

# 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*

## ***33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 14th November 2021***

It seems a long time since I wrote to you! Fr. William has been kept busy these last weeks and has done so well. I was completely knocked out by a cold which went to my chest. Antibiotics did the trick, thank goodness. I was then supposed to take my 'summer' break. Unfortunately, my plans had to be abandoned and instead I had time to rest and recuperate at my family home in Edgware. The first week I knew I had to put my feet up. The second week I did NOTHING! One or two of you said to me on my return that they could not imagine that that was possible...it was and I enjoyed it! Someone else said to me 'Oh no...your batteries have been recharged!!!' It is good to be back, feeling so much better. Now we enter into the former schedule of Masses in all three churches. It is a crucial time for us to take stock, to keep everyone safe and to learn from these tumultuous months of agony while straining forward into the future. Of course, we want everything to be normal; the reality is not as straightforward. A priest-friend of mind, I discovered this week, has been afflicted by Covid; he is in isolation and has had to find ways of keeping his parish going. He told me on the phone that he had followed every rule to the letter and yet he caught it. We MUST take care.

We are now well and truly into November and a period of remembering. Today especially we recall the huge sacrifice of so many to preserve peace and uphold justice. We commend to God the dead of the Two World Wars and subsequent wars. We ask the Lord to comfort the bereaved. We pray for those who have been injured or bear the scars of warfare. We know that there are myriads whose lives are on the line for the sake of others. We REMEMBER and we PRAY. I had a chance to visit the graves of my Mum and Dad and other loved ones. It's a strange feeling seeing those names and reflecting on the passing years - so much to be grateful to God for and allowing the hope of faith to carry one forward.

In our Gospel reading, the last from St. Mark for a while, Jesus is very clear that we don't know when the end of time will come - only God the Father knows. There will be many signs AND more time. THEN he will come in glory! Don't worry. Trust with all your heart. Feel his presence so close to you.

Have a good week and may God support you. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

**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** The times of weekday and weekend Masses have now returned to the usual schedule in our three churches. Mass intentions can now be booked in all three churches. The safety and security of all people is important which means that distancing in the benches and going up to Holy Communion is respected, face coverings worn as far as possible and the sanitising of hands continues. 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 are back to Saturday at St. Bonaventure's 10.30 - 11.00am, Saturday at Our Lady's 5.00 - 5.30pm and Thursday at Holy Family 10.00 - 10.30am.

**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.

### **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.

**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.



**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: Simon Stanton RIP, Ruperto Cruz Senior RIP Anniv, Holy Souls, Edward Simpson RIP Funeral, Joan Leonard RIP Funeral, Deceased members of Kennedy and Slevin families, Maria Theresa Villapando's Intention, Mel D'Rozario RIP, In thanksgiving (Lizzie and Dan Steele)

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES** Now that all three churches are back in action, please note that we are NOT planning to have collections during Mass but we are asking you to consider setting up a standing order for your particular church. In the last year there has been a very positive response to the setting up of standing orders; please think about doing so. 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. The Virgin Money Giving across the Diocese will stop at the end of November. Thank you for your co-operation, generosity and encouragement, all of which are much appreciated.

**BISHOP PAUL McALEENAN** will be celebrating 6pm Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 20th November (Solemnity of Christ the King). We look forward to welcoming him. Everyone is invited!

**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. New Zion is very grateful for the financial support being received. They note that the numbers of people seeking help are going up.

**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.

**MARY'S MEALS** is a charity which provides meals for children across the world so that they do not go to school hungry. At the moment there is match-funding for any donations received. Why not double your giving at no extra cost? [marysmeals.org.uk/donate](http://marysmeals.org.uk/donate) or 0800 6981212

**RED BOXES/MISSIO** Any money collected or which you wish to donate can be sent by cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

Or online [missio.org.uk/redbox](https://missio.org.uk/redbox)

Or by text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085

Or by phone 020 7821 9755 (office hours)

Or by Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230

*Your generosity has made such a difference and supports the work of the Missions. Thank you!*

**SYNODAL PATHWAYS** *A number of parishioners have already responded. Please do so as soon as possible!*

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?

## **NOVEMBER**

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.

## **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.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 14TH NOVEMBER**

### **Saturday 13th November**

Wisdom 18:14-16, 19:6-9 The all-powerful Word leaps down from heaven!

Luke 18:1-8 A parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart

### **Sunday 14th November THIRTIETH-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Daniel 12:1-3 Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth...

Hebrews 10:11-14,18 Jesus has taken his place for ever at the right hand of God

Mark 13:24-32 The end of time

### **Monday 15th November**

1 Maccabees 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-64 Antiochus Epiphanes ravages the Temple in Jerusalem

Luke 18:35-43 Jesus heals a blind man who then follows Jesus.

**Tuesday 16th November St. Edmund of Abingdon (1175 - 1240)** Archbishop of Canterbury renowned for being 'vigorous, reforming and a peacemaker'.

2 Maccabees 6:18-31 Eleazar, an old man, refuses to break the Law and dies leaving an example of nobility and a record of virtue.

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus is anxious to see what kind of man Jesus is.

### **Wednesday 17th November**

2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31 A mother encourages her seven sons not to break the Law and watches each of them suffer and die in one day.

Luke 19:11-28 As he goes up to Jerusalem, Jesus tells another parable.

### **Thursday 18th November**

1 Maccabees 2:15-29 Mattathias and his sons refuse to follow the king's decree.

Luke 19:41-44 Jesus draws near Jerusalem and shed tears over it.

### **Friday 19th November**

1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59 The sanctuary of the Temple which had been desecrated is adorned, purified and dedicated with much joy.

Luke 19:45-48 The cleansing of the Temple by Jesus. The people hang on to Jesus' words.