

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*

Seventh Sunday of Easter 21st May 2023

We are now in the final dash towards Pentecost! The Holy Spirit can't wait to come to us! How will you spend this week?

If we turn to our First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the powerful image of Our Lady and the Apostles gathered in continuous prayer. They are in the Upper Room and they wait full of expectation for the Gift promised by the Lord to his followers. This is after the Ascension and they must have been concerned about what would happen to them now that their Friend had been taken from them.

In our Gospel passage from St. John, Jesus' Last Supper discourse turns into prayer as we enter Chapter 17 and Jesus addresses his Father. He speaks of glorifying and being glorified, of eternal life and keeping the commandments; he tells his Father he is on his way to him, while they will remain in the world.

I think the message is to PRAY! Prayer is talking, listening, praising, asking and especially PRESENCE. When we know the Lord is close to us in such an intimate way, we cannot help but want to spend time with him.

However, the Lord says to his Father that we will remain in the world. What does that mean? I think Jesus wants us to avail of every opportunity to share with others what we have experienced of his presence, of his message and of his actions while on earth. The Holy Spirit coming to us at Pentecost will seal the power and strength of God within us and enable us to be proclaimers of this Gospel - Apostles in our own day.

You are in my thoughts and prayers. Have a brilliant week! With much love, ***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.

ST. ALBANS.The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome.

EMAIL ADDRESS Please note that the Diocese has created a new email address for our one parish of Welwyn Garden City: wgc@rcdow.org.uk Please start using this new address from now on. Thank you.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY Pope Francis, following tradition, released his message for World Communications Day on 24 January, the Feast of St Francis de Sales – patron saint of Catholic writers and journalists.

The Holy Father stresses the need to listen before speaking truth with a pure heart to “see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, also in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live.”

“The call to speak with the heart,” he says, “radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth.”

The Pope hails the example of the great Doctor of the Church, St Francis de Sales, and his commitment to patient, heartfelt dialogue with everyone – even those who opposed him. A gifted theologian, his phrase “Heart speaks to heart” inspired many, none more so than the recently canonised Saint John Henry Newman who, on being made a Cardinal in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII, chose as his cardinalatial motto, *Cor ad cor loquitur* or Heart speaks to heart.

Catholics in England and Wales will remember with affection that ‘Heart speaks unto heart’ was also the motto for Pope Benedict XVI’s historic visit to the UK in 2010.

The 57th World Communications Day is celebrated on 21 May 2023.

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.

FUNERAL 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.

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. Juan de Dios Prieto Garralda from the Diocese of Granada (Spain), studying Scripture in Rome, will come at the beginning of July to improve his English

Fr. Julio Barcudi from the Diocese of Mallorca (Spain) will come at the end of August to improve his English. He also studies Scripture in Rome. All the necessary paperwork will be in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials. Monsignor Harry Turner is helping us this Sunday (21st) at 10.30am and next Sunday(28th) at 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. Fr. Stephen Coker from Letchworth will celebrate 9.30am and 11.30 Masses on Sunday 4th June and 10.30 Mass on Sunday 11th June. We are grateful to them for their support.

FROM CAFOD Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that “Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.” For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

ELY The Christian Churches in WGC have arranged a day out in Ely on Saturday 10th June. The 57-seater coach is now full. We will leave from outside Our Lady's at 8.15am and depart from Ely at 6.15pm. You will all be in our prayers.

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 today (21st) 3pm at Focolare Centre). 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.

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.

MISSIO RED BOXES 2022 In 2022 our Welwyn Garden City Missio members raised the wonderful total of £3560.15 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you so much! The Missio members here in Welwyn Garden City are part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. Do visit [missio.org.uk](https://www.missio.org.uk) to find out more about how your support changes lives for the better. Thank you again for your generosity.

CHURCH CLEANING at Holy Family will take place on Wednesday 24th May. Tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass and then cleaning. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the last clean. It would be wonderful to see you all again on the 24th.

Also cleaning at St. Bonaventure's this Tuesday after 9.30am Mass,

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White, one of our parishioners for his first full iron distance triathlon on the 15th July 2023. A gruelling 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run, in aid of Parkinson's UK, something his mother-in-law and Auntie are suffering terribly from. You can donate to his JustGiving page by searching here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spencer-white6> or if easier Spencer or his wife Jenny will be at Mass at both HF and Our Lady's over the coming weeks. Many thanks.

FIRST FRIDAY Our next early morning Mass will be on Friday 2nd June at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All are welcome.

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Holy Family Church
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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.

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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Mass on Sunday 21st May will be streamed at 11.30am Mass from Our Lady's.

MASS INTENTIONS

20 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Mary Doocey also remembering Tricia Knights (R.I.P. anniversary)
21 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	David Brand intentions (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	First Holy Communion
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	John and Josephine Barcroft (intentions)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Josie Bell (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	Dinah O'Dowd (R.I.P.)
22 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Hallett family intentions
	1.30pm	Our Lady	Funeral Mass Eileen Noonan R.I.P.
23 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lucia Federici (birthday intentions)
	7pm	Our Lady	Paddy and Sadie Glynn#
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Mary Cade
25 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Anthony Anene R.I.P. (1 st anniversary)
26 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Private intention
	7pm	Our Lady	Gordon and Kathleen Kerr
27 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Ben D'Souza (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Pauline Reed