

# 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*

## ***Corpus Christi 11th June 2023***

I am just back from a week of retreat with the Poor Clares in Arundel. It is so good to have had a time of quiet with prayer and opportunities for reflection. What I hadn't remembered was that at Arundel Cathedral they mark the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on the Thursday! For the rest of England and Wales it is today! Every year a carpet of flowers is created in the main aisle of that Cathedral and at the end of the Mass there is a Blessed Sacrament Procession into the grounds of the Castle with Benediction; then a return to the Cathedral with the Bishop carrying the Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament over the carpet of flowers. 2023 is the 150th year since the Cathedral was built.

What an experience I had! There were hundreds and hundreds of people of all ages, some locals, others visiting from other parts. The First Holy Communion children carried baskets of petals and strewed these in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The BBC was filming in readiness for a future Songs of Praise with a drone overhead. The Procession lasted for an hour and a half. The sun shone and there was a powerful expression of faith as people knelt to receive the Benediction. Finally, I was invited to have dinner in the Castle as one of a group of around 100 guests. Corpus Christi 2023 will stay firmly in my memory.

There were so many external signs last Thursday to highlight our Catholic Faith in the Lord's Real Presence in the Eucharist. Bread and Wine truly become Jesus Christ - Body, Blood Soul and Divinity. We believe that the Lord's intention at the Last Supper was to leave us this great Gift which puts us in touch with the love which unfolded in his Life, Death and Resurrection. And because it is really the Lord, he guarantees that our worship is Divine, rooted in the intimate love of Father and Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Eucharist is Food for the Journey through life just as the manna sustained the people of Israel on their pathway through the desert. This Bread of Angels also opens our eyes to the needs of others, especially the suffering and so it commissions us to work for the Kingdom which Jesus inaugurated.

May our love and understanding of the Eucharist be strengthened today. Please pray for me on my 35th Anniversary of Priesthood.

God bless you all. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

## **CHANGES:**

**FR. WILLIAM JOHNSTONE** After nearly two years with us, Fr. William will be moving this summer to take up a new appointment as Assistant Priest at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, London NW10. The move was announced earlier this week. We are grateful to Fr. William for his service here in our churches and we ask God's blessing upon him in this new role. A date for a Farewell Mass and Reception will be announced in due course.

**FR. MARCO SALVAGNINI** will be the new Assistant Priest starting in September and resident at Holy Family. He was ordained with Fr. William for our Diocese and will come to us from Our Lady of Victories, Kensington High Street. We look forward to welcoming him to our community.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR** With the new canonical parish, it has been necessary to restructure and create the post of Parish Administrator which includes the responsibility of book-keeping for all three churches. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have given of themselves for many years: Bill Hayes at St. Bonaventure, Alison Augur at Holy Family and Linda O'Loughlin, Ernest Owusu-Afriyie and Affie Osayande at Our Lady's. The new post will be advertised and open to applications.

**KATHRYN HUBBARD** With the changes which have been made, the post of Parish Secretary will no longer exist. A process of consultation has taken place and Kathryn Hubbard who has served in this role for over 21 years has agreed to be made redundant after the summer. Fr. Norbert would like to express his gratitude on behalf of the parish for Kathryn's loyal and dedicated service over these decades in his time as Parish Priest and previously. There was a period with no resident Parish Priest of St. Bonaventure and Kathryn worked tirelessly to keep things going. She also kept a watchful eye on Fr. Joe Boward who lived in the Presbytery. There will be a Mass and Reception which will be announced soon. We pray for God's Blessing upon Kathryn, her husband David and their family.

## **FUNERALS**

**PETER CULLEN RIP** Peter's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 14th June at 1pm.

**PATRICK GLYNN RIP** Paddy's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 19th June at 1.15pm.

**ROY RANDALL RIP** Roy's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 28th June at 12noon.

**MAUREEN BRENNAN RIP** Maureen's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 19th July at 12.30pm.

**ROY D'CUNHA RIP** Funeral details still being finalised.

**PATRICIA KENNEDY RIP** Pat's funeral has yet to be arranged.

**FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING: THE SCIENCE OF GRATITUDE.** Friday 16th June 7.30-9.00, Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Tea/coffee provided, all welcome! This will be the last Open Evening before the summer break.

