

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*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th October 2021

I love today's Gospel encounter between Bartimaeus and Jesus. The former cannot see but he hears that it is Jesus on the road. He uses his voice with all his might to cry out to the Lord and his persistence results in Jesus' beautiful question 'What do you want me to do for you?' Now Bartimaeus just speaks from his heart: 'Master, let me see again.' There is healing which leads to discipleship and he follows Jesus along the road.

Do you experience moments in life when you just cannot see things straight? Vision clouded perhaps or obstacles blocking the way? And then something happens! You hear someone speaking out to you and what a difference he makes. If this has not happened yet, never give up! Persistence - like that of Bartimaeus - will help you on your way. At this stage in your life, what do you really need from the Lord? Last week, we read about the two brothers who wanted the best seats in the heaven! Here it is a sheer desperate cry for help which pierces the darkness. Speak to the Lord honestly about yourself and wait for his response.

St. Mark tells us that Bartimaeus, the man who can now see, follows Jesus along the road. This is the road to Jerusalem, to suffering, death and resurrection. Sadly in St. Mark's Gospel they all ran away in Gethsemane abandoning the Lord at the time of his arrest. Even though so many let the Lord down at that point, they had opportunities to return to him and to experience the rich mercy which flowed from the Cross to touch their hearts. We do not always find it easy to persevere and our mistakes could make us think that the Lord would not welcome us back. Keep remembering his immediate followers and how their 'return' led to the Gospel being proclaimed to the whole of Creation.

Take care and God bless you. Children, young people and staff enjoy the school half-term with time for rest and refreshment. God bless you all.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert.*

FR. TONY'S FAREWELL *Fr Tony writes:* I would like to thank everyone who helped to make my 'leaving Mass' at Holy Family last Sunday such a memorable occasion: Fr Norbert and Fr William for hosting me; the wonderful choir; those who helped prepare the buffet afterwards; and most of all every one of you who attended. It was such a privilege to be among you again. My parents, too, enjoyed the evening and thank you for your hospitality.

I am grateful, too, for your extremely generous farewell gift to me.

Day-by-day I am getting more settled in my new parish in Stonebridge. This ministry brings lots of challenges and lots of blessings. Please continue to pray for me. May God bless all of you in the three parishes of Welwyn Garden City. Fr Tony.

Indeed so much hard work was put into Sunday evening and Fr. Norbert is really grateful to everyone who made it such a delightful evening.

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 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: John Byrne RIP, Margaret Eccleston (who has since died), Michael Maher RIP birthday, Maisie Gilhooly RIP, Helena Gallagher RIP, Deceased members of the Walsh Family, Barbara Mysliwiec RIP, Michael McKinnon RIP, Mary Kenery RIP.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Leonard who died during the week.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website 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. If you need a Baptismal Certificate for your child, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 or email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk. Fr. Norbert is up to date with all the requests. Any more will be sorted out after the half-term break.

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.

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 Please be seated by 1.45pm.

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 (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 14th November at 1.30pm

Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) 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

HOLY FAMILY REPOSITORY Is now open after Masses. Christmas stock is available.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CLEANING TEAM are meeting again on Thursday 4th November 10.15am. You are welcome to come along.~

HELP FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY who require a couple of beds one for an adult (size mentioned is 150 cms wide by 2 metres long) and another bed for a child, as yet unborn but due in January. Please contact John Fogarty email: johnfogarty676@gmail.com

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 24TH OCTOBER**

Saturday 23rd October

Romans 8:1-11 What the Spirit gives

Luke 13:1-9 Repentance and a new start

Sunday 24th October THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 31:7-9 'Shout with joy...proclaim, praise...!'

Hebrews 5:1-6 Christ - a priest of the order of Melchizedek

Mark 10:46-52 Bartimaeus, a blind man, meets Jesus

Monday 25th October

Romans 8:12-17 Everyone moved by the Spirit is a child of God

Luke 13:10-17 Healing on the sabbath

Tuesday 26th October

Romans 8:18-25 'Creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth.' Luke 13:18-21 'What is the kingdom of God like?'

Wednesday 27th October

Romans 8:26-30 The Spirit helps us to pray.

Luke 13:22-30 Jesus continues to make his way to Jerusalem

Thursday 28th October ST. SIMON *known as The Zealot* & **ST. JUDE** *Patron Saint of lost or hopeless causes. Both Apostles.*

Ephesians 2:19-22 'You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations' Luke 6:12-16 **Jesus spends a night in prayer and then chooses the Twelve.**

Friday 29th October *The Blessed Martyrs of Douai College Almost 160 priests who trained at Douai (now our Seminary Allen Hall in Chelsea) and came back to minister in this country. They were martyred between 1577 and 1680.*

Romans 9:1-5 Paul reflects on the people of Israel

Luke 14:1-6 Another sabbath healing.