

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*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 3rd October 2021

This weekend the Cardinal writes to the whole Diocese about the ‘Synodal process’ which will be developed at the Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2023, entitled: “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.” The Vatican wants dioceses across the world to initiate discussion now which will be presented to Bishops’ Conferences by April 2022 and inform the discussions when the Synod takes place. The Cardinal quotes: ‘The purpose of the synod is not to produce more documents. Rather it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.’ (Vademecum 1.3)

We are asked to reflect on a series of questions:

During this terrible pandemic, what strengths did I find in my faith and faith community?

How, during this time, was I disappointed and sorrowful?

In what ways did the grace of God most clearly touch and uplift me?

Whom did we neglect the most?

Who feels left out?

What could we do better?

How do we choose priorities for our own mission?

The Pope does not only want us to share our thoughts with others; he wants us to sharpen our skill of listening to the other, thus developing our own understanding. I would ask you to take time this week to think hard about your response to these questions from Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Perhaps you might chat with family, friends or fellow parishioners? Why not jot down some of the fruits of your discussion and send them to me?

Thank you and God bless you. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

FR. TONY'S FAREWELL This will be on Sunday 17th October at 6pm at Holy Family Church followed by a gathering with a presentation. As you leave Mass there are envelopes for this purpose which you are asked to return to Fr. Norbert and they will be put together as one cheque. If you are contributing by cheque please make it out to WRCDT and write 'Fr. Tony' on the back; these will be paid into the parish account. If anyone would like to help with the reception afterwards, please let Fr. Norbert know. Covid hasn't gone away and so we'll find the best way to share food and drink as we give thanks for Fr. Tony's ministry in our midst, whilst keeping everyone safe. We hope that Fr. Tony's family will be able to attend too. Thank you.

PARISH SECRETARY Kathryn Hubbard will be coming off furlough and her new hours will be Tuesdays 9 - 11am and Saturdays 9 - 11am. She will be available in the Parish Office based at St. Bonaventure's.

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.

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: Robi Brand's Intention, William McManus RIP 1st Anniv, Rodney Fernandes RIP 1st Anniv, Matthew Walsh (70th birthday), Augustus Joachim RIP, Josie Bell RIP and Louise Fearn's RIP, Bridget Crouch 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. If you need a Baptismal Certificate for your child, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.

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.

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 We are very grateful to all who helped with church cleaning and the maintenance of the grounds on Saturday 2nd October.

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Climate Crisis Appeal

Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. This Family Fast Day, donate in the parish using a CAFOD envelope (available as you leave Mass) or online through the CAFOD website (cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis) and help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. You can also add your voice to our online petition calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis, cafod.org.uk/climate. And thank you for your generosity for our emergency appeals to support our sisters and brothers in crisis in Afghanistan and Haiti. You can read more about CAFOD's response at cafod.org.uk/emergencies.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Next evening on Wednesday 13 October 2021 7.45p.m. – 9.15p.m. Focolare Centre for Unity 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG. Title What evokes a sense of wonder? There will be a Zoom link for those who cannot come to the meeting who can join from 8.15pm. The link details are below:

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

Meeting ID: 981 2513 5849 Passcode: 748520

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 3RD OCTOBER**

Saturday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels

Exodus 23:20-23 God will send an angel before us to guard us

Matthew 18:1-5,10 Our angels in heaven are continually in God's presence

Sunday 3rd October TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 2:18-24 Creation continues

Hebrews 2:9-11 Jesus, who is one of us, takes us to salvation

Mark 10:2-16 Jesus speaks about marriage. He welcomes the children and blesses them.

Monday 4th October St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) Lover of poverty, appreciated creation, bore in his body the stigmata, advocate for peace.

Jonah 1:1-2:1,11 Jonah - the reluctant prophet

Luke 9:46-50 The disciples of Jesus argue between themselves.

Tuesday 5th October

Jonah 3:1-10 The people of Nineveh listen to Jonah's message of repentance.

Luke 10:38-42 Martha and Mary with Jesus.

Wednesday 6th October

Jonah 4:1-11 Jonah is angry with God because of his mercy!

Luke 11:1-4 The disciples want to pray.

Thursday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary

Malachi 3:13-20 The sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

Luke 11:5-13 Ask...search...knock...

Friday 8th October

Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2 The day of the Lord is coming.

Luke 11:15-26 God is at work in Jesus!