

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*

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 27th February 2022

APPEAL OF POPE FRANCIS CONCERNING UKRAINE

Given at the General Audience on Wednesday 22nd February 2022

My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again, the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilising coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY (2nd March) A Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Masses with the distribution of ashes will be as follows:

9.30am Holy Family

12 noon St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady's

A streamed Mass will be available from 7am onwards.

Please note that the ashes will be given on the forehead to all who approach. If someone would prefer to have the ashes sprinkled on their head (as last year), then they must indicate it when they approach the priest or minister.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS usually lasting half an hour

Holy Family on Wednesdays at 10am after 9.30 Mass

St. Bonaventure on Fridays at 10am after 9.30 Mass

Our Lady's on Fridays at 7.30pm after 7 o'clock Mass

EARLY MORNING MASS There will be 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on the First Fridays in Lent, namely 4th March and 1st April. Breakfast in the hall will follow.

All are most welcome.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for half an hour

Our Lady's on Mondays after 9.30am Mass

Holy Family on Thursdays after 9.30am Mass (during Confessions)

St. Bonaventure on Saturdays after 10am Mass (during Confessions)

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. 20 people have signed up already and there is still time to sign up. Please do so as soon as possible! Thank you.

OUR CHURCHES WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS

From this weekend:

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

Holy Water 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 are not blocked off.

Votive candles available to light at the stands. Please be very careful if you have the santising gel on your hands - your fingers could catch light!

Altar Servers back in action! Please ensure you have an alb which fits and come early for a run through the serving. Holy Communion to the Sick and the housebound is possible. Again, please let Fr. Norbert know soon. The format of how the Blessed Sacrament is taken from Mass will be outlined.

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Holy Communion Priests and Eucharistic Ministers are to continue wearing masks and sanitising their hands for the distribution of Holy Communion. It is really good practice for those coming up to Communion to receive the Sacred Host 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. The forms for each parish are 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. Contactless payments can be made on the machines at the back of each church. Thank you!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION All First Communion and Confirmation families should have received information about the preparation and dates. Please let Fr. Norbert know if this has not happened. 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) There are five adults seeking Baptism at Easter, one for Reception into the Catholic Church and one completing initiation into the Church through Confirmation. They will be presented at some of the Masses this weekend and then to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 5th March. Please pray for them as they journey towards Easter and the Sacraments.

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.

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: Douglas Page RIP Anniv, Bridie O'Mahony RIP, People of the Parish, Intentions of those at Saturday morning Mass, Special Intention, People of the Parish, Mothers and babies of the parish, Peace in the Ukraine, Kathleen Stokes RIP, Jo Neumann RIP, Finola Ryan (sick), Mike Larkins RIP Funeral, Maureen Brennan's Intention.

Parish Priest
Fr. Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234
norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Parish Secretary
Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Assistant Priest
Fr. William Johnstone 01707 327434
williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

SVP Request for a single mum.
Dining chairs, kettle, girls clothes
4,7 and 8 year olds. Contact Janet
on 01707 326456. Thank you.

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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

We continue to stream Mass on Sunday at 10am

This week there will be Ash Wednesday Mass available from 7am.

We are also going to stream live the 6.30am Mass this First Friday from St. Bonaventure's. We will ensure that no faces will be seen for safeguarding purposes.

MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

26 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Confessions 5-5.30pm
27 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady	
	6pm	Holy Family	
28 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
01 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
02 Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
03 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Confessions 10-10.30am
04 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
05 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions 10.30am - 11am

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 26th February

James 5:13-20 If one of you is in trouble, pray. If feeling happy, sing a psalm!

Mark 10:13-16 The children are brought to Jesus and they receive a blessing.

Sunday 27th February EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ecclesiasticus Results and fruits of a good person

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 Let us thank God for giving us the victory through Christ

Luke 6:39-45 Every tree can be told by its fruit.

Monday 28th February

1 Peter 1:3-9 God in his mercy has given us anew birth.

Mark 10:17-27 A man ran up to Jesus. Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him AND...

