

# 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*

## ***First Sunday of Advent 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021***

Today we can leave behind the old year and embark on fresh adventure as we launch into the new Liturgical Year. St. Luke will be our companion in our Sunday Gospel passages and purple will be the garb worn by the priest most of Advent. How do you feel? Are you apprehensive as you think about the new strain of coronavirus which has emerged? Planning - is that possible in the present situation? How does our faith shine out as the nights get longer and we experience the bitter cold of winter? Am I starting to sound a bit depressive? That's not my intention!

Each one of us has the reality of what makes up our life: people, places, events, background, joys, sadnesses, challenges, disappointments....the list goes on. Advent is about the COMING of hope and salvation into our world through God's Beloved Son; he is the light eternally with the Father who brightens up our lives and who wants us to know him and experience the power of his love. Advent requires waiting for the deliverance the Lord brings and sometimes we are just not patient enough! Advent reveals God's longing to be with us - EMMANUEL - and his desire for us to yearn to welcome him into our lives, our homes, our community and our world. Expectation is a hallmark of this season; God can do so much. He comes as we are!

Silence and stillness can make such a difference to this journey towards Christmas. Discipline is necessary! Making time to be with the Love made incarnate, to listen and rest in that Presence. Allowing God's Spirit to stir us into caring for those around us, serving the poor and needy, reminding those who have nothing that they are treasures in God's eyes and in ours. All that we attempt is an opening up of hearts to let Christ in. If we remove some of the baggage and clutter, there is sure space for the Lord to be born within.

On the Third Sunday of Advent the purple will give way to rose/pink - the sign that we are over half-way and the Advent of redemption is even closer. A moment to REJOICE!

May God be your strength and inspiration this Advent. May you point out to others that Jesus Christ IS coming. May our world become a better place and reveal the beauty of God's Kingdom. God bless you! With love and prayers, ***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.

*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.*

**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.

## **PLEASE NOTE: MASS TIMES**

<b>Monday</b>	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>Saturday</b>	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure

## **SUNDAY MASSES**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>

<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure's</b>	<b>Saturday 10.30am - 11am</b>
	<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>Thursday 10am - 10.30am</b>
	<b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm</b>

## **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: Dorothy Hall RIP, Holy Souls, Kathleen Foley RIP, Edith Jurek RIP, Michael Whelan RIP, Liz Tobin RIP Funeral, Intentions of the Brand Family, Brian Davidson RIP Birthday, Holy Souls, Sir David Amess RIP, Alfie Bacangallo Jr

**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.

**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.

**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

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** If any parishioners need a lift to Mass the Transport to Mass Group is there! If anyone can offer a lift, please contact Kay Mason on 01707 335633. All necessary safeguarding and health and safety guidelines will be followed. In particular there is a parishioner (with wheelchair and walking frame) of Holy Family who needs a lift once a month to 9.30am Mass on Sunday. Your help would be much appreciated.

**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: 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 28TH NOVEMBER**

**Saturday 27th November**

Daniel 7:15-27 The eternal sovereignty of God's kingdom

Luke 21:34-36 Watch....stay awake!

**Sunday 28th November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Jeremiah :14-16 The days are coming...

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 'Be generous, confirmed in holiness and learn to live...'

Luke:21:25-28, 34-36 The Day of the Lord.

**Monday 29th November**

Isaiah 2:1-5 Isaiah's vision of God's mountain

Matthew 8:5-11 'Only say the word and my servant will be healed.'

**Tuesday 30th November ST. ANDREW** Fisherman who introduced Peter to Jesus.

Patron of Scotland and many other countries and cities.

Romans 10:9-18 The footsteps of those who bring Good News are a welcome sound.

Matthew:4:18-22 Follow me!

**Wednesday 1st December**

Isaiah 25:6-10 God's mountain

Matthew 29-37 Jesus feels sorry for those who are hungry.

**Thursday 2nd December**

Isaiah 26:1-6 Trust in the Lord for ever!

Matthew:21,24-27 Doing God's will is like building a house on rock.

**Friday 3rd December St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552)** From the Basque region of Spain, became a Jesuit and was sent by the Pope to the East, taking the Gospel to Goa in India, Malacca in Indonesia and Japan. Patron Saint of Missionaries.

Isaiah 29:17-24 In a short time...

Matthew 9:27-31 Jesus said: 'Do you believe I can do this?'