

# 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*

***29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 17th October 2021***

‘Who is the greatest?’ is a question the disciples found themselves asking many times, thus competing for a position of prominence. Jesus, on the other hand, speaks of service and giving his life as a ransom for many. Those called by the Lord have an instinct that there is something so special and all-pervading about the Master who offered personal invitations to them, yet they fail to grasp that Christ’s glory will come through suffering, death and resurrection. They pick and choose; they conveniently forget. Their many mistakes seem to snowball even further!

Just take a few moments today to ponder the enormity of what it means for Jesus to say to each one of us personally that his life was given up as a ransom for each one of us - YES! I matter to him, and he sees a quality of grace which has been lavished upon me by the Holy Spirit. When Jesus carried his Cross, the burden laid upon him included all that falls on me and he eagerly wants me to know that I do not have to struggle on my own. This is the perfection of love shown by God the Father towards humanity created in his image and likeness. What a noble calling!

The pandemic continues, figures rise, people are desperate to get away, restrictions are relaxed...there isn’t quite the light at the end of the tunnel which so many of us had hoped for at the start. When Jesus made his final journey to Golgotha, he needed the support of Simon of Cyrene. He felt desolate upon the Cross. It was the pagan centurion who recognised him as the Son of God. We need to offer mutual support and to keep looking for that Divine Presence in the midst of much pain and suffering.

As another week begins, may God bless you and your loved ones. Stay safe and keep well. God bless you! With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

**FR. TONY'S FAREWELL** Today on Sunday evening we welcome Fr. Tony and his family back to Welwyn Garden City to celebrate Mass at 6pm at Holy Family. For those of you planning to bring food, please drop it off in the Parish Room before Mass. If you intended to give an envelope, please get it to Fr. Norbert as soon as possible! We will have a great opportunity to give thanks to God for his ministry in our parishes and ask God's blessing upon his new appointment in Stonebridge Park. Every 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 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.

**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: Mary McEvoy RIP, Simon Stanton RIP, Sam Brick RIP, Dermot Heffernan RIP, Patrick, Sheila and Pat O'Reilly RIP, Paul Carter RIP, Tracey Laycock RIP, Philomena Spranklen RIP Birthday.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE** On the parish website [wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk) there is 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. Fr. Norbert has dealt with all the secondary school requests he has received and delivered them to each family. There appears to have been a problem with the internet, so please resend your form to Fr. Norbert. There is not long to go!

**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.

**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?

**LITTLE AMAL** This 3.5m puppet of a refugee girl, is walking from the border of Turkey / Syria to Manchester, 8000 km, in search of her mother. On her journey she will visit Westminster Cathedral on Monday 25th October at 2pm, where she will be welcomed by Cardinal Vincent. You are invited to join Cardinal Vincent for this Welcome Liturgy and to learn more about migrants and refugees. It is during half term week, an opportunity for families to come together. Further information about Little Amal’s journey is available at <https://www.walkwithamal.org/walkwithamal.org> - The Walk | July to November 2021

The Walk is an international arts festival meets endurance event. Little Amal, a 3.5 metre-tall puppet, will walk across Europe in support of refugees. [www.walkwithamal.org](http://www.walkwithamal.org) Please be seated by 1.45pm.

**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 17TH OCTOBER**

**Saturday 16th October**

Romans 4:13,16-18 Abraham hoped and believed

Luke 12:8-12 To declare oneself for Christ in the presence of others.

**Sunday 17th October TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Isaiah 53:10-11 The Suffering Servant

Hebrews 4:14-16 Christ - our High Priest!

Mark 10:35-45 Jesus comes to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many

**Monday 18th October ST. LUKE** *Evangelist and author of the Acts of the Apostles.*

2 Timothy 4:10-17 Mention of Luke

Luke 10:1-9 'The Kingdom of God is very near to you.'

**Tuesday 19th October**

Romans 5:12,15,17-21 Sin, death and eternal life

Luke 12:35-38 Be ready for your Master's return

**Wednesday 20th October**

Romans 6:12-18 To be slaves of righteousness

Luke 12:39-48 To be ready for the Son of Man

**Thursday 21st October**

Romans 6:19-23 'The present given by God is eternal life.'

Luke 12:49-53 'I have come to bring fire!'

**Friday 22nd October St. John Paul II (1920-2005)** *Pope from Poland who visited this country in 1982.*

Romans 7:18-25 'Thank be to God through Jesus Christ!'

Luke 12:54-59 Interpreting the times.