Tuesday 1st March ST. DAVID (520-589) Monk and Bishop Patron Saint of Wales

Philippians 3:8-14 'I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me.'

Matthew 5:13-16 You are the light of the world!

Wednesday 2nd March ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18 'Come back to me with all your heart.'

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Prayer, fasting and good works.

Thursday 3rd March

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Choose life!

Luke 9:22-25 A follower of Jesus takes up the cross every day

Friday 4th March

Isaiah 58:1-9 The true fast which brings light and heals

Matthew 9:14-15 When will Jesus' disciples fast?

Introductory words for reading before the Pastoral Letter on 24/25 February 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few days ago, I wrote and distributed a Pastoral Letter to be read throughout the Diocese today. Since then, the invasion of Ukraine has begun.

Pope Francis has asked that we mark Ash Wednesday as a Day of Fasting for Peace. He says, 'Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting.' I ask that we all heed our Holy Father's call, and devote ourselves to prayer on fasting on Ash Wednesday, especially for the intention of peace in Ukraine.

As you will hear, the Pastoral Letter concerns the importance of attendance at Mass, and asks your help in inviting those who may have fallen away from this practice over the pandemic to return. The recent events in Ukraine make this appeal more urgent than ever. Prayers for Ukraine, its people and for peace are desperately needed. There is no greater prayer in the Church than the Mass.

The following pages contain the Pastoral Letter

**ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ**

Pastoral Letter for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26/27 February 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Today I want to take a moment, first of all, to thank you for your faithfulness and for your presence here at Mass. These last two years have been very difficult and I thank God for the gift of faith which you have received, which you have nurtured and from which, I know, you receive great grace and strength. I know this to be true because it is true for me too.

Now I would like to ask your assistance.

During these last two years there were times when our way of life was severely curtailed. We were in 'lockdown'. At one time, for three months, even the doors of our churches were firmly closed. Being unable to enter the House of God and to take part fully in the celebration of the Mass was, for many, an experience of real dismay and pain.

But that is no longer the case. We are again able to fashion the way of life that we choose. The doors of our churches can stay wide open. Yet, as you know, many have not resumed the pattern of coming to church, week by week. Other activities have filled that space. For some, the thirst for being at Mass, for celebrating life-giving sacraments, has diminished.

This is where I ask for your help. I would like you to be ready to approach those whom you know, and who are not present here today, with a word of invitation for them to join us. I know this is not easy. You may well feel it is an intrusive thing to do. Also, taking the step across the threshold of the church can be daunting for someone who has been away for a long time. So I ask you to exercise great deference and kindness when approaching them, perhaps offering to accompany them on this return journey.

I make this request now not simply because fear and restrictions are eased, but because we are approaching Lent, the traditional and powerful season of our renewal in faith. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this coming week, we respond to the Lord's invitation to come forward and meet him afresh. He invites us to come through the doors of the church to stand before him and receive his blessing, his mark of mercy.

Lent is the time to reset our patterns so that there is time for God in our hearts and in our weekly routines. You know well that the highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Eucharist. It is here, above all other places, that the Lord wishes to fill us with his gifts, so that we, in turn, can offer those gifts to others. And then, when we give that which we have received, we bring this precious light of Christ into our world. He is the best antidote to the darkness of the pandemic, to the loneliness it has brought, to the lack of clear hope for the future, to the deep weariness and unexpressed resentment that has entered into the souls of so many.

So, please, do what you can to invite those who are missing to come with you to be part of this great family of faith at prayer. If each of you can give a word of encouragement to one other person, to one other family, then the reward will be great. Then we can journey together to Easter. There we proclaim again that Jesus alone has mastered death, that he alone is the Lord of life, that he is now among us and calling us to come to meet him here, in this House of God, in this Gate of Heaven.

I thank you again for your presence here today. I thank you for all that you will do in response to this request and I ask God's blessing on the words that you will speak. Remember the words of St Paul that we have just heard: 'Keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain' (1Cor. 15:58).

Please continue in your prayer for peace in Ukraine. We cry out: No more war, no more violence!

And remember me in your prayers as I will remember you, the faithful people of God!

Yours devotedly,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols