

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*

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 30th January

For the last few weeks we have been celebrating what the Church calls *Ordinary Time*. The word ordinary refers to the ordinal numerals by which the weeks of the year are counted from now until the beginning of Advent.

It is tempting to think of Ordinary Time as signifying something monotonous and humdrum. It is true that we are no longer in celebration mode—as far as it is possible to celebrate during a pandemic—but the weeks of Ordinary Time can be as rich and as fulfilling as any other time of year. As wonderful as the great liturgical feasts always are, we also need time to recover and to rediscover the quiet satisfaction of our normal daily routine.

I always used to feel a bit like this when going on holiday. However much I had enjoyed my time away doing new and different things, I would always look forward to getting back to familiar surroundings and a regular timetable.

The life of the Holy Family in Nazareth can perhaps help us as we contemplate this change of emphasis. Jesus spent most of his life in a very unassuming way, learning a trade and living as a family with Mary and Joseph. He lived his humanity in the most perfect way possible, revealing to us that ordinary human activities can be a means of sanctification and are of great value in the eyes of God. His work as a carpenter was not an unimportant detail, but a form of prayer and an act of sacrifice that was most pleasing to his Heavenly Father.

In the same way for us, the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives are where we grow in our love for God and for each other. Our work, whether it takes place in a corporate office, within the family home or in any other setting, can be a great means of grace if we offer each moment to God. Perhaps we can view this return to Ordinary Time as a great opportunity to sanctify even the most humble aspects of our lives.

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

GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued some new guidelines in the light of the lifting of 'Plan B'. These guidelines will be explained and implemented in our parishes at the beginning of February.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Please consider setting up a standing order for the church you attend; this will guarantee income to support all that happens. There are forms for each parish available on the parish website; these can be used even if you are not a tax-payer. 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.

DONA has arrived and has been installed in each of our churches. This is a machine for contactless payments to be made to the particular parish in which the machine is sited. It should be possible to GiftAid your donation. We are so grateful to you for your generosity in giving to our parishes especially in the time of pandemic.

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 with the Sacraments being celebrated in the summer. The enrolment forms will help us to know how many are involved and to plan the respective preparation courses. *Many have already signed up! If you have not yet done so, please return the forms to Fr. Norbert.*

ADULTS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CHURCH (RCIA) The Monday evenings have not proved overall to be a good time to meet. If anyone is still interested in joining the Catholic Church or is an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger, please contact Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234 and he will organise preparation directly with you. So, there will NOT be any Monday meetings. Thanks.

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** are now required in law 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

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: Kathleen Stokes RIP, Bar & Abraham families (thanksgiving), Pat Desmond RIP (anniversary), Paddy Coakley & Agnes Niblock RIP (anniversary), John Davin's intentions, Sarah Kellett, people of the parishes, Mary Brien's intentions, Philly Tobin's intentions, Brian Hall RIP (birthday), Michael Brehony RIP, Thomas Murphy RIP (anniversary).

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website 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.

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. New Zion is very grateful for the financial support being received.

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. *Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 11th February.*

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.

GOD WHO SPEAKS FESTIVAL St. Albans Cathedral

From Thursday 3rd until Saturday 5th February

February 3

Thursday all-day	Scripture Festival
11:00am - 12:30pm	Time To Talk - Exploring Mental Health in Seniors
7:00pm - 8:00pm	The New Testament for the Perplexed

February 4

Friday all-day	Scripture Festival
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February 5

Saturday all-day	Scripture Festival
11:00am - 12:00pm	Mass for Religious and Consecrated Life
5:00pm - 8:00pm	First Saturday devotions at the Rosary Shrine

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.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

ISSUE 38 21/01/2022

Dear Students, Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

In our quest to keep our students safe, this week's opening page of the 'NBS Now' is dedicated to our campaign to get a pedestrian crossing at NBS. It is a very poignant time as this term we are focusing on one of the 7 strands of Catholic Social Teaching - 'Solidarity' and the ability to stand together as one and make a positive contribution to society by our actions. You may also notice some other CST strands featured in this edition of 'NBS NOW'. How many can you spot?

NBS

With this in mind, we are petitioning the County Council to urgently install a pedestrian crossing and other traffic calming measures outside our school — and we need your help. Please sign the e-petition below:

NBS e-petition Pedestrian Crossing

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School has seen an increase in the number of students attending the school due to the school's improvement year on year and is now almost at full capacity. With the increased number of students, the volume of traffic using Colney Heath Lane has also increased and the safety of our students, staff, visitors and neighbouring community is now a major concern.

We are not aware of any other secondary schools in the area which do not have either a crossing or other traffic calming measures to help students to safely cross the road. The narrow bridge on a bend as you approach the school, the volume of buses and delivery lorries on this busy route, which is also used by traffic leaving the A414 North Orbital Road, combined with very limited parking, has led to a number of incidents and near misses.

The school is planning to increase on-site parking and is asking families to consider the environmental impact of driving to school by actively encouraging our pupils to walk or cycle to school.

We now need the Council to urgently address the need for a safe crossing and other traffic calming measures.

We have been working with the Council for many years on this issue and there is a site survey planned on 10th February, when John Hale, County Councillor and the Highways Commission will be surveying the area to discuss options to improve road safety outside the school. In the meantime, we are petitioning all stakeholders to urgently get behind our campaign to work collaboratively with the Council for a solution before a serious incident occurs.

Thank you for standing in 'Solidarity' and please be mindful this ePetition runs from 18/01/2022 to 15/03/2022 — please help us with this campaign! Feel free to share the link on your social media platforms to gain a wider awareness of our campaign.

God Bless.

Declan Linnane, Headteacher

SCRIPTURE READINGS BEGINNING 30TH JANUARY

Saturday 29th January

2 Samuel 12:1-7,10-17 David's penitence over Uriah

Mark 4:35-41 The calming of the storm

Sunday 30th January FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 The supremacy of charity

Luke 4:21-30 No prophet is ever accepted in his own country

Monday 31st January St. John Bosco

2 Samuel 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13 David flees Absalom

Mark 5:1-20 The Gerasene swine

Tuesday 1st February

2 Samuel 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3 David mourns Absalom

Mark 5:21-43 The healing of Jairus' daughter

Wednesday 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)

Malachi 3:1-4 The Lord will enter his Temple

Luke 2:22-40 My eyes have seen your salvation

Thursday 3rd February SS Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury

1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12 David's dying exhortation to Solomon

Mark 6:7-13 The sending out of the Twelve

Friday 4th February

Ecclesiasticus 47:2-13 David's love for his Maker

Mark 6:14-29 The beheading of John the Baptist