

# 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*

## ***15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 16th July 2023***

Creation figures hugely in our Scripture today! Just think about our world with the temperature extremes, the rain falling and climate change. Ponder how landscapes are changing beyond recognition very often due to human activity. Reflect on what will be seen and experienced in decades to come.

In our Second Reading, St. Paul writes to the Romans and tells them about creation which is groaning in one great act of giving birth; he speaks of a glory still to come and of a yearning for the revelation of God's children. The Apostle is aware of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit and who will be set free. The language is mystical; the images are from nature. We are put in touch with God's hand at work.

In our Gospel passage from St. Matthew, the Lord, who is surrounded by crowds of people, gets into a boat, sits down and starts telling them stories! Examples taken from nature serve as illustrations of the essence of the Kingdom of heaven. Today it is a Sower whose confidence in planting seeds results in his knowing that the generous casting of seeds will lead to growth and a huge harvest even though some will be lost. 'Listen anyone who has ears!' is his punchline.

As the school holidays begin, let each of us spend a moment or two considering how the Lord has been so close to us in these past months. There are the joys for which we are so grateful. There are the mistakes and sadnesses which weigh us down. I want to express my gratitude to the countless people who keep our parish alive, sharing their faith, enriching the Liturgy, reaching out to the needy and underpinning all we do with their organisational skills. As we see the crowds so attracted to the Lord, let us pray that we will offer those around us the vision of the Kingdom in person by our loving sacrifices and delight in our faith. May rest and refreshment come to us all, preparing us for another year come September.

May God bless you all, your loved ones and our community.  
With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

**FR. WILLIAM JOHNSTONE** will be moving in September to The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, London NW10. Fr. William will celebrate a Farewell Mass on Saturday 2nd September at 6pm in Our Lady's followed by a Reception in the Trinity Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

**RECEPTION** Ann Chappell writes: If you can provide food, email me [ahchappell@aol.com](mailto:ahchappell@aol.com). Finger food is requested, sweet or savoury. Food must be on a plate or tray ready to be placed directly on the serving table. In the email, let me know what you plan to bring and how many it will serve. It can be dropped off just before Mass at 5.45pm. We will provide small plates and forks for any food. If you can help (starting at 5.45 pm) please let me know by emailing me. I will assign you a task depending on the time you are able to assist. Thank you as always for your generous contribution of wonderful food and cheerful help.

**FR. MARCO SALVAGNINI** will be the new Assistant Priest starting in September and resident at Holy Family.

**KATHRYN HUBBARD** Kathryn's last day as Secretary will be Tuesday 5th September. 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 3rd September will be a Farewell with a Reception afterwards to which everyone is invited. It will take the form of a coffee/tea and cake party. Please let Fr. Norbert know, if you are able to make a cake. Thank you.

**MAUREEN BRENNAN RIP** Maureen's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 19th July at 12.30pm. Maureen's body will be received into the church at 4pm on Tuesday.

**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. Standing orders 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!**FIRST FRIDAY** Please note there will NOT be an early Mass in August at St. Bonaventure's.

**ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY** on Tuesday 15th August is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. The Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure and 7pm at Our Lady's.

**BANK HOLIDAY** on Monday 28th August. Mass at Our Lady's at 10am.

**STREAMED MASS** on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) 10.30am this Sunday (16th) will be livestreamed. After that there will be a break for the holidays. Our thanks to all who have helped with the streaming of the Masses.

**MR CLIVE MATHEW** is retiring this week as the Head of St. John Henry Newman School in Stevenage. We are so grateful for all he has done over many years for our young people. We wish him happiness and blessings in the next phase of his life.

**SCHOOLS** As the school holidays begin, we thank all the staff for their hard work in service of our children and young people and wish them a refreshing and well-earned break.

**CAKE SALE** at St. Bonaventure's after 8am and 10.30am Masses today (Sunday 16th) to raise funds for the Red Caps going to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Come and give them your support!

**VISITING PRIESTS** Fr. Juan de Dios Prieto Garralda will be leaving us this Tuesday. We are grateful for his wonderful presence here in the parish. Fr. Juan went to a friend's Wedding in Venice on Friday and is stranded until Monday because of a cancelled flight! He had wanted to say a personal 'Goodbye' to us all. We wish him every blessing for the future.

Fr. Julio Barcudi Godoy from Mallorca will arrive for a month on 19th August. All the necessary paperwork is in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

Monsignor Harry Turner will be celebrating Masses in our churches in the coming weeks. Fr. Frank Leonard will be at St. Bonaventure's next Sunday for 10.30 Mass. We are very grateful for their continuing support.

**CAFOD** Strawberry Tea 3pm today (Sunday 16th) at Sandy and Bob's, 401 Knightsfield, WGC. No charge. Donations welcome.

**MASS INTENTIONS** If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please contact Fr. Norbert.

**BAPTISMS** Please contact Fr. Norbert if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and he 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.

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's will close for the summer holidays from the evening of Friday 21st July and will reopen on Monday 4th September.

**GARDEN TEA PARTY** on Saturday 12th August between 3pm to 5pm in Fr. William's garden at Holy Family. Adults £5 and children £1 each; all donations are for Mary's Meals which supports children in developing countries receiving breakfast before school. Tickets obtained directly from Christine Kirke Mobile: 07770 785216 Email: [christinekirke@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christinekirke@yahoo.co.uk)

**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](mailto: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.

**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

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! All necessary safeguarding and health and safety guidelines are followed. The new co-ordinator is Anne Maclean-Eltham 07811926002.

**FIRST FRIDAY** Please note there will NOT be an early Mass in August at St. Bonaventure's.

### MASS INTENTIONS

15 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Pat Glynn (R.I.P.)
16 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anene Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	John Blackburn (R.I.P. birthday)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Florencia Muceros (R.I.P. birthday)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Fr. Michael Giffney (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	Roy D'Cunha (R.I.P.)
17 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Jacqui Seal (R.I.P. anniversary)
18 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Denis O'Brien (R.I.P. 3 <sup>rd</sup> anniversary)
	7pm	Our Lady	Bridget Shaw's intention
19 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Michael Kelly intentions
	12.30pm	Our Lady	Funeral Mass
20 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Dorothy Bagge's intentions
21 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Maureen Brennan (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Rosaleen Dicks intention
22 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Maureen Brennan (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Alan Hallett (R.I.P. 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary)