

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*

Third Sunday of Easter 1st May 2022

Today's Gospel reading from St. John has so much happening in it! Firstly, unsuccessful fishing results in a huge catch - at the word of a stranger on the shore...JESUS! Then the Lord cooks breakfast for his disciples - amazing! Can you imagine tasting his cuisine? Finally, the question of love is put to Peter who gives the affirmative and is asked to care for sheep and lambs. ALL of this unfolds after the Resurrection.

In these last weeks since we celebrated Easter, have things gone well for you? What challenges have come your way? Have you tried and been unsuccessful at what should have come easily to you? If this has been the case, you are there with Peter and his friends! The key, as the Evangelist tells us, is to listen to the voice of Christ and trust that his word can bear fruit. Who are the strangers who come your way and with hindsight you realise that the Lord was speaking to you through them?

Breakfast! This is often a meal we skip or try to take shortcuts with. So many experts say it is the most crucial food we eat in the day. Whenever Jesus eats with people there are usually the overtones of Eucharist with his stepping forward, taking and giving to them. This sacred banquet of the Mass is the Lord's gift to us which holds us as one in him, which helps us give praise to the Father, which conforms us to the Lord's image in the Holy Spirit. It cannot - and should not - be skipped! His generous life-giving love is there!

'Do you love me?' is the thrice-posed question Peter hears. He is on the defensive and gets upset with Christ. However, by the time he professes his love of the Lord for the third time, he has probably realised that he has now made up for the three denials of Maundy Thursday night. The Lord is understanding, patient and forgiving beyond measure. The Lord asks a great deal of Peter as he commissions him to take good care of the sheep and lambs. Who has he asked YOU to look after? Is it easy?

The days of the Sacred Triduum were wonderful! Seeing myriads of people gathered once more and experiencing the power of faith shining out truly helped me to celebrate well and feel the Lord's closeness. May the coming days of Eastertide continue to be a revelation of his Presence! God bless you. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

EASTER ANTHEM TO OUR LADY

Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia!

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!

Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia!

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

Because he whom thou didst merit to bear, alleluia,

Has risen as he said, alleluia!

Pray for us to God, alleluia!

NEW PARISH HALL Much hard work is going on behind the scenes to help us move forward towards a formal opening of our new Parish Hall - Trinity Hall. The key issue is how it will be managed and the system of bookings. So many individuals, families and groups are ready to sign up. Thank you for your patience!

ONE CANONICAL PARISH Now that the agreement for the Hall has been signed and sent to Archbishop's House, Fr. Norbert has been advised to request that the Cardinal allow our three parishes to move towards becoming one canonical parish. There is a process to be followed which will involve consultation of you, the parishioners of our three parishes. Soon the steps to be taken will become clearer and Fr. Norbert will keep you informed.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION 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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) We continue to stream Mass at 10am on Sunday.

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 recently celebrated will be published next week.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH celebrates (belatedly) the WGC centenary and has sponsored a professional dance company, Kadam Dance, to perform on the World Music Stage in Howardsgate on Sat 14th May at 11.30am and on Sunday 15th May at 12 noon. This is to mark the cultural diversity of the town during its first 100 years AND another event will be one of their evening community meetings which will be held at the Focolare Centre on Monday 23rd May at 7.30pm on the theme of 'Sacred Numbers' when Fr. Norbert will be one of the speakers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The First Communion Masses are as follows: Sunday 1st May 11.30am at Our Lady's, Sunday 8th May 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's, Sunday 15th May 9.30am at Holy Family & 11.30am at Our Lady's. *Please keep the children in your prayers.*

CONFIRMATION There will be an Afternoon Retreat for all the Confirmation candidates at the Focolare Centre on Sunday 8th May 2.30 - 5.00 pm. Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm the 47 young people at Our Lady's on Friday 13th May at 7.30pm. *Please keep these Confirmandi in your prayers.*

BANK HOLIDAY On Monday 2nd May, Mass will be at 10am as it is a public holiday.

HALF-TERM WEEK Looking ahead there will only be 10am Mass each day 30th May until 3rd June. There are two Bank Holidays that week to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

FIRST FRIDAY There will be 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 6th May followed by breakfast in the Hall. This Mass will be livestreamed. All are welcome. With 3rd June being a Bank Holiday, there will NOT be 6.30am Mass on that day.

SUPPLY PRIESTS Canon Michael Munnely, recently retired Parish Priest of Stanmore, will be helping us when the First Communion Masses take place: 1st & 15th May at 10.30 and 8th May 9.30 and 11.30. We are grateful to him for his offer of help. We are sure you will make him most welcome.

OUR LADY'S Church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds will take place on Saturday 7th May at 10am. Extra hands and lots of muscle help everything to run smoothly! Come if you can.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet next Tuesday. John McIntyre has kindly agreed to take on the role of Chair. We are so grateful to Gordon Groves for his dedicated service over many years as Chair and committee member.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open every weekday 7am until 6pm.

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.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, 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 followed.

OUR LADY'S Church flowers. Please, to anybody that loves flowers. We need help with Our Lady's flower arrangements. To keep our church looking beautiful we need some extra hands. More hands make less time. We would be delighted to welcome you.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP will be meeting in the parish room at 2pm in Holy Family Church on Tuesday 3rd May. All are welcome.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS Monday, 2nd May 2pm at Westminster Cathedral. You are warmly invited to attend in person to celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster. This year a particular welcome is extended to the Ukrainian Catholic Church. There will be guests from other Christian denominations, other faith traditions, and civic society. Music for the Mass will be led by SS Michael & Martin, Hounslow, Youth and Caribbean Music Ministry.

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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.

SVP REQUEST a vacuum cleaner for a single mum. If you can help contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456, thank you.

COFFEE AT OUR LADY'S If you are free on Thursday mornings 10.30-12.00 come and join us in Our Lady's Sacristy for a cuppa and a chat. We would love to see you.

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	10am	Our Lady
03 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady
04 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family
05 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family
06 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady
07 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure
07 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
08 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady
	6pm	Holy Family

CONFESSIONS	Saturdays	5pm-5.30pm	Our Lady
	Thursdays	10am - 10.30am	Holy Family
	Saturdays	10.30am - 11am	St. Bonaventure

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 30th April

Acts 6:1-7 Seven are chosen to assist the Apostles

John 6:16-21 Jesus walks on the water.

Sunday 1st May April THIRD SUNDAY OF SUNDAY

Acts 5:27-32,40-41 The courage of the Apostles in bearing witness to Christ.

Apocalypse 5:11-14 A vision of heaven

John 21 :1-19 'Do you love me?'

Monday 2nd May St. Athanasius (295-373) Bishop of Alexandria who stood up for orthodox belief in Jesus as truly God.

Acts 6:8-15 The ministry of St. Stephen

John 6:22-29 'You must believe in the one God has sent.'

Tuesday 3rd May ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES Apostles

Acts 6:8-15 Keep believing the gospel!

John 14:6-14 'Philip, you still do not know me?'

Wednesday 4th May ENGLISH MARTYRS Many examples in this country of true heroism during the time of the Reformation and subsequent persecution.

Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of St. Stephen

Matthew 10:17-20 'Do not worry...'

Thursday 5th May

Acts 8:26-40 The story of Philip

John 6:44-51 'I am the Bread of Life.'

Friday 6th May

Acts 9:1-20 Conversion of St. Paul

John 6:52-59 'Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.'