

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. William Johnstone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard
January Newsletter 2022*

I hope that you have had a chance to rest after Christmas in whatever form you could get. This time of the year is hard for so many as the weather gets more and more bleak and there are fewer things to look forward to. This year Easter falls on 17th April which means that Lent will start later than in recent years with Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. Why not put those dates in your diary?!

We are now back into Ordinary Time and the Church will give us choice passages of Scripture accompanied by the green vestments of the season. On the Second Sunday, we dip into St. John's Gospel where Jesus turns water into wine and his glory is revealed. Surely this reminds us of the wonders of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord? Then we launch properly into St. Luke with the grand opening in which the Evangelist states he is going to write an ordered account based on the evidence handed on by eyewitnesses. We are then taken straight to Chapter 4 and the beginning of the Lord's public ministry. In his home town, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and wins the admiration of the multitude. He proceeds to speak of God working beyond the normal boundaries and suddenly the gathered masses turn against him and try to kill him. Nothing will prevent Jesus from speaking out or carrying out his Father's will. We are put in touch with a couple of themes which pepper this Gospel: the outsider has importance and the Spirit is at work all the time. In future passages we will see the prominence given to women and the power of God's mercy. There is so much in store for us in the coming weeks!

We are all carrying the burden of Covid-19 and trying to work out what will or will not be possible. I pray that you will remain safe and well. May God empower us through the Spirit to bear witness to Christ and continue to bring hope and joy into the lives of those around us as well as in our own homes. God bless you!

With love and prayers, Fr. Norbert

PEACE SUNDAY 16th January. Pope Francis is inviting us to think of the role of education and upbringing, creating solidarity and dialogue between generations, as a way of building peace. This provides a golden opportunity for families, schools and groups to explore their role in peace-making.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER

God of love,

Show us our place in this world as
channels of your love for all the
creatures of this earth, for not one of
them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and
money, that they may love the common
good, advance the weak, and care for
this world in which we live
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O LORD, seize us with your power and
light, help us to protect all life, to
prepare for a better future, for the
coming of your Kingdom of justice,
peace, love and beauty.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (18th - 25th January)

Churches Together in Hertfordshire will have an online Service on Tuesday 25th at 7.30pm. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89465881609?pwd=aHduWWw3b1NVOVlzM01sa3lWdkt5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 894 6588 1609 and Passcode: 656904

For online resources, see <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

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

We continue to stream Mass on Sunday at 10am

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Please consider setting up a standing order for the church you attend; this will guarantee income to support all that happens. There are forms for each parish available on the parish website; these can be used even if you are not a tax-payer. Just to be clear: YOU set up the standing order with your bank (right hand part of form) and return the left-hand side to us so that we can claim back GiftAid if tax is paid.

DONA has arrived and has been installed in each of our churches. This is a machine for contactless payments to be made to the particular parish in which the machine is sited. It should be possible to GiftAid your donation. We are so grateful to you for your generosity in giving to our parishes especially in the time of pandemic.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION On the parish website wg-catholics.org.uk there are forms for parents to download to enrol children and young people for these Sacraments. First Communion children should be at least in Year 3 at school and Confirmation candidates in at least Year 9. Preparation will begin after the February half-term with the Sacraments being celebrated in the summer. The enrolment forms will help us to know how many are involved and to plan the respective preparation courses. *Many have already signed up! If you have not yet done so, please return the forms to Fr. Norbert.*

ADULTS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CHURCH (RCIA) There will be a session on Monday 17th January at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. If anyone else is interested in joining the Catholic Church or if you are an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger, why not come?

MASS IN WGC The times of weekday and weekend Masses have now returned to the usual schedule in our three churches. Mass intentions can be booked in all three churches. **The safety and security of all people is important** which means that **distancing** in the benches and going up to Holy Communion is respected, **face coverings** are now required in law and the **sanitising** of hands continues. Please note space is at a premium in St. Bonaventure's because of its size.

