

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*

Fourth Sunday of Easter 30th April 2023

We are entering historic times as we await the Coronation of King Charles III! Just think, the last Coronation was almost 70 years ago! Not many people had televisions then and so households gathered in the homes of those who owned one. The course of history with empires, kingdoms, rulers and borders has changed beyond recognition. Now we stop to pray, asking God to watch over our country and the Commonwealth at this momentous point in time.

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church asks us to focus on a different King - Jesus Christ. We are half-way through our paschal festivities and we remember the Shepherd-King who laid down his life for his flock and leads us to pastures eternal in the wonder and glory of heaven. Today's Gospel passage comes at the start of Chapter 10 of St. John where the Lord refers to himself not only as the Shepherd of the flock, but as 'the Gate of the sheepfold'. The text finishes with the powerful words: 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' (10:10) Jesus opens up the way for humanity to life - life in full measure; he himself is that opening which comes through his dying and rising. This Shepherd wants the very best for each one of us! Christ speaks of his intimate knowledge of the flock and how each one is able to recognise his voice. Thus, they are not afraid of following him.

There is an invitation today for us to consider that we have been called, that we ARE being called. We have a vocation! Jesus Christ has a place, a role, for us in his flock. He sees something amazing in each one of us and, as this gift develops, we enrich the flock as a whole, as well as growing in our own stature as his disciples. WHO are you? HOW has the Lord blessed you? WHICH gifts enable you to be effective as witnesses to Christ? WHERE are you heading? In the Church we believe there are many vocations each with a dignity and significance; they complement one another. Sometimes others can see in a person an ability to carry out a particular role and it is incumbent on those with discernment to speak and the other to listen and reflect.

When I was 6 or 7 years old, I felt I wanted to be a priest and so I offered myself at the age of 18 and was accepted for formation. 6 years of study, pastoral work, reflection and the knowledge that others were praying for me led to my priestly ordination in St. Anthony's, Edgware in 1988. Then the real learning began! Through people and situations, God helped me to understand what he was asking of me. I was opened up to new experiences and came face to face with fresh challenges and then I really knew why he had called me and how he had equipped me for this service. On 11th June I will celebrate 35 years of being a priest! I haven't regretted the decision one bit. I still need lots of prayers and there is even more waiting to be discovered!

Enjoy the long weekend. God bless you and your loved ones. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III The Bishops' Conference has printed special prayer cards to mark this historic event. Please take one of them. There will be a Triduum of Prayer from Wednesday in readiness for Saturday's Coronation. Prayers will be said at Mass and individuals/households are asked to add their prayers at home.

On Saturday 6th May morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be at 9.30am to allow people to return home in time to watch the Coronation. There will NOT be Confessions that morning.

FRIDAY 5TH MAY The Bishops' Conference has waived the Friday abstinence, so people can celebrate in anticipation of the Coronation. There will be the First Friday Mass at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's followed by a festive breakfast in the Hall! Everyone is welcome! This Mass will be livestreamed.

FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY Fr. Norbert writes: At Easter the new standing order forms were distributed with the one account for the merged Welwyn Garden City Parish. Many of you have returned these completed. Thank you! I would ask others please to consider setting up a standing order to make your regular gift to the church. Sometimes (or often) the machines at the back of the churches play up! Standing orders should be more straightforward and give us a steady income. We also ask those of you who are tax-payers to allow the parish to claim back the tax you have paid - GiftAid. This results in an extra source of income which doesn't cost you anything as long as you are a tax-payer. The donation must come from a bank account in the name of the taxpayer who is claiming Gift Aid which can be a joint account.

Thank you for your great generosity - it is much appreciated.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND This fund supports our seminary students: 14 at Allen Hall in London, 2 in Valladolid (Spain) and 2 at the Beda (Rome). The annual collection takes place this weekend. There are special envelopes for those able to GiftAid their contributions. Thank you for your generosity.

FUNERAL Fr. Peter Maher, former Parish Priest of Our Lady's, died on Good Friday. His Funeral will be at Our Lady and St. Michael Church, Crown Rise, Garston, Watford WD25 0NE on Wednesday 10th May at 1pm. May he rest in peace.

BANK HOLIDAYS Please note that on Mondays 1st, 8th and 29th May morning Mass at Our Lady's will be at 10am.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH FLOWERS We need more people to join this very small group. If you are interested contact Geraldine on 07507 990679 or Rachel on 07793 651834.

COPING WITH DEMENTIA A Free Event - May 18th 7-9pm Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place Welwyn AL6 9EN. Come and find out more.

