

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*

23rd Sunday of the Year 4th September 2022

Jesus has to come first! His Kingdom is of the utmost importance and we must plan our lives accordingly! These seem to be the sentiments of Jesus in today's Gospel from St. Luke as the Lord continues on the long road to Jerusalem. Are these the thoughts going through your minds as another year begins?

September 2020 and September 2021 were the onsets of very challenging years in our lives and I'm sure for most of us it was simply a case of survival on a day to day basis as the coronavirus and its various strains impacted almost every aspect of our lives and the whole of society. At present there are still many things affecting us: the cost of energy and soaring prices, war in Ukraine and its impact on us in Europe, the devastating floods in Pakistan, a new Prime Minister about to take up office...the list is long!

And yet Jesus asks us personally to take up our crosses and to follow him. Is this possible? Have we the strength to do so? What are the extras we will face when embarking on such an adventure as this? Jesus brings light and hope; he does not let darkness snuff out even the smallest of flames. As we work with him humbly to build up the Kingdom, we are creating a taste of heaven here on earth and putting people in touch with immeasurable love.

Soon I will be starting my 15th year as your Parish Priest. We have much to reflect on and ponder. How can we be a living sign of the Kingdom in this place, welcoming new members and introducing others to the message of Christ. We must think about the impact of attempting to be one parish community with three churches, safeguarding for future generations the vibrant and faith-filled Catholic Community we are called to be. How radical can we be in our outreach putting those around us in touch with the Face of Christ, his Healing Hands, his Divine Heart? The academic year has begun with staff, parents and governors working hard for our children and young people to give them the very best start in life. Some of our young adults will head off to pastures new at university or college and encounter many different approaches to life. Change is part of life!

Let us pray for one another! May our love be evidenced in the sacrifices we make. Never give up - the Lord is at our side! God bless you. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

DEC PAKISTAN APPEAL Devastating floods have hit Pakistan, leaving millions in urgent need of help to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (that's an area almost the size of Great Britain). Your donation will help CAFOD's local partners support communities with clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter. Please pray for those affected and donate now at cafod.org.uk/give.

We will have a retiring collection for this appeal next weekend (9th/10th). There should be special envelopes for this purpose. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Prayer for those affected by the Pakistan Floods

O Lord, in the goodness of your constant love, be with the people of Pakistan as they face devastating floods.

At this time of great loss – loss of lives, homes and crops – may we be filled with your compassion and moved to reach out in love.

As we stand alongside our sisters and brothers, we pray that they may find consolation in their sorrow, strength as they seek shelter and safety and courage to carry on. Forgive us, O Lord, for our part in the climate crisis, and inspire us all to play our part in protecting the earth, our common home. So that together we may build a world that reflects your glory, where hope drives out despair and all things are made new. AMEN

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION More responses have come in over the summer and we hope to have by next week a short summary of parishioners' views on the possible merger of our three parishes. This should be ready by next weekend which will give a chance for further reflection and more views to be expressed in time for the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 28th September at 8pm in the new Trinity Hall (we hope). On 28th September the more detailed report will be available for discussion and result in a final draft to be sent to the Cardinal. Each one of you is so important in this consultation process. We need MANY of you to come to the meeting!

FINANCE COMMITTEE Our Lady's Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday 6th September at 7.45pm.

SUPPLY PRIESTS Monsignor Harry Turner, Fr. Stephen Coker and Fr. Frank Leonard are helping us with some Sundays and a few weekdays. It is good to have their support and we know they will be warmly welcomed!

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICITY Some of our Catholic Schools require the Parish Priest to provide a Certificate of Catholicity for entry to Primary or Secondary School. In due course Fr. Norbert will publish how this will be done. However, he wants to emphasise that attendance at Mass is a requirement. Covid has placed many burdens on individuals, families and households; now is the time to do your best to return regularly to church. Children can only get here if they are brought by their families. Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start after Christmas. Soon we will ask parents to enrol their children for Communion and young people to enrol for Confirmation. We will let you know when the application Forms are on the website. Also, if any adults would like to be catechists for these Sacraments, please let Fr. Norbert know. There would be training and all the necessary safeguarding guidelines would have to be followed.

