

# 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*

***28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10th October 2021***

I have been on call this week for emergencies at the Lister Hospital. When I went in on Tuesday I sat in on an amazing conversation between an Imam and the Lay Catholic Chaplain. The former was emphasising his knowledge of the First Friday devotion (to the Sacred Heart of Jesus) and the latter was recounting phrases of Arabic he had learned and used with Muslim staff. I was gobsmacked! There are privileged moments in life when we are treated to the wonderful ways God can work crossing many boundaries.

In our Gospel reading today, there is a different kind of encounter which sadly ends with a person parting company of Jesus - a rich man cannot respond to the Lord's call to sell everything and follow him. These words were a result of love shown towards the man and lead to teaching about wealth. The upshot is total astonishment from the disciples. Jesus reassures them that everything is possible for God.

What sort of week have you had? Did you come up against challenges or moments of enlightenment? Did you feel the Lord's presence very close to you but in a totally unexpected way? In the Holy Eucharist we meet the Lord 'face to face' as he reveals his perfection of love offered to the Father for our salvation. Peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, joy and contentment are some of the words I would use to describe the experience; awesome and mind-blowing also come to mind as I ponder the mystery of this Gift left us by the Lord. I have come to the realisation that the deeper I am immersed in his love at Mass, the more likely I am to recognise him in the every day. It is not either or but a great 'both'!

May God take good care of you and your loved ones. May the healing hand of the Lord touch your lives. May the beauty of God-given life and love burst in!

With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

**FR. TONY'S FAREWELL** This will be next Sunday (17th) 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. We ask you to bring finger food, already on trays and covered with cling film, so that it can be taken around by 'servers'. Fr. Tony is looking forward to coming back and his family will join us too. Everyone is welcome.

**PARISH SECRETARY** Kathryn Hubbard is back in action: 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](http://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. It is back in the Lady Chapel and all are welcome.

**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 parishes. The intentions celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below. This week Masses have been celebrated for: Sophie Constable (birthday intention), Sheila Anderson RIP, Brian Haughton RIP, Catherine Sugrue RIP, Philomena Spranklen RIP birthday, Mary Webb RIP, Monica RIP (Ruth Hayes' twin sister), Anita and John O'Donnell's Intentions, Margaret Spillane RIP, Danny Gilhooly RIP, Pat Knight RIP Funeral.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE** On the parish website [wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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 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.

**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

**SYNODAL PATHWAYS** The Cardinal has asked us to prepare for the Synod of Bishops in 2023. ‘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 Fr. Norbert?

## **OUTSTANDING NEWS** from Our Lady Catholic Primary School

We are delighted to share the news that our recent Diocesan Inspection at Our Lady's found the classroom RE teaching at the school to be Good and the Catholic Life of the School to be Outstanding in all areas. Nancy Conoboy, Chief Inspector at the Diocese of Westminster, accompanied the inspection report with a letter commending the Head Teacher and his team for "developing a vibrant and lively Catholic community where the richness of our tradition can be experienced". We are incredibly proud of our children and staff and now look forward to the next stage of our exciting journey!

Join our community at Our Lady's

**We are looking to recruit a forward thinking class teacher at Our Lady's** to complement our current team from January 2022. A strong Catholic ethos is central to all that we do and this is a very exciting time to join our school community. We are ambitious for each of our children and are ready to walk with our staff on a journey that will take both them and our children to 'the best that we can be.' If you, or any teachers you know, may be interested then have a look at our advert [https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,class-teacher\\_67058.htm](https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,class-teacher_67058.htm) or email [admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk) to arrange a conversation with Head Teacher, Richard Curry. The application deadline is this Friday 15 October.

**We also have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor at Our Lady's.** This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity for you to support our wonderful school. Governors at Our Lady's play a strategic role, providing support to the Head Teacher and his team, as well as constructive challenge to ensure that we are constantly striving for the best for each of our children. If you are interested in supporting our school - and challenging yourself! - please contact Kelly Donkor, Chair of Governors, at [kdonkor@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kdonkor@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk) or call the school office on 01707 324408 to arrange a discussion.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER** As the 1st November is a Monday, the Solemnity of **All Saints** will be transferred to Sunday 31st October.

On **All Souls Day** (2nd) Masses will be at 9.30 am at Holy Family and 7pm at Our Lady's.

For those who wish to write their November Dead List, there are sheets at the back of our churches. Please return to the presbyteries. There is no need to give money. The names will be remembered collectively at Mass.

The **Blessing of Graves** will be as follows:

Hatfield Hyde Cemetery Sunday 14th November at 1.30pm

Hatfield Lawn Cemetery Sunday 21st November at 2pm

Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 28th November at 2pm.

Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate a **Mass for the Deceased Clergy and People of our Deanery** on Tuesday 9th November at 11am at St. Joseph's, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
BEGINNING 10TH OCTOBER**

**Saturday 9th October ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN** *(1801-1890) Influential writer and famous convert to Catholicism. Made a Cardinal in 1879. 'God has created me for a definite purpose...'*!

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 We are those who have the mind of Christ

Matthew 13:47-52 The kingdom of heaven is like...

**Sunday 10th October TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Wisdom 7:7-11 The gift of Wisdom.

Hebrews 4:12-13 The Word of God is...

Mark 10:17-30 A rich man meets Jesus

**Monday 11th October St. John XXIII** *(1881-1963) Pope who called for the Second Vatican Council to take place.*

Romans 1:1-7 The Good News about the Son of God

Luke 11:29-32 The sign of Jonah

**Tuesday 12th October**

Romans 1:16-25 'I am not ashamed of the Good News'

Luke 11:37-41 Jesus and a Pharisee

**Wednesday 13th October ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR** *(1003-1066) King of England renowned for his generosity towards the poor*

Romans 8:26-30 The Spirit helps us in our weakness

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

**Thursday 14th October**

Romans 3:21-30 Jesus wins for us reconciliation through faith

Luke 11:47-54 The harsh words of Jesus for the scribes and Pharisees

**Friday 15th October St. Teresa of Avila** *(1515-1582) Reformer of the Carmelite Order. Woman of Prayer. Doctor of the Church.*

Romans 4:1-8 Abraham put his faith in God

Luke 12:1-7 'Do not be afraid...'