

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*

4th Sunday of the Year 29th January

'Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.' These are the opening words of Chapter 5 of St. Matthew's Gospel as we embark on the Sermon on the Mount. If you saw hordes of people, what would you do? Run away from them? Head towards them? Wonder what to do? Christ moves up, he takes his place in a seated position and is joined by his disciples. Again, did the disciples go up immediately? Did they wonder what was going to happen next? Were they worried about crowd control - health and safety?!!! Crucially the Lord begins to speak and his words form teaching to shape the identity of the disciples and put the masses in touch with the Kingdom of heaven. The Lord talks and talks; he challenges and he affirms. Christ emerges as the new Moses who will save God's people and put in their hands life-giving teaching. Even though the multitude seems to be great, the Lord has a word for each individual.

As we gather today for Mass, the Word of God entrusted to us speaks of Blessings and Happiness - the essence of belonging to the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus through God's grace can turn things around so that what is negative, burdensome or painful can be transformed into a hope-filled experience suffused with God's love. Does that make you feel any better when the weather is cold and miserable, or when you wonder about the Ukraine and the next stages in the conflict? As the financial crisis looms and times are desperate for so many, how does receiving this Word of Christ impact on you? Moses was alone with God up the mountain and when he finally emerged with the tablets of stone inscribed with the Law, he found the people worshipping the Golden Calf which they had created for themselves. It can be very easy to give ourselves over to idols to compensate for uncertainty. In the case of Jesus Christ, he is the one who reveals the Law in person and so we hold onto him; he is God's personal revelation to us and so we look to him. He suffered hugely for the human race and so we discover through him the gift of salvation. Halfway through this Sermon, we will enter Lent and journey with Jesus to the Cross and Resurrection. Let's enjoy these few weeks of the Sermon on the Mount focussed on Jesus and surrounded by so many other people!

In 10 days or so on Tuesday 7th February, my installation as Canon of Westminster Cathedral will take place. Everyone is welcome and there are no tickets required. Vespers (at 4.45pm) is the Evening Prayer of the Church made up of psalms, Scripture and intercessions. I will be called up and the Cardinal's letter read out. I will make a Profession of Faith with my hand on the Book of Gospels. I will be vested as Canon and then taken to my seat (stall) - hence installation. Then there will be Mass. Afterwards I plan to greet those who have come on the piazza of the Cathedral - hopefully it will be dry! My role is to be a consultor, to represent the Diocese and especially to be a voice for others. I am so proud to be your Parish Priest and this honour recognises our relationship as priest and people and the powerful, loving presence of the Church in Welwyn Garden City and beyond. God bless you and your loved ones.

With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE Parents who need a Certificate of Catholic Practice for entry into a Catholic school are asked to download the relevant form from the parish website and return it as soon as possible to Fr. Norbert who will make contact with the family. Thank you.

CAFOD Volunteers needed – Find out more Wednesday 1st February. CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people join us as volunteers here in the Westminster Diocese. Could you help us raise awareness about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice? Find out by joining our meeting this Wednesday 1st February from 2.30 - 4.30pm in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony Sheen at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970

FUNERALS

Anne McCann's Funeral Mass will at 9.30am on Friday 3rd February at Our Lady's Church.

Barry Staton's Funeral Service will be at 11am on Monday 6th February at St. Bonaventure's.

Paul Neall's Funeral will be at 12.30pm on Friday 10th February at St Bonaventure Church.

Bernadette Armitage's Funeral will be at 1pm on Wednesday 15th February at Our Lady's Church.

Kathleen Coughlan's Funeral will be at 1pm on Tuesday 21st February at Our Lady's.

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. 17 places already booked!

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 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 Thank you to everyone who helped with the Service last Sunday and with the refreshments afterwards. All who came felt uplifted by the experience.

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! (Fr. Norbert's cousin, Jude, is coming from Toronto in Canada and will be staying in the Presbytery for 10 days.)

PARISH CELEBRATION OF INSTALLATION on Saturday 11th February with Mass at 6pm and a Reception in the Trinity Hall at 7.15pm. Ann Chappell writes: The Trinity Hall kitchen is not equipped for catering yet. Volunteers are asked to prepare a platter of either a sweet or savoury 'finger food' on a platter ready to be set on the food tables. There will be small plates for guests for their finger food. We are unable to heat food items. When you bring your food, please label the bottom of your serving platters so they can be returned promptly. Food can be brought to the Trinity Hall from 5.30 pm on the day. Soft drinks and wine will be provided. Email me if you can help and what you plan to bring, ahchappell@aol.com. I hope to see many of you at this rare special celebration.

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

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY is on 5th February. The theme chosen for 2023 is “All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together”. This was inspired by observations made by Pope Francis during his visit to Canada last year when he spoke about looking towards a future of ‘Justice, healing and reconciliation’ and by conversations following RJS 2022.

CIVIC SERVICE The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, has asked that her Civic Service should be held at Our Lady's with a Reception in the Trinity Hall. This will take place on Sunday 26th February at 3pm. Mayors and dignitaries from across Hertfordshire will be present. Parishioners are invited but should let Fr. Norbert know if they plan on coming by Monday 13th February. Altar servers are invited to take part and should let Fr. Norbert know soon if they can be there. This not a Mass but a Service lasting around 45 minutes. It is the first time in decades that it will be in a Catholic Church in the Borough. Please consider giving it your support.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF OUR LADY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL In 2023, the community of Our Lady Catholic Primary School will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the opening of our school, which took place 24th June 1953 with His Eminence Cardinal Bernard Griffin (the Archbishop of Westminster). To mark this special occasion, we have already invited His Eminence, Cardinal Vincent Nichols to celebrate a special Mass with us, which will be taking place on 20th June, 2023. We are also planning on inviting a number of ex-pupils, staff and parents to come and celebrate this milestone in our history. We want it to be very much be a community-based celebration in which lots of different people can come together to reflect upon the journey that the school has been on since it first opened its doors in 1953. To plan for this exciting event, we are setting up a working party of parents, staff, governors and parishioners who will form a planning committee for this special anniversary. Our first meeting will be taking place in the school hall at 2.00pm on Thursday 2nd February. If you would like to join the working party,

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

CONFIRMATION Please pray for the young people and their catechists who have begun their preparation for Confirmation.

RCIA The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 30th January at 7.30pm.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Mass on Sunday 29th January at 11.30am will be livestreamed from Our Lady's. Mass on Sunday 5th February at 10.30 will be livestreamed from St. Bonaventure.

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!

SCHOOL VISITS Children from Holwell Primary School will be visiting Our Lady's Church: Year 5 on Monday afternoon and Year 4 on Tuesday morning.

LOOKING AHEAD 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 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.

Parish Priest
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

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

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.*

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.

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 so that he can send by email the latest information.

MASS INTENTIONS

28 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Geraldine and Saturn D'Souza (Golden wedding)
29 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Mrs Teresa D'Souza
	9.30am	Holy Family	Geraldine and Saturn D'Souza (Golden wedding)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Rita McKenna (intentions)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Ma Teresa Manuel (for healing)
	6pm	Holy Family	Freddie Marshall's intention
30 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	For our priests
31 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Noel Whelan
	7pm	Our Lady	David Metcalf (R.I.P.)
01 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Private intention
02 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	
03 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Adoracion Domingo Cruz (R.I.P. anniversary)
	7pm	Our Lady	Brian Robinson (R.I.P.)
04 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Chris Leonard