MASS ON RADIO If you are aware of someone not on the internet who would like to follow Mass, RTE Radio broadcasts Mass on 252 Longwave. For those who have a digital radio, Radio Maria broadcasts in London on DAB+ and in the Cambridge area on DAB.

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL looks out onto the car park of the new Parish Hall which means that people can come to the windows and look into the Chapel and see the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's statue.

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/>
Gospel reflections, the latest news, and so on.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website wgc-catholics.org.uk there is form to download requesting a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Please fill it out and return to Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's and he will prepare the document and return to the family. Thank you.

If you need a Baptismal Certificate for your child, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.

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. New Zion is very grateful for the financial support being received.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday. It is back in the Lady Chapel and all are welcome. Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 11th February.

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. In particular volunteers are needed for 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

SVP The SVP would like to say a big thank you to all their benefactors whose generosity have made it possible to help many people in need of their support.

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. The intentions celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below. Since the last newsletter, Masses have been celebrated for: Tereza D'Souza, Agnelo D'Souza: special intention, Eddie Devine RIP (anniversary), Patrick McEvoy, People of the Parishes, Agnelo D'Cunha, Richard Bainbridge, Raymonde Richards RIP, Margaret Myles, Kathleen Foley RIP, Pauline & Eric Holdstock RIP, Rita & Billy Moran's 71st Wedding anniv, Chris & Cecil Camley RIP, James Dempsey (Anniversary), Simon Francis Birthday Intention, Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP, Paula Glover's Intention, Mary O'Donoghue RIP Funeral, Peggy Pither RIP Funeral, Tracey Laycock RIP, Peter Peck RIP Funeral, Mary Donoghue RIP, Margaret Coyle RIP, Alec & Billy Noonan RIP, Diana Attard RIP Anniv, Mary Donoghue RIP, Josie Treacy's Intention, Margaret Myles RIP Anniv, Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP, Brian Sturt RIP Anniv, McEleney Family RIP, Davin Family RIP, Josie Bell RIP and Louise Fearn's RIP. Denis O'Brien R.I.P., Diana Attard R.I.P. William Gray R.I. P. Anniv, Liz Davin 80th birthday intentions, Sean and Kathleen Kenndey intentions, Spranklen family, Chris Doocey R.I.P. Arthur Spranklen R.I.P. Birthday, Anna Baikenycz R.I.P Funeral, Josie Bell R.I.P. Ann Grogan intentions, Fr. Frank Leonard intentions

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place.

Baptisms If you are thinking about the Baptism of your child, contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William to arrange a date.

Weddings If you are planning to get married this year or next in WGC or beyond, please let Fr. Norbert know so that the necessary preparation and paperwork can be organised.

Funerals No limits on numbers.

SCRIPTURE READINGS BEGINNING 15TH JANUARY

Saturday 15th January

1 Samuel 9:1-4,17-19,10:1 The choice of Saul to be king.

Mark 2:13-17 Jesus came to call sinners!

Sunday 16th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 62:1-5 God will rejoice in you.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Gifts of the Spirit

John 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana

Monday 17th January St. Antony (251-356) Abbot

1 Samuel 15:16-23 Saul is rejected as king by the Lord.

Mark 2:18-22 The newness and vitality Christ brings.

Tuesday 18th January

1 Samuel 16:1-13 The choice of David to be king.

Mark 1:21-28 2:23-28 'The Son of Man is master of the sabbath.'

Wednesday 19th January

1 Samuel 17:32-33,37,40-51 The triumph of David over Goliath

Mark 3:1-6 More sabbath controversy

Thursday 20th January

1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7 Saul, Jonathan and David.

Mark 3:7-12 So many people come to Jesus from everywhere!

Friday 21st January St. Agnes Virgin Martyr died in 304.

1 Samuel 24:3-21 David is merciful to Saul

Mark 3:13-19 Jesus' choice of the Twelve.