RCIA The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults for adults who would like to join the Catholic Church will start on Monday 7th November at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. There are a number who have made themselves known. If you are interested please speak to Fr. Norbert. This is also a great way for adults, who missed out on Confirmation when they were younger, to prepare for Confirmation. In some countries you cannot get married in the Catholic Church if not confirmed.

FIRST FRIDAY Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 7th October at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

ST. BERNADETTE Some of the relics of St. Bernadette will be in our country from the beginning of September. Details can be found on stbernadette.org.uk They will arrive at St. Joseph's Church, Bedwell, Stevenage on Monday 17th October at 1pm and leave on Tuesday 18th October at 8.15am. There are various forms of prayer as well as Masses being planned for Stevenage and details will be published soon.

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: 'Following the successful Lent course this year we have decided to offer another study course in October this time exploring the importance of the saints in the life of the Church. It is envisaged that this will take place on Wednesday evenings with the first session beginning on the 5th October. More information about this will be given in due course.'

SPANISH PRIEST Fr. Antonio Guerrero Quesada from the Diocese of Jaen in Spain writes: 'I arrived here a week ago and I couldn't be more grateful and glad I came. I am learning a lot and meeting wonderful and welcoming people. I am having a great time! We have joked a lot about my youth and my age, I have tasted delicious meals, and I am practising a lot of English with more people and at Masses. I thank God and Father Norbert for all that I am experiencing and sharing these days.' If any of you would like to host him, take him out for the day or give him time to continue practising his English, please let Fr. Norbert know soon.

ST. JOSEPH'S CENTRE (which supports adults and children with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends) is celebrating its 45th Anniversary with Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 2.30pm. It would be really great if we (from WGC) could take a group to this Mass and join in the celebrations. There will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall afterwards. It would be a significant moment in starting up again our Special Needs Masses in WGC. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested so he can inform St. Joseph's. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who look after our churches and their grounds, keeping everything tidy, beautiful and welcoming. St. Bonaventure's cleaning after Mass this Tuesday.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. It is a quiet, reflective place to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, light a candle or experience a moment of serenity. Why not pop in?

CAFOD GROUP will be holding a coffee morning on Sunday 4th September after the 9.30am Mass. Please do come and join us for tea/coffee and cake.

The CAFOD group will be meeting in the Parish Room at Holy Family at 2pm on Tuesday 6th September. Should anyone like to come along, you will be very welcome.

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. Fr. Norbert will next celebrate this Mass on 18th November.

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.

COFFEE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S starts up again on Sunday 11th after 10.30am Mass.

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.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches This Sunday 4th September, Mass will be livestreamed at 11.30am from Our Lady's Church. Each week we will inform you of the timings.

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Holy Family Church
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CONFESSIONS

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

OPEN EVENING WITH BRING AND SHARE SUPPER -16 September, 6.45 for 7pm, Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway. All welcome! Any queries contact cathybwgc@gmail.com

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wanting to marry in 2023/2024 either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork. We are hoping to have the Preparation Day on Saturday 18th February (after Valentine's Day!) It will be the whole day and end with a Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6pm Mass. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to attend. 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.

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White who is fundraising for Multiple Sclerosis from which Michael Cade suffers. A gruelling triathlon consisting of a 1.9km swim, 90km bike ride, and ending with a half marathon. To support this go to the link below or speak to Spencer or Jenny at Holy Family.
https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SpencerWhite5?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Spencer-White5&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=2c8397351ca14f26a8df30d16147520a.

MASS TIMES

03 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Alan Hallett (R.I.P.)
04 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Peader Hyland (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Kathleen and Thomas Ryan (60 th wedding anniversary)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Florencia Muceros (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Mary Loftus (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	People of the Parish
05 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Special Intention (June L)
06 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Teresa Sturt (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Rafael Velho Pereira (R.I.P.)
07 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Barry Kilkenny (R.I.P.)
08 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Betty Whelan (R.I.P.)
09 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Private Intention
10 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anene Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Jirka Cherny