

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*

33rd Sunday of the Year 13th November 2022

Last Sunday the heavens opened as we blessed the graves at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery! I can't remember it ever having been so wet. And yet people came, prayed together and stood by the graves of their loved ones, some of whom had died a long time ago as well as the more recent dead. It was not an afternoon for chatting - just a quick dash to the car after the sprinkling of Holy Water! Today we'll bless more graves at Hatfield Hyde near Our Lady's and follow with the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial. I remember one year giving the address and seeing the faces of so many uniformed young people standing to attention but with the rain dripping down their faces. Someone held an umbrella over my head; the youngsters were not allowed to avail of any such protection. It was an impressive moment seeing all those gathered to recall the sacrifice and devotion of so many for the sake of generations to come.

In our Gospel passage today from St. Luke, Jesus speaks to those around him, telling them about 'The End' with amazing signs, betrayal, suffering and woes. It is so frightening to be reminded about the end of time and yet Jesus keeps us focused on the culmination of all things. Two words he uses are, I think, essential: witness and endurance. The Lord asks us to bear witness to him, to speak his words, relying on the gifts to be offered to us of eloquence and wisdom. We hear from the Lord's lips that endurance will win us our lives. Keep going...never give up! We think about the resilience needed by those protecting us and other lands; we reflect on how we face personal crises and disappointments, determining to be steadfast. None of this is easy and the inspiration of God will enable us to carry this out.

As November moves on, let us continue to pray for the dead that they may be raised to eternal life. Let us pray for the bereaved that healing comfort may be a hallmark of this month.

God bless you and your loves ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Each week we will inform you of the timings. This Sunday (13th) 11.30am at Our Lady's. Next Sunday (20th) 10.30am from St. Bonaventure's.

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. We now have the Mass Intention diaries for 2023 so if anyone has a particular date to arrange a Mass in the coming year, why not let us know now so as not to be disappointed closer to the time?

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION There will be an enrolment meeting for parents and children from St. Bonaventure, Holy Family and Our Lady's on Tuesday 22nd November at 6pm in Our Lady's Church. The meeting should last around 40 minutes and dates will be given for the preparation and the First Holy Communions which will be celebrated in all three churches. Children should be at least in Year 3 at school.

CONFIRMATION Enrolment for young people for Confirmation will be on Sunday 27th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church. Bishop Paul McAleenan has given us Friday 9th June 2023 as the date for Confirmation here in Welwyn Garden City. Young people need to be at least in Year 9 at school and should come with their parent/s to the meeting which will last around 40 minutes. Dates for preparation will be given that day.

RCIA The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults for adults who would like to join the Catholic Church will next meet on Monday 21st November at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. 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. The meeting will last an hour. Last Monday there were 11 adults who came plus 3 apologies. Still time to join. Please speak to Fr. Norbert if you want to find out more.

PARISHES MERGER Fr. Norbert presented the proposal of merging our three parishes into One-Parish-with-three-churches to the Diocesan Council of Priests last Wednesday. Apart from one abstention, there was total agreement from the priests. The Cardinal will inform Fr. Norbert of the next steps. Fr. Norbert will keep you posted as he receives more information.

FOOD BANK IN OUR CHURCHES IS BACK IN ACTION 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. The Food Bank Baskets are at the back of our churches and so items may be left in them. A parishioner has kindly agreed to collect the food and take it to New Zion. The following items are especially asked for: Tinned items: ham, corned beef, vegetables, fruit, fish, beans. Cereals, long life milk, squash, jam, tea, coffee, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, bleach, clothes washing products, toiletries (shampoo, deodorant), kitchen and bathroom cleaner, ladies' sanitary items, toothbrushes & toothpaste and in the run up to Christmas anything Christmassy to bring joy to families. THANK YOU!

FUNERAL

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

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

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: Many thanks to everyone who attended the study course on the Lives of the Saints. We had the final session last Friday. People have expressed an interest in continuing this group in some way, so please look out for further details of meetings in the newsletter.

SIGNED MASS The Diocesan Deaf Service will be here in WGC at 6pm Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 17th December. If anyone would like to help with signing hymns and helping on the day, please let Fr. Norbert know. A practice has been set for Wednesday 7th December at 7pm at Our Lady's for one hour. It would be great to have a good number coming!

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6pm. It's a quiet and peaceful place to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and light a candle.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS 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.

BLESSING OF GRAVES 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.

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.

INTERFAITH WEEK This week is National Interfaith Week. There will be an event at St. Albans Cathedral 7.30 - 9pm on Monday 14th November. On Thursday 17th there will be a Shared Supper at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway AL8 6JG 7.15pm until 9.30pm. More details www.interfaithwh.com

EVENING OF RECOLLECTION There will be an evening of recollection for men organised by Opus Dei on Thursday 24th November at Holy Family Church beginning at 7pm. The evening will include two spiritual meditations and a talk, the opportunity for confession and benediction. Refreshments will be served before and afterwards. It is a very good way to prepare spiritually for Advent. There will be a recollection for women at St Peter's Church, Hatfield on Wednesday 16th November at 7pm.

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 2nd December at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

SAFEGUARDING The Diocese is requesting that Disclosing and Barring rechecks are completed on all holders of a DBS, that was completed more than 3 years ago (unless you signed up for automatic rechecks at the time). The Parish Safeguarding Representatives ask that you make contact with one of them to start this process.

Ann Chappell (wgcdigswell@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Holy Family,

Mary Stephenson (wgeast@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Our Lady's

Cathy Staniforth (wgcsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) St Bonaventure's

Sending one of them an email, will allow them to add you to the system and start the process off. They will then meet with you, to confirm your identity documents. **This is essential and so your cooperation is appreciated...Thank you!**

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 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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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

GIVING TREE Once again we have decided to provide supermarket vouchers for local families in need at Christmas time. If you can help, please put your donation in an envelope labelled 'Giving Tree' and put it through the door of the Presbytery at Holy Family or Our Lady's by 20th November.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING will take place on Wednesday 16th November. There will be tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass.

OPEN EVENING AT THE FOCOLARE CENTRE FOR UNITY, Friday 18th November 7.30-9pm: An Evening of Song, tea/coffee provided. All welcome!

Save the date: Carols in the Cloisters, December 16th, 7.30pm.

MASS TIMES

12 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	James Bonass (R.I.P. Anniv)
13 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Tim Baker (intentions)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Holy Souls
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Remembrance Day Mass (Holy Souls)
	6pm	Holy Family	Holy Souls
14 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Margaret Coyle (R.I.P. 1 st anniv) and Patrick Coyle
15 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anene Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Holy Souls
16 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Andrew and Kay Cunningham (R.I.P.)
17 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Family and friends of the Hall and McManus families
18 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Margaret Coyle (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Siegfried Winzer (R.I.P.)
19 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Eleanor Shanahan (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	James Bonass (R.I.P. birthday)