

# 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*

***22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 3rd September 2023***

A new year, a new month and many changes. Firstly, I hope all of you have enjoyed the summer as a time of refreshment even if the sun has not shone constantly. For those still waiting for your break, I trust it will come speedily. Since I returned from my time away, I have been struck by the number of visitors in our midst at Mass, many of whom are not from a Catholic background. There is a real thirst to discover more, to deepen understanding of who Christ is and his impact on our personal lives as well as the world. This weekend we ask God's blessing on Fr. William and Kathryn Hubbard as each begins a new chapter in their lives. Soon we will welcome Fr. Marco as Assistant Priest and Jacqui Boon as Parish Administrator.

In our Gospel reading from St. Matthew, the focus is on Jesus teaching his disciples about his Passion, Death and Resurrection - the Cross! The Lord invites us to take up our crosses and follow him. In between these two sections Simon Peter looms, trying to dissuade Jesus from embracing the cause he has accepted. Peter - the stone and the rock on which the Church is built - becomes a stumbling block in the Lord's pathway. His role is to walk behind, following the Lord, rather than telling Jesus what not to do! This great Apostle who was praised as being inspired by the Father to call Jesus 'The Son of the Living God' now is the agent of Satan who must be put in his place. This is an easy trap for each one of us to fall into!

In the Second Reading from St. Paul to the Romans, we find these words '...discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.' How relevant for everyone as a new year begins! We have talents, gifts and skills which can be put at the service of the world, including our fellow human beings. We have the capacity to build the Kingdom of heaven here on earth! What do you see in yourself? Ask the Lord to guide you as you reach out to others. Don't put things off for another year!

May the coming days and weeks strengthen the bonds of community and bear fruit in many blessings for us all. May God take care of each one of us!

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

**FR. WILLIAM JOHNSTONE** This weekend at our Saturday evening Mass we bid farewell to Fr. William who has been with us for two years since his Ordination to the Priesthood. We are delighted that his parents have come for the celebrations. We are very grateful for his ministry to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to the sick and housebound, to the Confirmation Group, in school, and in a variety of ways behind the scenes. Of course, there are all the Baptisms, Funerals and Masses which are so much a part of a priest's work. We wish him much happiness as he takes up his new appointment at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden in North West London. It will be very different to Welwyn Garden City! May God bless Fr. William.

**KATHRYN HUBBARD** This is Kathryn Hubbard's final weekend as Parish Secretary and we take the opportunity of thanking her for over 20 years of devoted service through Sacramental Preparation, Children's Liturgy and the Tuesday Group, through the Red Caps going to Lourdes in the past, through being available in a huge number of ways to step in and offer support as well as her responsibilities as Secretary. Our 10.30 Mass this weekend is for her intentions and those of her husband David and their family. We are pleased that some can be with us for the Mass. We ask God to bless Kathryn and David in the years ahead. They will still be around!

**FR. MARCO SALVAGNINI** will be the new Assistant Priest starting on 12th September and will be resident at Holy Family.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR** Mrs Jacqui Boon has been appointed as Parish Administrator. She will start work on Monday 25th September. We look forward to welcoming Jacqui to this new role.

**FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY** 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](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** Our thanks to those who faithfully provide breakfast on the First Fridays and to all who come. The next celebration will be on 6th October.

**FR. JULIO BARCUDI GODOY** from Mallorca is with us until 18th September. If anyone would like to spend time with him in conversation or take him out, please let Fr. Norbert know.

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

**BISHOP PAUL McALEENAN** will be celebrating 8am and 9.30am Masses here in WGC this weekend and next weekend 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. We are very grateful for his support.

**OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION** at Holy Family Church on Thursday 28th September 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. There will be an evening for women at St. Peter's, Hatfield on Wednesday 20th September. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

**FUNERALS** Franco Braganza RIP Franco's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Potters Bar (EN6 2AT) on Monday 4th September at 1.30pm.

Joss Innocent Landers RIP Joss's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Thursday 21st September at 12.15pm.

