

# 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*

***Christ the King 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021***

'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this.' These are words from Jesus to Pontius Pilate who asks so many questions the night before Jesus dies. We have put St. Mark's Gospel to one side as his year draw to a close and briefly the Church offers us another glimpse into St. John's Gospel and the interrogation of the Lord by the Roman governor.

Just think about the few words I have quoted above. 'I am a king'. Jesus is so sure of his identity but the image proffered is so alien to what we would expect. No dazzling precious stones or cloth of gold, no carriages or soldiers to protect him. Instead, torture and a cross, blood and sweat, the pouring out of life and love. Jesus takes note of Pilate's line of questioning and turns things round. The Kingdom of God is amazing, challenging and for everyone - that's the truth Jesus proclaimed.

'I was born for this' reminds us that this picture of Jesus with Pontius Pilate sums up his great ministry of healing, forgiveness and salvation; it also brings to us here on earth, the sheer love God has for humanity in desiring to send us his Son. Jesus Christ is born to save us! And he knows it!

Next weekend we will enter a new year in the Church's life as Advent begins. We will be arrested by the signs Jesus speaks of in St. Luke's Gospel. We will be aware of the lord's Second Coming. And the trek towards our destination of Christmas will be firmly started. Remember what he was born to do and to be. Learn from him. May his love be your inspiration.

Thank you for all the support you give. Have a good week and may God bless you and your loved ones. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

**SUNDAY PRACTICE** The Bishops' Conference met this week and reflected on the pandemic and attendance at Sunday Mass. Here is a summary. The full document is attached.

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*At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.*

**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 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. Please note space is at a premium in St. Bonaventure's because of its size.

### **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.

**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: Andrew Cunningham RIP, Joan Leonard RIP, Teresa Stogdon RIP, War Dead, Holy Souls, Tracey Laycock RIP 3rd Anniv, Demaris Tomlin's Intention, John O'Neill RIP, Johnny O'Darcy RIP Anniv, Tracey Laylock Anniv.

**SIGNED MASS** Sarah Metcalfe from the Diocesan Deaf Service will be here on Saturday 27th November at 6pm for a Signed Mass. All are welcome. Unfortunately, we can't have a reception afterwards.

**OUR LADY PRIMARY SCHOOL** The Ofsted Report is out. Please see the letter to the parishioners from Mr. Richard Curry, the Head Teacher. Congratulations!

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE** On the parish website [wgccatholics.org.uk](http://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. Thank you.

If you need a Baptismal Certificate for your child, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.

**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.

**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](http://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 by the end of November*

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?

**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

## **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 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.

The school community at Our Lady Catholic Primary School were delighted to receive their Ofsted inspection report on Friday, which was carried out on the 20th and 21st October, 2021. The school have been eagerly awaiting the publication of this report as it finally provided them with the opportunity of demonstrating to everyone the huge progress that they have made since the last inspection in 2017. We are delighted to be able to share the fantastic news that Ofsted agreed with the school's judgements that Our Lady's is a GOOD school (with some OUTSTANDING elements).

<u>OFSTED AREA</u>	<u>GRADING</u>
Overall Effectiveness	GOOD
Behaviour and Attitudes	OUTSTANDING
Personal Development	OUTSTANDING
Leadership and Management	GOOD
Early Years Provision	GOOD
Previous inspection grade	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

A copy of our latest inspection report has been uploaded onto the school website for your information and, in due course, will be added to the Ofsted website. The report can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk/ofsted-report/>

The school remain ever-so proud of how far they have come over the past few years and that, right at the centre, once again, are the children. They deserve this more than anyone as they are such fantastic ambassadors for Our Lady's. Just like the Diocesan inspectors back in September, the Ofsted team spoke so highly of the children at the school. They open their report by saying that the school is a **'happy and inclusive place'** and that **'behaviour in lessons and around the school is of a consistently high standard.'** They also comment on the fact that **'pupils love going to school...[and they] encourage and support each other so that children of all ages and abilities thrive.'**

The sense of positivity that flows through the report really is testament to the hard work of the children, staff and governors at the school. Parents and carers have also played such an important part, which is noted in the report. The inspectors state that **'staff, parents and pupils describe their school as 'a community' and 'a family'...[and] an overwhelming majority of parents would recommend the school to other parents.'** There has always been a firm belief amongst the staff team that the school is nothing less than a 'good' school and it is wonderful to have this confirmed by external HMI inspectors. We want to say how proud we all are of the Our Lady's school community and for the hard work that has gone into achieving these outcomes.

I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Sunday.

Kind regards, Richard Curry (Headteacher)

**Honouring Sunday** As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

### *Longing for our Lord*

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a “homesickness.” We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

### *The Eucharist, source and summit*

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord’s sacrificial love to shine through. The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

### *The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist*

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God’s holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ’s love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

### *Responding to the Gift*

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass. The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the “first day of the week,” and devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking

of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say “Amen” to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
BEGINNING 21ST NOVEMBER**

**Saturday 20th November**

1 Maccabees 6:1-13 The king reflects on the wrong he did in Jerusalem  
Luke 20:27-40 'He is God of the living!'

**Sunday 21st November CHRIST THE KING**

Daniel 7:13-14 On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship.  
Apocalypse 1:5-8 Jesus Christ is Ruler of the kings of the earth  
John 18:33-37 'Yes, I am a king.'

**Monday 22nd November St. Cecilia Virgin Martyr and Patron of Music**

Daniel 1:1-6,8-20 Daniel and his companions stay true to the requirements of the Law  
Luke 21:1-4 The poor widow gives all she had

**Tuesday 23rd November**

Daniel 2:31-45 Daniel interprets the king's dream  
Luke 21:5-11 Jesus predicts that the Temple will be destroyed

**Wednesday 24th November St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his Companions The Vietnamese Martyrs**

Daniel 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28 At the king's feast, a finger writes on the wall.  
Luke 21:12-19 'I will give you eloquence and wisdom.'

**Thursday 25th November**

Daniel 6:12-28 The king praises the God who saved Daniel from the lions.  
Luke 21:20-28 'Stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

**Friday 26th November**

Daniel 7:2-14 Scenes from heaven  
Luke 21:29-33 'The Kingdom of God is near.'