CAFOD works with small farmers around the world who produce lots of the world's foods. But many of them are facing a huge problem.

For hundreds of years they have freely used and shared their own seeds, but laws are being passed that limit what they are allowed to do with their own seeds, giving them little choice but to buy more expensive seeds from large companies. These laws make it even harder for small farmers and their families produce enough food. Did you know back in the 1980s the ten biggest seed companies controlled less than 15% of the market. Today, just 4 companies control 50% of the market.

In the coming weeks we will be asking for your help to support small scale farmers around the world by signing a letter written by one such farmer to the World Bank.

The **CAFOD** group will meet on Tuesday 2nd May at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome.

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

VISITING PRIESTS Fr. Remy Pignal from the Diocese of St. Denis (Paris), Fr. Cedric de la Serre and Fr. Victor Vincelot both from the Diocese of Nanterre (Paris) will come for four days at the beginning of May and stay with Fr. Norbert. They came to WGC as seminarians/deacons and are now making a return visit - at the time of the Coronation!

Fr. Julio Barcudi from the Diocese of Mallorca (Spain) and studying Scripture in Rome has asked to come to WGC at the end of August to improve his English. All the necessary paperwork will be in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

Monsignor Harry Turner will be helping us with Masses in the coming weeks. We are grateful to him for his willingness to help.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 13th May at 6pm at Our Lady's. During this Mass Robi Brand will be confirmed and Ruby will be baptised. Everyone is invited into the Trinity Hall for the reception. The Brand Family has asked people to bring food to share. They will be providing food and drink too. All are welcome.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE On Saturday 20th May, we will be going by coach to Walsingham and will join the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf. Walsingham is a Shrine of Our Lady dating back to 1061. A lady called Richeldis had a vision and was asked to build a copy of the Holy House of Nazareth. It became a pre-eminent place of pilgrimage until the Reformation. It has now become once more the National Shrine of Our Lady in this country. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8am and depart from Walsingham around 4.30pm (arriving back around 7pm). There will be Mass and we will walk the Holy Mile. Please bring a picnic lunch hopefully to be enjoyed in good weather! Then there will be time to visit the Slipper Chapel and have personal prayer. The cost is £20 per seat. Please fill in one of the forms at the back of the church and return it with your money to Fr. Norbert. Please return booking forms soon...the pilgrimage fast approaches!

ELY The Christian Churches in WGC have arranged a day out in Ely on Saturday 10th June. Fr. Norbert who chairs the group has booked three coaches for this trip, which will give local Christians the opportunity to spend a day together. It includes our own special pilgrim service in the Cathedral, a tour of the Cathedral, and free time in Ely. We conclude our time in Ely with Evensong. The coaches will leave from outside Our Lady's at 8.15am and depart from Ely at 6.15pm. Tickets can be bought using the QR code or via the link on the 'Churches in WGC' website <https://churchesinwgc.org.uk/ely-pilgrimage-2023/> The booking system for this trip is more technologically devised as will be the boarding of the coaches!! Tickets are £20. The closing date has been extended to 12th May, so book soon!

LOOKING AHEAD 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. There will be a Signed Mass on Sunday 25th June at 11.30am at Our Lady's. 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!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES 30th April 11.30 at Our Lady's, 21st May 9.30 at Holy Family, 28th May 10.30 at St. Bonaventure's and 11th June 11.30 at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION The young people have one more session. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 9th June at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

MARRIAGE Any couples planning on getting married this year or next should speak to Fr. Norbert to arrange the necessary preparations.

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.

TRINITY HALL 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

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!

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.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's will reopen on Tuesday 2nd May. On weekdays, come and spend a moment in prayer, light a candle and feel the peace of the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle 7.30am until 6pm.

Parish Priest
Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234
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Our Lady's Church
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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

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Mass on Sunday 30th April will be streamed at 10am recorded at 6 o'clock Saturday Evening Mass.

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 19th May.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

29 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	For the Parish
30 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Mavis Cleasby (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Michael McGeehan (R.I..P. anniversary)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Intentions of the Groves family
	11.30am	Our Lady	First Holy Communion families
	6pm	Holy Family	Milly Fernandes (R.I.P.)
01 Monday	<u>10am</u>	Our Lady	Michael Flynn (R.I.P.)
02 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Thanksgiving to St. Jude
	7pm	Our Lady	Gabrielle Sealey
03 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Deceased members of the Reen family
04 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Esther McDonah
05 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Nick Kilhams (R.I.P.)
06 Saturday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Gerard Connolly (R.I.P.)