

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*

5th Sunday of the Year 5th February

In our Second Reading today from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, he speaks to the community about 'a demonstration of the power of the Spirit.' When you read those words or hear them, how do you imagine what the Apostle is referring to? In the Acts of the Apostles given to us by St. Luke, the Spirit is made known through noise, tongues of flame and many languages. In St. John's Gospel, the Spirit is the breath of Jesus, a breeze blowing where it will. In the Hebrew Scriptures Elijah encounters God in a still small voice - almost a whisper. I think that this power of the Spirit is about communication - God with us and our openness to him; our attention to the Presence and his yearning to enrich us. Paul feels called to be an instrument and carries this out with his whole being. The Apostles were entrusted with a special mission by Christ and handed on their first-hand experience of the words and actions of the Lord. They tried to use language as a mode of conveying truths which were deep and mystical; they relied on the Holy Spirit to be the driving force behind their teaching.

What about us in our period of history and in the places where we live? Jesus has something profound to say to us in today's Gospel passage from St. Matthew! YOU are salt...YOU are light! There's no beating about the bush with Christ - he looks at his disciples and he knows he can count on them. He spends time with them and they, in turn, can change the world, giving glory to God in the process. How do you feel about the fact that the Lord has such confidence in you? Our homes, our places of work, our schools and our streets can and should become grace-filled crucibles of loving encounter because we have taken the trouble to let the Lord be seen through us. Amazing! Don't leave it to someone else. Let your whole being radiate him who is Emmanuel - God-with-us.

I would like to say a personal 'Thank you' to everyone who has expressed kind words and encouraged me given that Tuesday's installation is imminent. Lots of you have told me you hope to be there. Obviously, it's a long way into London and circumstances might prevent many from attending. However, the strength of your prayer is a demonstration to me of the power of the Spirit and a feeling of closeness we share in our Christian Community. I am fortunate to have you and a multitude of others to support me. God bless you.

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.

FUNERALS

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

Pat Frost's Funeral Mass will be at 9.30am on Wednesday 8th February at Holy Family Church. (Pat was Sophie Constable's aunt and Marion's sister.)

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.

Ann Carton's funeral Service will be at 11.45am on Monday 27th 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. 22 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!

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 here from Toronto in Canada and is staying in the Presbytery.)

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 5.30pm 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. There will also be music and the cutting of a cake.

The CAFOD group will be holding a cake sale at Holy Family after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 12th February.

LOURDES HCPT Group 183 have a couple of places left for children, to join this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. If you know of a child or family who would benefit from the opportunity to travel with HCPT please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313. The costs of the children's fares are covered by the group. The group travels with lots of very experienced helpers as well as a nurse.

QUIZ NIGHT HCPT Group 183 (our local parish group) and CWL, will be having a quiz night on Friday 17th February. Teams of up to 8 people £5 per person at Trinity Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Please bring own drinks. To book your table please call Barbara on 07789743703

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING: THE ADVENTURE CALLED MOTHERHOOD - TAKING ONE STEP AT A TIME. Ana Siewniak shares her journey as mother, wife and Christian. Experiences lived over 17 years, challenges faced and wisdom she has acquired. Friday 17th February 7.30-9pm. Focolare Centre for Unity AL86JG. Tea/coffee provided.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY The theme chosen for this year 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.

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!

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 please contact the school office if you would like to join the working party,

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next session for parents and their children is on Sunday 12th February at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

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 6th February at 7.30pm.

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!

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.

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.

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.

FOOD BANK The Food Bank Baskets are at the back of our churches for items of non-perishable food.

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

INTERFAITH Feeding the World: on Thursday 16th February at 8pm we will be presenting a Zoom about 3 agencies who aim to tackle hunger in the world, which will include CAFOD with the speaker being Bridie Nash. There are handbills with details available at the back of the church.

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.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Mass on Sunday 5th February at 10am will be streamed (from Our Lady's Saturday 6pm Mass). On Sunday 12th February, similarly Mass will be streamed at 10am (from Our Lady's Saturday 6pm Mass).

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

04 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Chris Leonard
05 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Mr Dominic D'Souza
	9.30am	Holy Family	Ann McDonald (90 th birthday)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Douglas Page (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	John McShane (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	Bob McCarthy's intentions
06 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Intentions of Dorothy Bagge (90 th birthday)
	11am	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Service Barry Staton R.I.P.
07 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Ann McManus (McCann) (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Canon Norbert Fernandes (intentions)
08 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Funeral Mass for Pat Frost R.I.P.
09 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Susan Cairns (R.I.P.)
10 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Susan Cairns (R.I.P. 1st anniversary)
	12.30pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass Paul Neall R.I.P.
	7pm	Our Lady	Bill Torrens (R.I.P.)
11 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Joe and Teresa Fernandes (R.I.P.)