

# 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*

***3rd Sunday of the Year 22nd January***

In our Gospel passage today from St. Matthew, we are told that Jesus leaves Nazareth, that is 'home', and makes his way to a new place - Capernaum. The Evangelist quotes from Isaiah about light shining out and then has these crucial words; 'From that moment Jesus began...' We are only in Chapter 4 of the Gospel and a huge unfolding of Scripture is waiting to happen; but here Jesus begins something very special. He preaches repentance and the fact that the Kingdom is close at hand. He calls two sets of brothers to follow him. He teaches, proclaims and cures. Light shines!

With the New Year well and truly underway, are there things, places or people you have left behind in 2022 - through choice or circumstance? What have you begun in 2023? How has this impacted on you, your loved ones and the situation you find yourself in? Do you feel the light of Christ radiating love, hope and confidence for you? St. Paul in our Second Reading writes to the community in Corinth about their wrangling, slogans and disunity. He is very harsh as he knows the Christians there should be a sign of Christ for one another and for those around them. He wants freshness and is honest with them.

Gathered today we are in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our aim is to work together, to pray side by side, to reach out to those in need that all may experience Christ through us and that we might experience him through them. This means having eyes which are open to see, ears unstopped to hear, minds balanced enough to understand and appreciate the other and hearts which are in harmony with Christ-like joy and love. Not easy all the time! What a difference this can make as we do our very best.

God bless you and your loved ones. May Christ's light shine upon us and our world. How fortunate humanity is to have experienced in its midst the very presence of his Son - Emmanuel, God with us!

With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

**EMERITUS POPE BENEDICT XVI RIP** Next Tuesday, 24th January at 5pm there will be a service of Vespers in Westminster Cathedral to honour the life of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict, and to pray for the repose of his soul. Many of the Bishops of England and Wales will be attending, as well as ecumenical guests. Lord Williams of Oystermouth, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, will give an address. Everyone is welcome.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY** Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is inviting communities across the borough to join in commemorating victims of persecution at an annual Holocaust Memorial Day event on Friday 27th January at 11am on the Campus Roundabout. The memorial will be led by Mayor, Barbara Fitzsimon. Following on from the memorial there is an invitation to refreshments at Humphreys Café to view art and written work on the theme 'Ordinary People' and Holocaust Memorial Day from local schools.

**HOLY LAND & JORDAN PILGRIMAGE** Fr. Norbert will be leading the pilgrimage from Sunday 19th to Tuesday 28th November 2023 £1597 per person for a shared room (or with a single room supplement of £597). The pilgrimage will go to Petra in Jordan which will be a first for us from Welwyn Garden City. There are brochures and booking forms at the back of each church. If you would prefer to go online, the link is <http://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/hj0812/> To secure a place booking forms and a £400 deposit need to be in with All Saints by 15th February. It promises to be a brilliant experience. Let others know!

**LISTER HOSPITAL** If a parishioner or a family member goes into the Lister Hospital, the following links might be helpful: Non-urgent referrals 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), Chaplaincy Team email is [spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net) Please remember that the sick person must want the Chaplaincy to know that they are Catholic and that they want to be seen by a priest!

**FINANCE COMMITTEES** The reviewing of the accounts for 2022: St. Bonaventure's Finance Committee will do so on Wednesday 1st February at 10.30am and Holy Family's Finance Committee on 1st February at 5pm.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** The main Service of Prayer is today (22nd) in Our Lady's Church at 4pm. Christians from across *Churches in WGC* are joining us as we explore the theme: "Jesus in the Garden City" and pray for our churches and the town. Our guest preacher is Revd Jude Livermore (Head of Mission, the Methodist Church of Britain). It is the first time in a number of years that the Service will be in a Catholic Church. It would be great to have lots of you there! Afterwards there will be tea and cake in the Trinity Hall. The Service will last 50 minutes and the tea half an hour or so. The Mayor, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, has kindly agreed to attend. Please come if you can. *We are grateful to all who have offered to help in church and in the hall.*

