

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*

30th Sunday of the Year 23rd October 2022

Prayer was essential in the life of Jesus Christ and he desires that it be at the heart of who we are as his followers. St. Luke gives us parables about prayer - persistent (as last week) and with the right frame of mind (this Sunday). Prayer is our connection with God, in and through his Beloved Son Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is two-way and involves an attentiveness to God as well as an offering of what we need. It demands acknowledging our dependence on God and it informs how we regard and treat others. The Lord wants us to learn to pray even more and deepen the experience.

Prayer in its many facets was at the centre of the visit of St. Bernadette's relics to Stevenage earlier in the week. I had the privilege of sharing in what had been prepared, and was celebrated, in the short space of 20 hours! Children were immersed in the message of Lourdes as they gathered in St. Vincent de Paul School: there was an outdoor shrine of Our Lady, a well-being walk and the creating of banners and exquisite imitation-reliquaries containing the beads of one decade of the Rosary. Adults and secondary school students prayed with the children and helped them feel the Lourdes experience. There was a huge sense of expectation as we waited outside St. Joseph's Church for the relics to arrive and, as they were carried in, all followed with yellow roses to remind us of the roses in Our Lady's feet when she appeared to St. Bernadette. Throughout the day people streamed into the church to honour the reliquary and to pray: in silence and stillness, reciting the Rosary or queueing to come closer to the relics. It was such a powerful expression of faith and truly a taste of our Catholic tradition. I was hearing Confessions non-stop and helped with the Anointing of the Sick. Finally at the end of Monday the Bishop celebrated Mass and there was a candlelight procession outdoors. It was magical and heavenly! For me, it was then a dash back to WGC, a few hours' sleep and then the return to Stevenage for 7am Mass. It was wonderful seeing so many people, having a time of contemplation, and celebrating Mass on the feast of St. Luke.

I am so grateful on behalf of our Deanery to Fr. Nigel Woollen and the team of parishioners and friends who created an environment of warmth and welcome, of joyful faith and outreach, and keeping us safe and secure in a unique moment of local history. This truly was faith-in-action and prayerful self-sacrifice. I invite you this week to reflect on prayer in YOUR life and how it can be enriched and extended. Be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God bless you! With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Each week we will inform you of the timings. This Sunday (23rd) 10.30am from St. Bonaventure's. Next Sunday (30th) from Holy Family. *We are grateful to Eddy Gallucci for his hard work in bringing the streamed Masses to us. If anyone would like to be available to help from time to time in the future, please let Fr. Norbert know.*

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 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 parishes.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start after Christmas. After half-term 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 n

FIRST FRIDAY Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 4th November at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All 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.*

COST OF LIVING CRISIS There will be a (free) Conference 'Firm Foundations in a Cost of Living Crisis' organised by our Diocesan Caritas on Saturday 12th November at All Saints College, St. Charles Square, Ladbroke Grove W10 6EL . If anyone would like to attend, please let Fr. Norbert know and he'll give you the link for ticket/s.

TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY The Diocese is aiming to have a neutral carbon footprint by 2030. Towards this end there will be a briefing in Westminster Cathedral Hall on Saturday 5th November 10 for 10.30am. If anyone is interested in helping us on our parishes to work on this, then please contact Fr. Norbert.

EVENING OF RECOLLECTION The next evening at Holy Family Church will be on Thursday 24th November. More details to follow.

CLOCKS will go back one hour next weekend (29th/30th) as British Summer Time comes to end. Don't forget!!

HALF-TERM 24TH - 28TH OCTOBER A happy and restful holiday to our children and staff. Come back refreshed!

FUNERALS

JOHN HILL RIP John's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 31st October at 12.30pm.

RON BURGESS R.I.P. Ron's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 23rd November at 12.45pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 25th October at 10.15am.

Our Lady's Tuesday 15th November at 7.45pm.

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: Our study course on the Lives of the Saints continues on Friday evenings in the Parish Room of Holy Family. Please do join us! Refreshments will be served from 7.15pm and the session start at 7.45pm.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is closed this week in half-term (24th - 28th October)

NOVEMBER There are sheets at the back of each of our churches for you to write down the names of loved ones who have died. They should be returned to whichever church you attend and the names will be prayed for collectively during the month of November. There is no need to give any money.

ALL SAINTS DAY (Tuesday 1st November) This is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. There will be 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12 noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY (Wednesday 2nd November) A day when we remember and pray for the dead. Masses as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure and 7pm at Our Lady's.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 13th November at 1.30pm (followed by the Remembrance Day Service at War Memorial at 3pm). Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 20th November at 2pm.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF DEANERY This year's Mass will be at St. Thomas More, Knebworth (72 London Road SG3 6HB) on Tuesday 8th November at 11am. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Mass together with the priests of the Deanery. All are welcome!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY The Pope writes: 'Dear brothers and sisters, I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities...Would that all of us in the Church were what we are already by virtue of our Baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth!' One of the great ways we support the Church in other parts of the world is through Missio Red boxes. Please see below.

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!*

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

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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

CONFESSIONS

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

NEWS FROM OUR LADY'S PARISH HITCHIN (16 Nightingale Road SG5 1QS) **YOUNG ADULTS SOCIAL**

What: Parish Pals A young adults social (18-35) When Monday 31st October at 7pm
Where- Our Lady's Church Hitchin- inside church

Why- Meet like-minded people and have a moment to connect with God in Adoration

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP What: charismatic prayer (Open to all)

When Every Wednesday 2-3pm Where- Our Lady's Church Hitchin- inside church

Why- Meet like-minded people and have a moment to connect with God

Contact Rob for more information: roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk or 07862 764 884

ORDINATION of Brother Adams Tatsidjodoung from the Assumptionist Order on Saturday 12th November at 12 noon. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate the Ordination Mass. If any WGC parishioners would like to attend, please let Fr. Norbert know and he will pass on numbers to the parish in Hitchin. Let us keep Adams in our prayers.

MASS TIMES

22 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Michael Maher (R.I.P. Birthday)
23 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Tim Baker (intentions)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Special intention (cw)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Agnelo D'Souza (private intention)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Frantishek and Emilia Brish
	6pm	Holy Family	Rosa Joan D'Cunha (R.I.P.)
24 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
25 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Kate Casey (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Robert Chronell (R.I.P.)
27 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Phil and Arthur Spranklen (R.I.P.)
28 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Lara Ignatius (birthday intentions)
29 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Martin and John Glynn (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Derek Relph (R.I.P.) and Deborah Martin (R.I.P.)