

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*

Sixth Sunday of Easter 14th May 2023

Love is a significant word in our Christian Faith. Its source is the Trinity of Persons and One God in whom love is offered received and shared. This Love has been poured out in Christ Jesus and is especially revealed in the Sacrifice of his life on the Cross and the glory of his Resurrection on Easter Day. This experience is celebrated every time we come to Mass and are caught up in his Offering of himself to the Father in the Holy Spirit. Through our lives in Christ, we are immersed in this love and he supports us as we reach out to others, as we make sacrifices and as we become instruments of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Today in our Gospel passage we have a third instalment from Chapter 14 of St. John - Jesus' Discourse at the Last Supper. The word 'Love' crops up a few times! Jesus is so aware of his origins and of his mission. The Lord wants to reveal the Father to his disciples - and that includes us! We are invited to receive and keep the Lord's commandments - crucially to love as he loves us. This means that our Christ-like loving will take us more deeply into the life of the Trinity and prepare us for the wonder of eternity where God wants us to dwell in Love always. That is why God the Son took flesh and lived among us.

At Mass today, remember we are still in the Easter Season with the light of Resurrection shining out. Our gaze is fixed on Pentecost - the Fiftieth Day - which will complete our Paschal celebrations with the Gift of the Holy Spirit being lavished upon us anew. In a mystical way we are being drawn into the very life of God which then becomes - or should become - a reality in our way of living. Ponder the love received from God and let that be a model of how you love others. Not easy but a wonderful and remarkable gift from, and to, God!

Have a great week ahead. God bless you.
Love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

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.

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III Our thanks to everyone who created a unique atmosphere in our churches last week through prayer, music and song, the flowers and decorations and especially the festive breakfast EARLY on Friday morning! Memories have been created which will stay with us for a long time. Thank you!

ASCENSION OF THE LORD is this 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 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 HOLIDAY Please note that on Monday 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 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 (Spain), 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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Mass on Sunday 14th May will be streamed at 10am recorded at 6 o'clock Saturday Evening Mass.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE on Saturday 20th May. We are going to have a minibus with 16 people and this is now full. We 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. You will all be in our prayers!

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 2 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/> Tickets are £20.

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!

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.

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.

OPUS DEI Evening of Recollection at Holy Family Church on 25th May at 7pm: An Evening of Recollection is a couple of hours when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. One or two meditations will be given by a priest, along with a talk and Benediction at the end of the evening. A priest will also be available for confession throughout the evening. This recollection is intended for men, however, there is also a recollection for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 17th May at 7pm. If you have any questions please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

HOLY LAND AND JORDAN 59 people have booked for November! Fr. Norbert plans to have a meeting of pilgrims in October to go through the travel plans. Also, a coach will be organised to take pilgrims to and from the airport (from WGC). All Saints Travel will keep pilgrims posted.

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 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.

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Our Lady's Church
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Parish Secretary
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St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Assistant Priest
Fr. William Johnstone 01707 327434
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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

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

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

13 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Séan Cox
14 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Private intention
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Peter Bell (90 th birthday)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Maureen Brennan's intentions
	6pm	Holy Family	Dinah O'Dowd (R.I.P.)
15 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Alan Hallett (R.I.P.)
16 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Patrick Coyle (R.I.P. anniversary)
17 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Dave Thomas
18 Ascension	9.30am	Holy Family	Michael Cade
		(also remembering	Guillermo Muceros and Anna Lisa Sabalvaro (R.I.P.))
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Mr. Brind (R.I.P.)
19 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Guillermo Muceros and Anna Lisa Sabalvaro (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Ewan Lamont (R.I.P.)
20 Saturday	9.30am	Our Lady	Funeral Mass Andrei Shah
	10am	St. Bonaventure	Danny Kenroy (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Our Lady	Mary Doocey also remembering Tricia Knights (R.I.P. anniversary)