and direct us to prepare for a better future.
Teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of You.
Give us the grace to recognise, respect and protect all You have created,
using wisely all that you have entrusted to us.
Holy Spirit, who first hovered over the dawn of creation
and drew order out of the chaos,
help us to build your kingdom of justice, love, peace and beauty
where the poor of the earth are crying out.
You, who live and reign, world without end, Amen.

THANK YOU On Sunday 12th September Spencer White completed his 5km Swimathon challenge in 2 hours 10 minutes. As of writing your contributions have helped him to raise over £540 for Cancer Research and Marie Curie, well above his £500 target. Spencer says "I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people in the parish. This, together with your prayers, helped me to get through the challenge particularly toward the end of the swim when I started suffer. During the swim I managed to pray for so many people and this kept me going too. Thank you all so much."

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 19TH SEPTEMBER**

Saturday 18th September

1 Timothy 6:13-16 The Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 8:4-15 The parable of the Sower - 'Listen anyone who has ears to hear!'

Sunday 19th September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 2:12,17-20 The fate of the virtuous man

James 3:16-4:3 'Peacemakers...sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness

Mark 9:30-37 The fate of the Son of Man; the squabble among the disciples.

Monday 20th September St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and companions 103 Korean Martyrs from 19th century

Ezra 1:1-6 Cyrus chosen to have Temple in Jerusalem rebuilt.

Luke 7:1-10 The faith of the centurion

Tuesday 21st September ST. MATTHEW Apostle and Evangelist

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13 The gift of being an apostle and an evangelist

Matthew 9:9-13 Matthew is called by Jesus and follows him.

Wednesday 22nd September

Ezra 9:5-9 'God has not forgotten us...but shown us kindness'

Luke 9:1-6 Jesus sends out the Twelve

Thursday 23rd September St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) Padre Pio was a great spiritual advisor, confessor and intercessor. He received the stigmata, bearing in his body the wounds of Christ's passion.

Haggai 1:1-8 The summons to rebuild the Temple

Luke 9:7-9 Herod is anxious to see Jesus

Friday 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham In 1061 Richeldis had a vision of Our Lady asking her to build a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth in Walsingham. This became a great place of pilgrimage and is now the National Shrine of Our Lady. Haggai 1:15-2:9 'I will fill this Temple with glory!'

Luke 9:18-22 Jesus praying in the presence of his disciples