

# 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*

## ***Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 13<sup>th</sup> February***

'What are you doing on Monday?' is a question I have put to a number of people in the last few days. Someone involved in Education said 'Starting to enjoy half-term'; some have stared at me blankly. Monday is Valentine's Day!!!! I have even asked innocent callers on the phone and one on Friday said straightaway 'Celebrating Valentine's Day!' I realise there is a strong commercial dimension with pressure to buy red roses (and all that!) but it is a way of expressing thanks for love received and given.

When we gather to celebrate Mass, we remember how much God loves humanity and the glorious creation which is the work of his hands. We reflect on God's journey with his Chosen People and how frailty, stubbornness and pride have distracted men and women from the right path. God has never given up on us and the sending of his Son is the pledge of his desire for us to be saved. We breathe in the power of God's Spirit shared with us in Jesus his Beloved Son and are caught up in the transformation of Bread and Wine into his Body and Blood - Sacrifice, Death and Resurrection are laid before us as we tell God how much we love this amazing Trinity of Persons. The very Presence of Jesus Christ at the heart of the Mass is humanity's response to the love of the Father. Sacrificial, eternal and undying love is the musical harmony ascending to God's Throne in heaven and returning to us with grace beyond measure.

In our Gospel reading today, St. Luke presents us with the 'Sermon on the Plain'. Jesus comes to a level place to be so close to a whole variety of humanity: the Twelve, his disciples and a huge crowd of people from all sorts of places. He is concerned for every single person and he is not afraid to challenge those who need to be kicked into action as well as affirming the lowly and disregarded. He looks each one of us in the eye and has a word to utter personally to us. Listening and pondering the message, as well as responding are hallmarks of the love a disciple has for the Lord who is the Father's greatest gift to us.

May God bless you and your loved ones. Stay safe and keep well. Remember that I keep you in my prayers. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

**RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** (12th/13th February) To mark the day, the Bishops' Conference have produced a series of posters, which highlight the rich diversity of our Catholic community and encourage reflection upon how all peoples are made in the image of God. To see the posters and more follow <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/rjs22> Bishop Paul McAleenan has encouraged everyone to pray the following words written by Pope Francis:

*Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,  
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,  
so that we may discover anew that all are important  
and all are necessary,  
different faces of the one humanity that God so loves. Amen.*

The Bishops intend to build upon this work over the coming year that we may creatively celebrate our diversity and shared humanity.

## **OUR CHURCHES WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS**

The Bishops' Conference has given the go-ahead for parishes to return to 'normal'. Some churches have done so already. Here in our three churches, we will do so from the weekend of 26th/27th February:

**Mass books and hymn books** will be in use. **Printed newsletter every week.**

**Holy Water** will be in the stoups as you enter church. However, we will ensure that at the end of each Mass the stoups will be emptied, wiped clean and fresh Holy Water put in for the next congregation.

**Benches** will not be blocked off.

**Votive candles** will be available to light at the stands.

**Altar Servers** will start up again at the end of February. They should let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible if they plan to return to serve, that they have albs which fit and be ready to come half an hour earlier to run through serving with the priest for the first couple of weekends. Once the established servers are back in action, new servers can be enrolled.

**Holy Communion to the Sick and the housebound** will be possible. Again, please let Fr. Norbert know soon and the format of how it happens from Mass will be outlined.

**Holy Communion** Priests and Eucharistic Ministers will continue to wear masks and sanitise their hands for the distribution of Holy Communion. *It is really good practice for those receiving Holy Communion to do so **before** they leave the priest or the Eucharistic Minister.*

**Chapel at Our Lady's** will be open once more for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Norbert will open it at 7am and close at 6pm.

**Teas and coffees** on Sundays and weekdays will be possible following the pattern from before the pandemic. Good hygiene will be crucial. Those who would like to offer this hospitality should let Fr. Norbert know.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION** All First Communion families should receive information about the preparation and dates this weekend, preparation books are being posted next week. Confirmation families will be emailed this week with dates and other information. If you haven't yet sent in forms which are on parish website, it's not too late. Please do so as soon as possible!

**ADULTS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CHURCH (RCIA)** If anyone is 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. We are still aiming to celebrate the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil (Saturday 16th April)

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** There will not be a face-to-face preparation day this year. However, any couples wanting to marry this year or next either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork and the Marriage Course. Thank you. Valentine's Day is imminent!!

**BAPTISMS** Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

**SYNODAL PATHWAYS** All the responses which came in over the last few months have been sent to the Diocese. Fr. Norbert is grateful for these. In due course when we are in our new hall, there will be a continuation of some of the themes raised and a moving forward together.

