

# 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 of Easter 8th May 2022***

In our Gospel passage today from St. John, the Lord says that he knows his sheep and that he gives them eternal life. He also states that the sheep listen to his voice and follow him. He concludes by saying: 'The Father and I are one.'

Just reflect on the last words which highlight total unity in God. Jesus knows that when he acts the Father is working in him; whatever the Lord feels and suffers, the Father experiences too. What a harmony of love and dynamism! This comes about through the Holy Spirit. Once this insight is revealed, we then turn to the Lord's relationship with us: as we listen to him, we hear the Father speaking to us; as we follow Christ we are drawn through the pathway of the Cross into God's life and are taken to eternity - amazing, mystical and mind-blowing!

Today is Vocations Sunday. How is your journey in life giving you a unique vision of God's plan for you? We are so different and yet we all belong to the Lord; we have a variety of ways of hearing him and still we are together as his flock. What confirms you in your choice of vocation or response to it? Did something happen as a bolt from heaven or did a heavenly voice call out to you? Are you still searching and are content to wait and see? Have you gone in every direction and are yearning for a centredness founded upon the Lord?

One of the lovely things for me as a priest is that I get to see such diversity of vocations in people of many backgrounds, ages and experiences. I am given a glimpse of these callings being shared in one community where we are enriched by one another and make a difference to the lives of others. Walking with others, sharing their stories and being a source of strength through the preaching of the Gospel and the celebrations of the Sacraments, especially the Mass, is a privilege beyond compare. Each one of us radiates that divine presence of the Lord in our lives and discovers his loving voice calling out. We help prepare one another for the glory of eternal life in heaven. Let us never run away from this calling!

May God bless each one of you. Have a wonderful week. 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 of the last three weeks are: For Ukraine, Johnny Bardon RIP, John Maguire RIP, People of the Parish, Carl Feeney RIP, Suzanne Cudby, Anna Liza Sabalvaro RIP, Lucy Dias RIP Anniv, Josie Bell RIP, Patrick Creamer RIP, Danny Kennoy RIP Anniv, Maurice Austin RIP, Esther Healy RIP, Antonio Clemente Fernandes RIP, John & Rosaleen Dicks (int), Maureen Friel (int), Mary Devlin (int), Family & Friends & Patricia RIP, John Davin RIP, Mary Moran RIP Anniv, Jerry Kelly RIP Anniv, Antonio Clemente Fernandes RIP, Rafael Velho Pereira RIP, Josie Bell RIP & Louise Ferns RIP

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The First Communion Masses are as follows: 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 this Friday (13th) at 7.30pm. Please keep these *Confirmandi in your prayers.*

**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** The next 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 1st July 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: 8th May 9.30 and 11.30, 15th May at 10.30, 29th May at 10.30. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Masses on Monday 23rd May at 9.30am, and Sunday 29th May at 6pm. We are grateful for their support.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Our thanks to all who keep our churches clean and tidy and to those who look after the grounds.

**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](mailto: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. Fr. Norbert will next be celebrant on 24th June.

**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** Church cleaning will take place in Holy Family on Wednesday 11th May after the 9.30am Mass. We are appealing for help as many of our former cleaning team are sadly no longer with us. We want the church to be clean and sparkling for our First Communicants and any help will be greatly appreciated.

**CAFOD GROUP CAKE SALE** will be on 22nd May at Holy Family after the 9.30am Mass. They will be following hygiene and cleanliness protocols so please be assured that the cakes will be safe for you to buy and enjoy!

**PRIEST TRAINING FUND** The annual collection is this weekend across the Diocese. There are donation envelopes at the back of our churches. Please return them to one of the presbyteries. Online giving is possible at [www.rcdow.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.uk/donations) Thank you for your generosity.

**LORETO COLLEGE** will be holding a Centenary Garden Party on Sunday 10th July 12 noon until 5pm. For more information go to [www.loreto.herts.sch.uk](http://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk)

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP** will be having an evening on Sacred Numbers on Monday 23rd May at 7.30 at the Focolare Centre for Unity. Fr. Norbert has been asked to speak from a Christian perspective. There will also be contributions from the Bahai faith and Judaism.

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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.

**OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION** at Holy Family Church on 23rd June at 7pm: An Evening of Recollection is a couple of hours when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. Two meditations will be given by a priest, along with a talk 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 one for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 15th June at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

### **MASS TIMES**

09 Monday	<b>9.30am</b>	Our Lady
10 Tuesday	<b>9.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>7pm</b>	Our Lady
11 Wednesday	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
12 Thursday	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
13 Friday	<b>9.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>7pm</b>	Our Lady
14 Saturday	<b>10am</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>14 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>15 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady
	<b>6pm</b>	Holy Family

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

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### **Saturday 7th May**

Acts 9:31-42 The story of Tabitha

John 6:60-69 People leave Jesus' company because of his teaching

### **Sunday 8th May FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 13:14,43-52 The message of the Gospel is for the pagans too.

Apocalypse 7:9,14-17 The vision of heaven.

John 10:27-30 The sheep which listen to the Lord's voice.

### **Monday 9th May**

Acts 11:1-18 The eating of 'unclean' food. Salvation for the pagans

John 10:1-10 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

### **Tuesday 10th May**

Acts 11:19-26 The disciples are called 'Christians'.

John 10:22-30 'If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.'

### **Wednesday 11th May**

Acts 12:24-13:5 Paul and Barnabas are chosen to spread the Good News.

John 12:44-50 Jesus is the light who has come into the world.

### **Thursday 12th May**

Acts 13:13-25 Paul; preaches in a synagogue

John 13:16-20 At the Last Supper Jesus starts speaking to his disciples.

### **Friday 13th May Our Lady of Fatima**

Acts 13:26-33 'We have come here to tell you the Good News.'

John 14:1-6 'Trust in God still and trust in me.'