

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*

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 7th November 2021

The Gospel that we are given this Sunday is a familiar one. Jesus points to the poor widow who he sees putting two small coins into the temple treasury and he tells the disciples that she has put in more than any of the others. While the wealthier people around her were giving substantial amounts, this was actually money that was surplus to their requirements. The poor widow on the other hand gave all that she had to live on.

It is a reminder to us that God requires everything – the whole of our lives – and not just a percentage of it. The first and the greatest of the commandments is this; ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ It means putting God first in our lives and making him the number one priority; not treating him as an afterthought or something that we consider when we have nothing better to do.

Perhaps a good thing to think about in the light of this Gospel is our participation in the Sunday Mass. Is my attendance at Mass something that is a non-negotiable part of my life, something that defines me as a Catholic, or has it fallen a little in my list of priorities?

The ability for many people to attend Mass over the last year has been severely restricted by the pandemic and the Church has recognised this by suspending the Sunday obligation for a while. However this is a temporary measure; it is envisaged that the obligation to attend Mass will be reinstated on the first Sunday of Advent, depending on the Covid situation.

Our motivation to be at Mass should spring from our love for the Lord. When we cannot receive Christ’s body because of sickness or some other serious reason, then we should feel the lack of this very deeply. We should always bear in mind the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy and to receive the Holy Eucharist as regularly as possible.

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

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 are 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: Derek Relph RIP, Deborah Martin RIP, Augustine Joachim RIP, Fr Philip Law, Holy Souls, Josie Bell RIP, Louise Fearn RIP, Mary Tempany RIP, Simon Stanton RIP, Raymond Walsh RIP, Mary Mullarkey.

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.

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.

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.

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.

THANK YOU to all those who came and cleaned St. Bonaventure's on Thursday.

VACANCY The Holy Family School We are looking to recruit an assistant to work in our wrap around care clubs. This role can be flexible, you may wish to apply just for the after school club hours, just breakfast club hours or both. This appointment may also include a casual midday supervisory assistant role to cover sickness and absence when needed.

This role is ideal for any applicant that is keen to work with children in a Primary School setting. An ideal candidate would have NVQ level 2/3 qualification in childcare or similar, **we can support the right candidate to gain this qualification.** Paediatric first aid and food hygiene level 2 training will be provided.

This is a part time role **7 hours 30 minutes per week for Breakfast Club, 12 hours 30 minutes per week Afterschool Club**, Monday to Friday 7.30am to 9am and 3pm, to 5.30pm.

SCP 2 - £9.43 per hour

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Please contact the school office to arrange and appointment on **01707375518**.

For more information visit <https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job.htm?keyword=Wrap+Around+Care+Assistant>

FR. WILLIAM'S EMAIL ADDRESS There was a typing error in last week's paper copy of the newsletter a ',' instead of a '.' williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk. Apologies to those who were trying to email Fr. William.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 7TH NOVEMBER**

Saturday 6th November

Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27 The mystery must be proclaimed everywhere

Luke 16:9-15 The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great

Sunday 7th November THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 17:10-16 The widow and the jar of meal

Hebrews 9:24-28 Christ the High Priest

Mark 12:38-44 The widow's mite

Monday 8th November

Wisdom 1:1-7 Seek the Lord in simplicity of heart

Luke 17:1-6 You must forgive your brother

Tuesday 9th November DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Ezekiel 47: 1-2,8-9,12 The water brings life and health

John 2:13-22 Destroy this temple and I will raise it up

Wednesday 10th November ST LEO THE GREAT

Wisdom 6:1-11 Sovereignty is from the most high

Luke 17:11-19 Healing of ten lepers

Thursday 11th November ST MARTIN OF TOURS

Wisdom 7:22-8:1 Wisdom is more splendid than the sun

Luke 17:20-25 The kingdom of God is among you

Friday 12th November ST JOSAPHAT

Wisdom 13:1-9 The natural world should lead us to recognise God

Luke 17:26-37 The Son of Man will be revealed