**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.

**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.

**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: John McShane RIP Anniv, Kieran O'Donnell RIP, Freda McKenzie RIP Birthday, Valerie Grice RIP Birthday, Teresa Fernandes RIP Anniv, Mary Frost RIP, Roger Shelford RIP, Ann Dach RIP, Philippa Frame RIP, Alice Hurley (intentions), People of the Parishes, Kay Cunningham RIP, Mary Free (Walsh) RIP, Paul Guerin RIP Anniv.

**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.

**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.

**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 f

**OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION** at Holy Family Church for Lent on Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm: An Evening of Recollection is like a mini retreat lasting only a couple of hours, spent away from your ordinary occupation, when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. An atmosphere of personal prayer and recollection is maintained during the evening to help you consider aspects of your life and identify areas in which you can improve. Two meditations will be given by a priest, along with a talk on some aspect of the spiritual life, an examination of conscience and Benediction at the end of the evening. A priest will also be available for confession throughout the evening. This recollection is intended for men, however, there is also an Evening of Recollection for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 16th March at 7pm. All are welcome and no booking is necessary. If you have any questions please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

**SVP REQUEST** A single mother needs a fridge freezer, sofa, dining chairs, kettle bunk beds and clothes for 4, 7 and 8 year old girls. If you can help please contact Janet Lewis on 326456. Thank you.

**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 is 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.

Thank you At this time across the Diocese the Annual Financial Return has to be sent in. A huge amount of work is done by the (volunteer) book-keepers of our three parishes throughout the year but especially at this time to get the accounts in order. For this we are very grateful.

## **THE SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*“We were immediately struck by the many smiling faces of pupils, who enjoy coming to school... Pupils display a real pride in their school. They talk enthusiastically about their strong relationships with staff” Ofsted, 2018*

### **Invigilators required ASAP**

£8.91 per hour rising to £9.50 per hour from April 2022

An opportunity has arisen for invigilators to join our existing team. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organisational skills and possibly the ability to act as a scribe and reader. No experience is necessary, as training will be given. Applicants will need to be available for work in the main examination period during May and June.

Please contact Heidi Foyle (foyleh@jhn.herts.sch.uk) for further information and an application pack.

*The Saint John Henry Newman School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers, the DBS and a ‘prohibition from teaching’ check.*

**HALF-TERM HOLIDAY** We wish all children, staff and governors a wonderful half-term holiday. It has still proved to be a trying time with Covid but everyone has risen to the challenge. Well done and thank you!

**LENT COURSE** We are planning a Lent group this year which will involve the study of Scripture or some aspect of the Catholic faith. It is envisaged that this will take place in the Parish Room at Holy Family Church on Thursdays at 7.30pm. The first session will take place on Thursday 3rd March. Please contact Fr William for further details.

**NEW HALL** This weekend Fr. Norbert is meeting with the Chairs of our Finance Committees to discuss the opening of the new Hall, how it will be managed and the paying off of the loan. There are many groups, organisations and individuals who are desperate to make bookings and have waited patiently. Hopefully we'll soon be able to give more news.

**EARLY MORNING MASS** The plan is to have 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on the First Fridays in Lent, namely 4th March and 1st April. If anyone is happy to help with the breakfast which follows, please let Fr. Norbert know. Perhaps we'll be able to re-establish long-term this First Friday Mass which was so popular before the pandemic?

## **ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Before Covid, many couples from our parishes attended this Mass and were absolutely delighted to share in the joy of the celebration.

**HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL** would like to let parents know that there are spaces in the following classes: 9 in Reception Class, 11 in Year 1, 4 in Year 2, 4 in Year 4, 2 in Year 5 and 3 in Year 6. Contact the School Office for more information.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS BEGINNING 13TH FEBRUARY

### **Saturday 12th February**

1 Kings 12:26-32,13:33-34 The infidelity of King Jeroboam

Mark 8:1-10 'I feel sorry for these people'

### **Sunday 13th February SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Jeremiah 17:5-8 Curses and blessings

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20 Christ has been raised from the dead!

Luke 6:17,20-26 Jesus fixes his eyes on his disciples and teaches them.

### **Monday 14th February ST. CYRIL (827-869) AND ST. METHIDIUS (826-885)**

Two brothers who preached the faith to the Slavonic people and translated the Bible and Liturgical texts into Cyrillic - a script they created. Patron Saints of Europe

Acts 13:46-49 The word of the Lord spreads.

Luke 10:1-9 The 72 are sent out in pairs to places the Lord himself would visit

### **Tuesday 15th February**

James 1:12-18 Happy are those who stand firm when trials come.

Mark 8:14-21 The disciples keep forgetting the miracles Jesus had worked.

### **Wednesday 16th February**

James 1:19-27 'Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you.'

Mark 8:22-26 A blind man is healed in stages.

### **Thursday 17th February**

James 2:1-9 Distinctions are being made in St. James' community between rich and poor people.

Mark 8:27-33 'Who do people say I am?'

### **Friday 18th February**

James 2:14-24,26 Faith put into action.

Mark 8:34-9:1 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine...'