

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*

Feast of All Saints 31st October 2021

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for welcoming me to the parishes of Welwyn Garden City. It is very good to be here with you and I am feeling more and more settled as the weeks go by. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful town.

Last week I ventured into the Chinese restaurant opposite Holy Family Church for a meal. There was a big celebration going on – a birthday party – and after a while an enormous cake was brought in with lots of candles. I was offered a piece which I gratefully accepted and I discovered that the son of the lady whose birthday it was, had been married at Our Lady's Church by Fr Norbert just a week earlier. I asked his mother if she would like a birthday blessing and she was delighted with the idea. So rather unexpectedly I found myself exercising my priestly ministry in a Chinese restaurant. I'm discovering that the life of a priest is full of surprises.

This Sunday we celebrate the great feast of All Saints. This is the day when we remember all the faithful departed who are with God in heaven. There are hundreds of saints who have been officially canonised by the church. There are also many others who remain unknown to us but who share in God's glory. This feast reminds us that all of us are called to be saints; we are all being invited to participate in the heavenly kingdom.

Our Catholic faith teaches us that holiness is possible by leading a very ordinary human existence. We do not need to do anything spectacular; we simply need to be faithful. Fulfilling the duties of our state in life as perfectly as possible is our pathway to heaven.

The birthday party I experienced last week reminded me of the joy of our faith and the fact that human life has been blessed by God. All good things can be used for his glory – even a meal in a Chinese restaurant!

With every blessing for the week ahead, *Fr William*

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

PARISH SECRETARY Kathryn Hubbard is back in action. 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 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: Tom Stapleton RIP, Bobby Griffin, Lara Ignatius (birthday intention), Derek Relph RIP, Deborah Martin RIP, Mary Kenery RIP, Roza Joan D'Cunha RIP, Mary Tempany RIP, Pamela Haughton (thanksgiving intention).

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 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.

PLEASE NOTE: FROM 8TH NOVEMBER Masses are returning to how they used to be. (All our churches will be open)

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|------|-----------------|
| Monday | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady's |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's |
| Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family |
| Thursday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family |
| Friday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's |
| Saturday | 10am | Mass | St. Bonaventure |

SUNDAY MASSES

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 6pm | Mass | Our Lady's |
| Sunday | 8am | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
| | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family |
| | 10.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
| | 11.30am | Mass | Our Lady's |
| | 6pm | Mass | Holy Family |

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.

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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website wgccatholics.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?

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.

ST. COLUMBA'S SIXTH FORM Preview Evening – Tuesday 9 November
St Columba's College and Preparatory School is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4 - 18 in St Albans, Hertfordshire. This year, girls have joined the Lower Prep School (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) and the Lower Sixth Form. From September 2022, girls will also be welcomed into Year 3, Year 4, and Year 7. This will be followed by a phased transition, which will eventually see St Columba's offering its unique, high-quality Catholic education to both boys and girls from ages 4-18. Prospective families are warmly invited to St Columba's Sixth Form Preview Evening on Tuesday 9 November from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. During this event, applicants will have the opportunity to tour the recently refurbished Sixth Form centre, and talk to current Sixth Form students, teachers, and members of the Sixth Form and College Leadership Teams about our range of A levels, and extended curriculum and leadership opportunities.

Families can register for this event by contacting admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or going to the 'Visit Us' page on our website, click on the 'Sixth Form Preview Evening' event and complete the online registration form.

CAN YOU HELP a lady whose cat died about 2 months ago? She would like a kitten (about 7 weeks old) to keep her and her King Charles Spaniel dog company. There may be someone in the parish who has a kitten in need of rehoming. If you can help please contact Pam Class who will give you details: pamelaclass@gmail.com

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 31ST OCTOBER**

Saturday 30th October

Romans 11:1-2, 11-12,25-29 The liberator will come from Zion
Luke 14:1, 7-11 Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled

Sunday 31st October ALL SAINTS

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 Victory to our God who sits on the throne
1 John 3:1-3 We shall see him as he really is
Matthew 5:1-12a How happy are the poor in spirit

Monday 1st November

Romans 11:29-36 How rich are the depths of God
Luke 14:12-14 Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame

Tuesday 2nd November ALL SOULS

Wisdom 3:1-9 The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God
Romans 5:5-11 We have been reconciled by the death of his Son
Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6 Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last

Wednesday 3rd November

Romans 13:8-10 The debt of mutual love
Luke 14:25-33 Carrying the cross

Thursday 4th November ST CHARLES BORROMEIO

Romans 14:7-12 It is to God that each of us must give an account
Luke 15:1-10 There will be rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner

Friday 5th November

Romans 15:14-21 Good News to the pagans
Luke 16:1-8 The dishonest steward