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY** World Refugee Day takes place every year on 20th June. 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of Refugee Week, which is an initiative founded in the UK. The theme for this year's Refugee Week is COMPASSION. Pope Francis has called compassion 'the language of God' and 'the path of true justice'. He also says that 'closeness, tenderness, compassion are the style of God. God draws near, and he draws near with tenderness and compassion.' Recently the Catholic Bishops' Conference shared the new document 'Love the Stranger'. You can read this at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/>

**HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES** is trying to find some local support for a deaf-mute Indian couple who are asylum-seekers. They have 2 sons who normally communicate for them but are now at school; so the parents are very lost and isolated. If anyone local has experience of this disability and might be able to offer them - or HWR volunteers- any support, please contact India Lind (Community Partnerships Support Officer -Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council) on 07880012275 or email [i.lind@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:i.lind@welhat.gov.uk) Thank you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS** Final celebration today (11th) 11.30 at Our Lady's.

**CONFIRMATION** Congratulations to the young people confirmed last Friday evening. We ask God to bless them in the future. Our thanks to Fr. William and the team of catechists as well as to Bishop Paul McAleenan for coming to celebrate the Confirmation Mass. We are also grateful to all who helped with the reception.

**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](mailto:wgc@rcdow.org.uk) Please start using this new address from now on. Thank you.

**FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY** Fr. Norbert writes: New standing order forms are available at the back of our churches. Thank you to all who have signed up! 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.*

**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](mailto: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 Philosophy in Rome, arrives in WGC on Saturday 1st July. He wants to improve his English and if anyone would like to spend conversational time with him or show him one of the sights in our area, please let Fr. Norbert know - especially 5th to 10th July. Fr. Juan will be hearing Confessions on Thursday 6th July 10.00 -10.30am at Holy Family and on Saturday 8th July 10.30 -11.00am at St. Bonaventure and 5.00 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's. He will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in English, Spanish and Italian! All the necessary paperwork is in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials. Fr. Stephen Coker from Letchworth is celebrating 10.30 Mass on Sunday 11th June. We are grateful to him for his support and to Fr. Nigel Woollen from Stevenage who celebrated last Tuesday's 7pm Mass.

**LOOKING AHEAD** 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. The Polish-English Mass clashes with another event and so has been cancelled.

**OPUS DEI RECOLLECTION EVENING** The next gathering will be at Holy Family Church on Thursday 22nd June 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 21st at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

**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.

**AFRICAN MASS** Ama Owusu-Afryie is organising a Children's Gospel Choir for this celebration. If any child would like to take part, their parent is asked to contact Ama on 0750052870 to find out about practices. Parents are asked to come to the rehearsals. This should make for a brilliant experience with uplifting Gospel songs!

**OUR LADY SCHOOL 70TH ANNIVERSARY MASS** Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass in Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 20th June at 11am to mark this special occasion. The whole parish is invited to join the school for the Mass together with many visitors. Congratulations to Our Lady's!

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** This great celebration organised by the SVP (Society of St. Vincent de Paul) will this year take place on Saturday 15th July at 12 noon at the Focolare Centre. More details to follow.

**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](http://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](http://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

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's is open. On weekdays (except bank holidays), 7.30am until 6pm.

**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.

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

**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.

**STREAMED MASS** [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

**CAREERS EVENT AT HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** KS2 pupils on the afternoon of Friday 16th June. The aim of this afternoon is for pupils to:

gain further knowledge about the wide range of careers they could aspire to.

hear from employers what they look for in young people and how that can relate to what they learn at school.

learn about the world of work beyond school.

be inspired to achieve their goals.

If any parishioners would like to make a contribution, please contact Miss Parmley at the school as soon as possible on 01707 375518 or email [rparmley@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk](mailto:rparmley@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk) Thank you.

### MASS INTENTIONS

10 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Pat Meenan (R.I.P.)
11 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anyhony Anene (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Bridie Frost
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Alec Noonan (R.I.P. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
	11.30am	Our Lady	First Holy Communion
	6pm	Holy Family	Family and carers of Pat Frost
12 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Bridget Shaw's intentions
13 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Maria Fernandes in thanksgiving
	7pm	Our Lady	Matthew Sawyer (R.I.P. anniversary)
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Carol Organ (R.I.P.)
15 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Guillermo Muceros and Anna Liza Sabalvara (R.I.P.)
16 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Rosaleen Dicks intentions
17 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Talty (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Mary Davin (R.I.P. Anniversary)