**FR. NORBERT'S INSTALLATION AS CANON** will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 7th February during Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 4.45pm. Afterwards there will be Mass at 5.30pm. Everyone is most welcome! There will be a Parish Celebration on Saturday 11th February with Mass at 6pm and a Reception in the Trinity Hall at 7.15pm. Ann Chappell has kindly agreed to coordinate the party. Please contact her on [ahchappell@aol.com](mailto:ahchappell@aol.com) if you can offer help in any way. Fr. Norbert continues as Parish Priest of WGC and Dean of Stevenage.

**COMMONSWOOD SCHOOL** will have a concert in Our Lady's Church on Thursday 26th January, postponed because of the snow in December.

**LOOKING AHEAD** The Mayor's Civic Service will be in Our Lady's on Sunday 26th February at 3pm. There will be a Day Out to Ely organised by the Christian Churches on Saturday 10th June. There will be a Polish-English Mass at 6pm on Saturday 17th June with a reception afterwards. The Filipino Community will lead 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th June with a party afterwards. The annual African Mass will be on Sunday 2nd July at 11.30 with a celebration afterwards. *Please put these dates in your diaries and come!*

**TRINITY HALL** is now available for hire. Bookings and enquiries can be made through the [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk) website, which contains the terms and conditions of hire, suggested donations for hirers as well as a live diary showing bookings and time available for hire. Please enjoy this wonderful resource and spread the word amongst friends and family who may be looking for a Hall to hire.

**STREAMED MASS** [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Mass on Sunday 22nd January 10.30 will be livestreamed from St. Bonaventure.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wanting to marry in 2023/2024 either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork. The Preparation Day will be on Saturday 18th February. It will be the whole day and end with a Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6pm Mass. Some couples have indicated that they will attend the day. Fr. Norbert asks all couples coming to email him on [norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk) so that he can send by email the latest information.

**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 presbyteries.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The first session for parents and their children is on 29th January in Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5.00pm. If anyone has not yet made contact to enrol their son/daughter, please Kathryn Hubbard on [parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk](mailto:parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk)

**CONFIRMATION** The first session for the young people will be in the Focolare Centre (Parkway) on Sunday 22nd January 3 - 5pm. Anyone who has not yet enrolled, please email Fr. William on [williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk)

**RCIA** The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 23rd January at 7.30pm.

**FIRST FRIDAY** Next 6.30am Mass will be on Friday 3rd February followed by breakfast in the Hall at St. Bonaventure's. All welcome.

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Come for silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Light a candle. Feel the Lord's presence!

**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 24th February.

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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](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk)**

**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. The Food Bank Baskets will be at the back of our churches and so items may be left in them. 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.

**INTERFAITH ELIMINATING MISCONCEPTIONS OF ISLAM** Last year the inter faith group welcomed the Chair of the Welwyn Garden City Islamic Society to join our committee. He has secured an excellent speaker for our next evening meeting which will be **next** Tuesday 24 January 2023 8.00pm. – 9.15pm. Details available at the back of the church. Zoom

### MASS INTENTIONS

21 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Alan and Margaret Staples (intentions)
	6pm	Our Lady	Jo Neumann (R.I.P. anniversary)
22 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Lourdes D'Souza
	9.30am	Holy Family	Maria Luisa Federici (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Fr. John McKenna (intentions)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Sean Cunningham (R.I.P. 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	Francis Stevens (intentions)
23 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Ma Teresa Manuel (for healing)
24 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Ma Teresa Manuel (for healing)
25 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Mrs Jadwiga Rynska (R.I.P.)
26 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Kevinn Carrigan (R.I.P.)
27 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Tony Wilson (R.I.P.)
28 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Bernie Armitage (intentions)
	6pm	Our Lady	Geraldine and Saturn D'Souza (Golden wedding)