

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*

Summer Newsletter up to 2/3rd September 2023

The school holidays are here! There is always a change of gear and a chance to reflect and be rejuvenated. For all of us life affords such a wealth of experiences with a fair share of challenges. God reveals his presence in a multitude of ways though sometimes his choice is to play hide and seek - as Cardinal Hume used to say! In the coming weeks our Gospel passages will keep us focused on the Kingdom with themes of harvest, treasure and fishing. We will then, with the disciples, witness the Transfiguration (6th) and Jesus walking on water (13th). Jesus, the following Sunday, will encounter a pagan woman with huge faith. Finally at the end of August, we will hear Peter's profession of faith. The Scriptures are rich in imagery, events and powerful words. Seize the opportunity to deepen your life in Christ through them.

I'd like to say thank you to the many people in the parish who do so much to enrich our lives in the Liturgy, behind the scenes and through great hospitality. We are all grateful to Fr. William for his ministry with us and to Kathryn for her dedication as Parish Secretary. Things in the parish will be quieter in the summer - this gives everyone a chance to refresh their batteries and get ready for a new beginning in September. A number of people have been approaching me wanting to join the Church...that's brilliant! After the summer, dates for the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults, as well as the other Sacraments, will be published. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, please do make contact with me.

For myself, I have almost completed 15 years as your Parish Priest. I am indebted to all of you for your kindness, support, encouragement and challenge! I am so fortunate to be here with you and draw much inspiration from the power of your faith, the willingness to celebrate and the service of caring for others. When I was installed as a Canon of Westminster Cathedral, this honour reflected our relationship as priest and people founded on Jesus Christ. Next year my 60th birthday falls on Pentecost Day (19th May); so there will be a party! There will be many things to look forward to as we continue our journey as a Christian people. May God's Spirit guide and underpin all that we do and who we are.

God bless you and your loved ones this summer. Welcome to visitors who join us in the Garden City. Be assured of my prayers. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

NEWSLETTER This newsletter covers events in the summer. The next issue will be the weekend of 2nd/3rd September.

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. There are envelopes at the back of our churches for a presentation to Fr. William. Please return to Fr. Norbert or to Our Lady's Presbytery.

RECEPTION Ann Chappell writes: If you can provide food, email me 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. There are envelopes at the back of our churches for a presentation to Kathryn. Please return to Fr. Norbert or to Our Lady's Presbytery.

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.

FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY 'New' standing order forms are available at the back of our churches. Please 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!

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!

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.

OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION at Holy Family Church on 27th July 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. 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. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320). We have had considerable interest so far, and will hopefully see you there.

STREAMED MASS on youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches There will be a break now in livestreaming for the holidays.

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

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

FR. JUAN DE DIOS I want to write to the Welwyn Garden City's Church to give thanks. These days I have recognized the meaning of Catholic Church. When I came, I didn't know anyone, I came to a town that I didn't know where it was on the map. Now this place is also my home. Usually when someone arrives new in some place, this person feels alone, but I have had a very good welcome, as a member of the family. I'm very, very happy for my days here. I have learnt a lot of things, but the most important thing is that I have met a new family. I've seen a very good communion with God and the brothers and sisters. I'm delighted by your hospitality, for your kindness, we all are the family of the church. Now I'm going to pray for you, for this church, that the world of God continues giving the light of the Gospel. We hope Fr. Juan has a great summer and wish him well when he returns to his studies in Rome after the holidays.

FR. JULIO BARCUDI GODOY writes: Dear Welwyn Garden City Parish, It is with great joy that I write this letter because on Saturday 19th August, God willing, I will be with you. Father Norbert has told me a lot about you and I am looking forward to meeting you. I introduce myself: I am 36 years old and a diocesan priest of Mallorca, Spain. I was born in Argentina but when I was 15 years old, with my family we went to live in Spain. There, a priest invited me to a summer camp and when I saw the joy of the young Christians I wanted to know more about God and the church, I started going to mass and after thinking about it a lot I entered the seminary. In 2012 I was ordained a priest (almost 11 years ago) and I have been a religion teacher for all this time and I have been a parish priest for 6 years. Now my bishop has sent me to Rome and I am studying Holy Scripture. This year I have been learning Hebrew and Greek to be able to read the Bible in its original languages. Looking forward to meet you, I say goodbye for now. God bless you.

All the necessary paperwork is in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

If anyone would like to spend time in conversation with Fr. Julio or take him out, please let Fr. Norbert know. Thank you.

SUPPLY PRIESTS Monsignor Harry Turner will be celebrating Masses in our churches in the coming weeks. Fr. Frank Leonard will be at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 23rd July at 10.30. We are very grateful for their continuing support.

SCHOOLS 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.

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

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.

LOURDES CAKE SALE This raised the amazing sum of £450.15. Thank you for supporting the young people.

CONFIRMATION PHOTOS If parents are interested in acquiring photos of the Confirmation Please contact Fr. William.

INTERFAITH Any Questions members of five different faiths will answer questions on how they live their faith on a day-to-day basis. At the Focolare Centre on Thursday 28th September at 7.30pm.

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

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

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.

THANK YOU Spencer writes: On Saturday 15th July I successfully completed my first full iron distance triathlon at St Neot's, Cambridgeshire. In winds of 50mph throughout the bike and run sections and rain that was so hard it was like needles hitting your skin I was exhausted but elated to finish. My official finish times were as follows:

2.4 mile swim - 1 hour 23 mins 112 mile bike - 6 hours 44 mins 26.2 mile run - 4 hours 29 mins.
Total including transitions: 12 hours 47 mins.

In the process of doing so, I raised over £1600 for Parkinson's UK. Thank you so much for your generous support.

INTERFAITH Visit to the Hindu Temple in Neasden on 12th September. The cost for the coach will be £10 each, lunch will be available, either a full vegetarian buffet at £15 a head, or snacks will also be available, you can decide on the day. The coach will leave the car park of Holy Family Catholic Church at 8.45am, address Shoplands, WGC AL8 7RQ returning at about 3pm. Bookings should be made to our administrator, Theresa McCrave on theresa.whifg@gmail.com. Limited spaces available.

MASS INTENTIONS

22 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Alan Hallett (R.I.P. 1 st anniversary)
23 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Richard and Laura Brand and children
	9.30am	Holy Family	Maureen Brennan (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Dennis Bray (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Mariam O'Shea (intentions)
	6pm	Holy Family	Roy D'Cunha (R.I.P. birthday)
24 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Patricia Kennedy (R.I.P.)
25 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Gabriel Doocey (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Joachim family blessing
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Ian Lewis (R.I.P. anniversary)
27 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Pat Glynn (R.I.P.)
28 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Kathryn and David Hubbard (Golden Wedding)
	7pm	Our Lady	Special intention (HC)
29 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Elizabeth Whelan (R.I.P. 1 st anniversary)
	6pm	Our Lady	Mary O'Brien's intentions