

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*

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 20th February

The former Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, spoke about two aspects of the Christian life which often seem to be in tension with each other: the life of prayer and the life of apostolic activity in the world. He compared these two different elements to the ‘desert’ and the ‘market place’.

Most of us are quite familiar with life in the ‘market place’. We are all busy people with a long list of things to do each day. Time is often at a premium. There is a sense in which our faith too can be marked by a sort of ‘busyness’ whereby we drown out the deeper questions of life with frantic activity.

We will shortly be embarking on Lent again, when we are encouraged to think about that moment in Our Lord’s life when he withdrew from the world for a period of fasting and prayer in the wilderness. It is an opportunity for us to embrace our own inner desert by removing some of the things which can distract us from God. We don’t need to change our physical surroundings in order to do this. But there is a way of creating more space in our lives for our spiritual needs. The moments of daily prayer, whether these take place at home or in front of the tabernacle in church, are moments when we retire to our own personal desert in order to be sustained by the love and mercy of God.

We do this so that we can return to the ‘market place’ with a greater sense of perspective and a more purified intention. We will always find Christ by serving the needs of our neighbour in the world and there will be a special task that God has entrusted us with. But the strength and motivation for this can only come from those quiet moments of prayer in the desert.

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

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.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION All First Communion families should have received the information about the preparation, dates and the books this 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.

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 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: Christina Bonass RIP, Adoracion Cruz RIP (anniversary), Joe Neumann RIP, Tracey Laycock RIP (birthday), Chris Neziyanya (thanksgiving), Eileen Ling RIP, Paddy Daly RIP, Edna & John McShane RIP, people of the parishes, Roy Barnard RIP, Richard Harrex RIP.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website wg-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 FOR MEN at Holy Family Church 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 Wednesday 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.

ST. PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (Used Stamps)

Fr. Kyran would like to thank the Welwyn Garden City parishes for the used stamps we have been sending to the Society.

The great thing about the stamp project is that it just works away quietly in the background and over the years has brought a tremendous amount of money for the missions. Of course with the coming of social media the income has gone down considerably but it is still very substantial.

So please keep saving your used stamps and leave them either at the back of the church or pop them through the letterbox of 66 Parkway. Many thanks, Mavis Cleasby.

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.

LENT GROUP We are planning a study course this year which will examine the role of Mary in our Catholic faith. This will take place in the Parish Room at Holy Family Church on Thursday evenings during Lent. We are also hoping to offer this on Zoom for those who cannot attend physically. We will gather for refreshments from 7pm and each session will begin at 7.30pm. The first session will take place on Thursday 3rd March. There is a course book for this group which costs £2.00. We need to know numbers for this so please contact Fr William to confirm your place as soon as possible.

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 20TH FEBRUARY

Saturday 19th February

James 3:1-10 The tongue can be used for good and for evil

Mark 9:2-13 Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

Sunday 20th February SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13, 22-23 'Do not lift your hand against the Lord's anointed'

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 The first and the last Adam

Luke 6:27-38 Love your enemies

Monday 21st February

James 3:13-18 Show wisdom and avoid ambition

Mark 9:14-29 Jesus casts out a spirit of dumbness

Tuesday 22nd February THE CHAIR OF ST PETER

1 Peter 5:1-4 Watch over the flock

Matthew 16:13-19 On this rock I will build my Church

Wednesday 23rd February ST POLYCARP

James 4:13-17 You cannot know what will happen tomorrow

Mark 9:38-40 Anyone who is not against us is for us

Thursday 24th February

James 5:1-6 The Lord hears the cries of those you have cheated

Mark 9:41-50 If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off

Friday 25th February

James 5:9-12 Do not swear by heaven or by the earth

Mark 10:1-12 What God has united, man must not divide