**HOLY LAND MEETING** All pilgrims are invited to a gathering in the Trinity Hall on Saturday 21st October starting at 11am and ending with a shared lunch (finishing around 1pm). It will be an opportunity to meet each other, answer questions and prepare for the pilgrimage which flies out on 19th November.

**RCIA** Any adults who wish to join the Catholic Church are invited to a first meeting on Monday 2nd October in the Sacristy of Our Lady's Church. We will start at 7.30pm and finish by 8.30pm. It will be a chance to find out what is involved in the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and to meet others who are similarly interested. Adults who were baptised as children and who missed out on the Sacrament of Confirmation are very welcome to come as well. Sometimes there are people waiting to be invited! So, why not think about a person you know and encourage them to come along. This is such an important part of the life of a parish - growth and development in faith are crucial.

**POLISH MASS AND PARTY** There will be a Polish-English Mass at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 30th September at 6pm followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. If anyone would like to help with the celebration, please contact Anna on [anna.skiba@gmail.com](mailto:anna.skiba@gmail.com)

Polska Msza odbędzie się w sobotę 30 września o 18.00 w kościele Our Lady. Po Mszy organizowane jest wspólne spotkanie przy polskim poczęstunku w Trinity Hall. Wszystkich serdecznie zapraszamy. Jeśli ktoś jest zainteresowany pomocą przy organizacji, proszę o kontakt na e-mail: [anna.skiba1005@gmail.com](mailto:anna.skiba1005@gmail.com)

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** Fr. Norbert would like to invite parishioners to an Open Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7th November at 8pm in the Trinity Hall. We have not had an opportunity since lockdown to meet in this way. The accounts will be presented and hopefully every parish group will report on their activities. There will be time to plan for the coming year. Please put the date in your diary and come along. Everyone is welcome and needed!

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** We welcome a new minister to Welwyn Garden City, Reverend Martyn Neads, and wish him every blessing and happiness in our town.

**BAPTISMS** Please contact Fr. Norbert if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and he will organise all that is needed.

**MASS INTENTIONS** If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please contact Fr. Norbert. The three church diaries are now with him.

**MARRIAGE** Any couples who are planning on getting married in WGC or elsewhere next year or in 2025 should contact Fr. Norbert. Saturday 10th February 2024 has been set as the Marriage Preparation Day.

**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.

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's (near entrance to the (Trinity Hall) is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Pop in for a moment of silence, to light a candle, to say a prayer.

**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 22nd September.

**HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES** are asking for any good quality second hand school uniforms or donations to buy new ones for the refugee children living in our area. If you can help please contact Vicky Woodcraft on [woodcraftvicky@gmail.com](mailto:woodcraftvicky@gmail.com)

**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 Theresa McCrave on [theresa.whifg@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.whifg@gmail.com). Limited spaces available.

**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 7.30 pm.

**CAFOD** – The CAFOD group will meet in the Parish Room at Holy Family on Tuesday 5th September at 2pm. All are welcome.

**MARY'S MEALS** The afternoon tea on 12<sup>th</sup> August in aid of Mary's Meals raised £432.50. Christine Kirke would like to thank everyone who supported this event.

**CHURCH CLEANING** at St. Bonaventure's this Tuesday after 9.30 Mass. All welcome to help!

**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.

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

**SCHOOLS** As schools start a new year, we wish children and staff, parents and governors every blessing and a successful year ahead.

### MASS INTENTIONS

02 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock (R.I.P.)
03 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Janecka family intentions
	9.30am	Holy Family	Thanksgiving to Our Lady
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Kathryn Hubbard and her intentions
	11.30am	Our Lady	Trish Coakley's intention
	6pm	Holy Family	Bridie and Sid Frost (R.I.P. wedding anniv)
04 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Florencia Muceros (R.I.P. anniversary) and Arndel Muceros (R.I.P.)
05 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Rita Devlin (R.I.P.)
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Zena Armstrong (R.I.P.)
07 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	David's intentions
08 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Private intention (JA)
	7pm	Our Lady	The Carlin Family (deceased)
09 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Ita Pugh (In thanksgiving)