

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*

27th Sunday of the Year 2nd October 2022

'Fan into a flame the gift that God gave you' says St. Paul to Timothy in today's Second Reading and 'Increase our faith' is the cry of the Apostles to Jesus in our Gospel passage from St. Luke. Faith is an amazing gift we receive from God in a whole variety of ways: through parents and grandparents, from teachers, catechists and priests, in experiences where the Divine Presence is felt. Sometimes it comes in a blinding flash - as was the case for St. Paul; at other times, a stop-start process. What is very clear, however, is that faith cannot remain static; as with every relationship it keeps evolving with changes in life's circumstances. The challenge is to find ways of developing and deepening faith.

On Friday I went with Holy Family's Year 6 class to Aylesford for a day of reflection; this coming Wednesday I'll do the same with Our Lady's Year 6. Having time away from your usual surroundings gives time to take stock. Being surrounded by beauty, historic buildings and an aura of holiness certainly helps to strengthen faith. Having time to celebrate Mass in a new setting in the intimacy of a small Chapel opens you up to fresh possibilities. The Friars at Aylesford goes back 800 years and the spirituality of Mount Carmel near Haifa in Israel has its roots centuries ago. Learning to spend time in contemplation and having the mutual support of a community both combine to create the tradition of the Carmelite Order. Children and adults lost in wonder in a holy place cannot help but come back rejuvenated!

In a month's time the RCIA will start up again. Adults seeking to join the Church or complete Initiation through Confirmation will gather to explore faith, to ask questions and share experiences, to tease out what knowledge, experience and expression of faith can mean in our present world in the lives of those who gather. It is always brilliant! Every single person who comes is a gift, bringing a treasury of insights to enrich the whole group. I have always gained so much from those who come. It is a journey of faith where we develop ways of praying and heighten our understanding of the traditions of the Catholic Church. Are YOU an adult who wants to join the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion? Are YOU a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation as a teenager and NOW feel ready to take that important step? Do YOU know of someone waiting for an invitation? COME ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER TO OUR LADY'S SACRISTY AT 7.30PM AND FIND OUT MORE! As we take up our weekly tasks, may God enlighten us and fan into a flame what we have already received! God bless you. On 1st October I start my 15th year as your Parish Priest. Please pray for me. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

SEASON OF CREATION The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The idea of celebrating 1 September as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989, and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. The season runs from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you with all your creatures

and the whole universe that comes forth from the work of Your hands.

We acknowledge the privilege and responsibility that You give us as stewards of Your creation.

In our ignorance we have done damage to our common home

and our brothers and sisters are suffering.

Through faithfully following your Son guide and direct us to prepare for a better future.

Teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You.

Give us the grace to recognise, respect and protect all You have created,

using wisely all that you have entrusted to us. Holy Spirit, who first hovered over the dawn of creation and drew order out of the chaos help us to build your kingdom of justice, love, peace and beauty where the poor of the earth are crying out.

You, who live and reign, world without end, Amen.

PARISH MEETING There were over 40 parishioners at last Wednesday's meeting. After much discussion, the feeling was overwhelming that the merger of the parishes into one with three churches should take place. Helga Mangion is working on a final report which should be ready in a week's time and this will be sent to the Cardinal for his consideration. *You will be kept informed of developments as they arise.*

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICITY Fr. Norbert will be available to sign these forms on Monday 3rd October 4.30pm - 6.30pm, Monday 10th October 4.30pm - 6.30pm and Tuesday 11th October 4.30pm - 6.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard to make a five-minute appointment - email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk Parent/s and child are expected. Please download 'Extra Form' from the website and bring it filled in to the meeting. 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.

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.

ST. BERNADETTE Some of the relics of St. Bernadette are now in our country. 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. Please see the item on the parish website with the details.

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.

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: We will begin a study course on the Lives of the Saints this Friday (7th) and the following Fridays starting at 7.45pm and preceded by refreshments at 7.15pm. The meeting will be in the Parish Room of Holy Family and all are welcome!

CAFOD Fast Day – Fast Day envelopes will be distributed this weekend 1/2nd October and collected weekend 8/9th October. The food crisis is severe and it is going to take commitment and dedication to help as many people affected as possible. They need our support to recover and rebuild. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

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. A small group from WGC will join the celebrations.

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?

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.

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

COFFEE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S Sundays after 10.30am Mass, more volunteers welcome. The group is in need of a person to help co-ordinate this group, please let us know if you can help.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches This Sunday 2nd October Mass will be livestreamed at 10am from Our Lady's Church. Each week we will inform you of the timings.

FUNERAL Paula Feeney RIP Her Funeral will be on Tuesday 4th at 12.30pm at Our Lady's.

CAFOD GROUP will be meeting in the parish room at Holy Family on Tuesday 4th Oct at 2.30pm. Anyone wishing to come along will be very welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who work so hard to keep our churches and grounds looking so clean and beautiful. St. Bonaventure's church cleaning will be this Tuesday after 9.30am Mass.

RED BOXES/MISSIO

It is that time of year for the MISSIO Red Boxes to be emptied and the monies to be sent on to the Missions.

Please do leave your box with us in Church in the next couple of weeks if you would like us to count and bank the contents and return the box to you in due course.

Alternatively you can count the money yourself and donate by one of the ways listed below:

Sent by cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
Online missio.org.uk/redbox

By text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085 Or by phone 020 7821 9755 (office hours) By Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230 (Reference RB+ your postcode)

Your generosity makes such a difference and supports the work of the Missions. Thank you!

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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

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.

MASS TIMES

01 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Michael Flynn (R.I.P.)
02 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anene Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Patricia Oliver (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Private intention
	11.30am	Our Lady	Ann O'Keefe (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	People of the Parish
03 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Alan Hallett (R.I.P.)
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Katarzyna Lacina (R.I.P. 4 th anniv)
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady Paula Feeney R.I.P.
	7pm	Our Lady	Mary (Josie Harte) (R.I.P.)
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Philip Reagen
06 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Anthea Tamlyn (R.I.P.)
07 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Noleen Fogg (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Rafael Velho Pereira (R.I.P.)
08 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Barry Kilkenny (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Kamil and Josefina Florek