

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*

Fifth Sunday of Easter 7th May 2023

I remember my first visit to Welwyn Garden City when appointed as Parish Priest back in 2008. I came off the A1 motorway near Holy Family Church and had a quick look! I then drove over the White Bridge and was overwhelmed by the sight of the town centre in all its glory with the sun shining and the Coronation Fountain glistening. I made my way past St. Bonaventure's and then found Our Lady's where Fr. Peter Maher made me very welcome. He showed me kindness and gave me encouragement in the task of taking on the three parishes (as they were then). Sadly, with his death, the clergy associated with WGC at the time of my arrival have all now gone before us: Fr. Bill McConalogue, Fr. John McCoy, Fr. Joe Boward and now Fr. Peter. May they all rest in the glory of heaven.

Just think that the Coronation Fountain has been spouting water for the last 70 years! Those who designed it made it look like a crown and the water flowing creates a vital, life-giving sign. I wonder if, back in 1953, anyone thought that this icon would play such an important part in marking out the centre of Welwyn Garden City. Kingship is not static and certainly needs to be renewed in every age. Our living here in WGC, whether or not we came more recently or have lived here for a huge length of time is determined by the spirit of this Garden City and those whose vision resulted in such beauty. Let each one of us work for the Kingdom which Jesus inaugurated!

In our Gospel passage from St. John, we have moved to the Last Supper Discourse and hear Jesus speaking with conviction about his origins with the Father. To see Jesus is to be put in touch with his Father. We are signs to others of the amazing power of God made manifest in his disciples. Let us rise to this challenge!

May God bless each one of you and your loved ones. Thank you for the support you give me.

With love and prayers, *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. We will use them at Masses this weekend of the Coronation.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD is on Thursday 18th May and is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be 9.30 Mass at Holy Family Church, 12noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

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.

FUNERALS 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.

Andrei Shah's Funeral will be at Our Lady's on Saturday 20th May at 9.30am. (Fr. Frank Leonard will celebrate 10am Mass that day at St. Bonaventure's)
Eileen Noonan's Funeral will be on Monday 22nd May at 1.30pm at Our Lady's.

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

SVP request. A sofa is needed for a client. If you can help contact Janet 01707 326456. Thank you.

INTERFAITH On Wednesday 24 May at 7.30pm at the Focolare Centre we will be delighted to introduce Christine Novelli who is the Community Development Manager of the Isabel Hospice. Her presentation will include spiritual care. And for your future diaries we will be holding a shared summer supper at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 8th June at 7.00pm, more details later.

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING How it all Began: From Mater Dei School to Focolare Centre for Unity Friday 19 May 2023, 7.30 till 9pm at Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Tea/coffee provided. All welcome!

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!

VISITING PRIESTS This weekend we welcome 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) to be with us. They came as seminarians/deacons and are catching up with us all.

Fr. Julio Barcudi from the Diocese of Mallorca (Spain) has asked to come at the end of August to improve his English. He studies Scripture in Rome. Fr. Juan de Dios Prieto Garralda from the Diocese of Granada, also studying Scripture in Rome, has now asked to come at the beginning of July to improve his English. All the necessary paperwork will be in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

Monsignor Harry Turner is helping us in the coming weeks. We are grateful to him for his support.

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.

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!

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. The decision has been made only to have a 57-seater coach. There are around 10 seats left. There will be 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 coach 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 coach!! Tickets are £20. The closing date has been extended to 12th May, so book soon!

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 HOLY COMMUNION MASSES 21st May 9.30 at Holy Family, 28th May 10.30 at St. Bonaventure's and 11th June 11.30 at Our Lady's. Congratulations to the children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday!

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.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open. On weekdays (except bank holidays), 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
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

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Mass on Sunday 7th May 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

06 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Gerard Connolly (R.I.P.)
07 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Robi Brand (intentions)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Rita Wellington (R.I..P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Our Lady	Ian O'Briens's intentions
	6pm	Holy Family	Philomena Kinsella (R.I.P.)
08 Monday	<u>10am</u>	Our Lady	Private intention (H. C.)
09 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Victims of Sexual Abuse
	7pm	Our Lady	Madge Gilhooly
10 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Mavis Cleasby (R.I.P.)
11 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Pat Frost (R.I.P.)
12 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Andrei Shah (lately dead)
	7pm	Our Lady	Julian Fuller (R.I.P.)
13 Saturday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Kay Hussey (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Our Lady	Séan Cox
14 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Peter Bell (90 th birthday)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Maureen Brennan's intention
	6pm	Holy Family	Dinah O'Dowd (R.I.P.)