

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Canon Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. William Johnstone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

6th Sunday of the Year 12th February

Thank you to all who were able to join me at Westminster Cathedral last Tuesday when I was installed as Canon. There were so many people from every part of my life and it was wonderful to feel the power of your presence. There were scores of parishioners who told me they couldn't be there but that they would pray for me at 4.45pm. I felt the impact of your prayer. There is this weekend's Mass and party - another opportunity to be together. My thanks to all involved. I am happy to be called Fr. Norbert or Canon Norbert, whichever you feel comfortable saying. I will enjoy wearing the purple at this stage but it won't be for every day! The canon's biretta with its red pompom is to be pulled out and worn from time to time. The most important thing of all is that we pray for one another and serve the proclamation and living out of the Gospel.

Speaking of Gospel, the Church has given us a huge chunk of St. Matthew to offer challenge and keep us on our toes...to keep me on the straight and narrow! Jesus gives us the picture of a good disciple being focussed on the Lord and living in a genuinely virtuous way. God wants all to share in the Kingdom of Heaven and enjoy eternal life. It is not about dressing up or having major celebrations and honours; these are secondary to the person of Christ. Jesus wants us to say 'Yes!' to God and mean it; nothing less will be considered.

On Tuesday I thought so much about my Mum and Dad and the huge part they have played in shaping who I am. I pray that they are with the Lord in the glory of heaven celebrating eternally! This weekend too they are very much in my heart. I am fortunate to have my brothers, their wives and my nephew and my niece; their generous love is a real support for me. Then friends and parishioners like you - you bring me nurture and joy. So, THANK YOU!

You are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

EARTHQUAKES IN SYRIA & TURKEY There will be a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend to raise money for the people affected by the devastation in Syria and Turkey. The money will be sent to CAFOD for distribution. Please use one of the special envelopes if are able to GiftAid your contribution. Thank you for your generosity. Obviously there was no time to give you notice of this collection.

ASH WEDNESDAY 22nd February. This is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at Mass as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

LENTEN COURSE Fr. William will run a course on Wednesdays starting on 1st March at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family. There will be refreshments beforehand. Please let him know if you are interested on williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk

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.

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

Bernadette Armitage's Funeral will be at 1pm on Wednesday 15th February at Our Lady's Church. Michael Ottaway's Funeral Mass will be at 9.30am on Thursday 16th February at Holy Family.

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

Anne Carton's Funeral Service will be at 11.45am on Monday 27th February at Our Lady's.

Mavis Cleasby's funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

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. There are brochures 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. 30 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!

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!

HALF-TERM We wish children, young people and all involved in Education a wonderful and refreshing half-term holiday.

TRINITY HALL We are pleased to announce that our initial 'test runs' for hirers have been successfully completed. The Hall is now available for general hire. Bookings and enquiries can be made through the www.wgc-catholics.org.uk website, which contains the terms and conditions of hire, 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. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY A Mass for couples celebrating 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries on Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

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, there is a working party of parents, staff, governors and parishioners.

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.

RCIA The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm. The Group will be presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election on Saturday 25th February at 2.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. On Sunday 19th February the Group will be presented at 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's.

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. Thank you.

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 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.

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!

THANK YOU to everyone who helps keep our three churches clean and looks after the grounds. This is much appreciated.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING This Tuesday after 9.30am Mass.

Parish Priest
Canon 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 12th February at 10am will be streamed (from Our Lady's Saturday 6pm Mass).

MASS INTENTIONS

11 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Joe and Teresa Fernandes (R.I.P.)
12 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	For our priests
	9.30am	Holy Family	People of the Parish
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Nicola Rorrison (sick)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Agnes Niblock (R.I.P. 1 st anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	Sr. Frances O'Halloran (R.I.P.)
13 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock (R.I.P. birthday)
14 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Carmel Vancell (R.I.P.)
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Rita McCann (R.I.P.)
16 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Elizabeth Swift (R.I.P.)
17 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Jennie Hill (sick)
	7pm	Our Lady	Steve Gore (R.I.P.)
18 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Fr, Michael Winstanley SDB (Golden Jubilee)
	6pm	Our Lady	Valerie Grice (R.I.P. 8 th anniversary)