

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*

Seventh Sunday of Easter 29th May including 5th/12th June

We are on our way to Pentecost! The Holy Spirit is definitely coming in our direction! At Pentecost we celebrate the Birth of the Church with the outpouring of the Spirit. Each one of us is renewed in faith and love. The Spirit sends us out with a message and holds us together as the Lord's Family. The experience is gentle as in the Gospel passage from John 20; it is dramatic as the account from the Acts of the Apostles portrays. In the run-up to the Fiftieth Day, the Church prays with all her heart for the Spirit to come; Christians model themselves on Our Lady gathered with the Apostles in the Upper Room. This year our world has been traumatically affected by the war in Ukraine, by the recent tragedy in the US School, by the poverty facing so many and by the aftermath of pandemic and attempts to rebuild lives. We need hope. We long for peace in its many guises. Reconciliation and the just sharing of resources could make such a difference. Let us ask the Spirit to come!

This year we are caught up in Platinum Jubilee Celebrations! In the midst of all that unfolds is Her Majesty the Queen who has committed herself to the dedicated service of the people entrusted to her. The conviction of her calling and the energy she has expended over seven decades have left a mark on history. She is a woman of Faith and she is proud to call herself a Christian. As we gaze at photographs of the newly crowned Monarch of 1953 and then compare them with the image with the 96-year-old widowed Queen, we see a life which has changed, developed and been opened up to many new ways. The world, society, technology, nations and attitudes are certainly way beyond anything one might have imagined in 1952 when the Queen acceded to the Throne! May God bless Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. May the celebrations over the coming days be memorable and bring the country together.

Now, with half-term, a change of gear comes upon us. I hope all involved in Education are refreshed. We are grateful to those who nurture our children and young people helping them develop skills which will give them the best possible experiences for the future. To those preparing for public examinations, I want you to know that you are in my prayers. May the Spirit guide you to do your very best. May God bless each and every one of you.

With love and prayers. ***Fr. Norbert***

ONE CANONICAL PARISH Fr. Norbert writes: "I have received a response from the Cardinal in regard to the request to become one Canonical Parish. In these past weeks, some parishioners have approached me worried that there would be only one church left in WGC. There have been other concerns to do with finances. I have been waiting for the Cardinal to write to confirm what is the plan for the future. The Cardinal states explicitly that 'a formal consultation process should now begin to inform the decision-making on the possible merging of the three parishes into one new parish whilst continuing to retain all three churches for worship.' Consultation will need to be made with the neighbouring Deanery Parishes, Schools and Religious Communities. More important will be the discussions we hold here in our three parishes with you, the people. This will be formal and will require the involvement and views of a sizeable number of people (at least 50). The final decision is the Cardinal's and has to be ratified by the Council of Priests to satisfy Canon (Church) Law. Obviously, the Cardinal is especially interested in the views of parishioners and of me, as your Parish Priest. By the time we have our next newsletter, I hope to be able to outline the process. When I was appointed to the three parishes as Parish Priest in 2008, Bishop George Stack, then Auxiliary Bishop looking after Hertfordshire, made it very clear to me that his vision was of one parish with three churches - a united Catholic Community to make an impact on our town. He told me that there was no blueprint and that I would have to find a way of doing so. I have tried to do this for the past 14 years. Our way of operating in WGC is quite unique in the Diocese and is a sign of how faith, cooperation with a measure of fun can bring great life to a community and help us face challenges such as the time of pandemic and lockdown. Please keep this intention in your prayers and be ready to make your contribution to the deliberations"

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE STATEMENT Please have a look at the statement from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales which is on our website. From Pentecost on 5th June, they are urging Catholics to return to the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. They recognise that for the elderly and vulnerable this might be more difficult. Please encourage people to come back. Let's give them a warm welcome and ensure they feel safe.

POPE FRANCIS on Tuesday 31st May at 5pm UK time will be reciting the Rosary in front of the statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. In doing so, 'he wishes to offer a sign of hope to the world, suffering through the conflict in Ukraine, and profoundly wounded through the violence of so many other theatres of war.' The Cardinal wants us to be aware of this initiative at the end of May and to join the Holy Father as far as is possible.

NEW PARISH HALL Much hard work is going on behind the scenes to help us move forward towards a formal opening of our new Parish Hall - Trinity Hall. The key issue is how it will be managed and the system of bookings. So many individuals, families and groups are ready to sign up. Thank you for your patience!

BARBECUE organised by the African Community for the people of our three parishes and beyond will take place on Sunday 3rd July. Hopefully the new hall will be in use and so this will be regarded as a 'test event' when we can monitor safety and other issues arising from a big event.

MASS INTENTIONS The intentions this week have been: Special intention, Roy D'Cunha (birthday intention), Brian Hall RIP 4th Anniv, Mary Kemp (sick), Amelia Joachim's intention, Jonathan Joachim's intention, Romualdo Gurjao (speedy recovery), Joe Neumann RIP, Brand Family intentions, Sean Cox's intention, John Nevin RIP, John Davin RIP, John Davin RIP. This edition of the newsletter has the intentions which have been booked for the coming weeks.

HALF-TERM WEEK Looking ahead there will only be **10am Mass each day 30th May until 3rd June**. There are two Bank Holidays that week to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. From Monday 6th June, times return to their normal schedule. **No 6.30am Mass in June**. Next is 1st July.

NEWSLETTER Next edition the weekend 18th/19th June.

MISSION APPEAL will be given by the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) at all Masses the weekend of 11th/12th June.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) will be on Saturday 16th July at 12 noon in the Focolare Centre.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's will be closed during half-term and reopen Monday 6th June. It will be open every weekday 7am until 6pm.

DEFIBRILLATOR At the instigation of the Catholic Women's League, a defibrillator has been installed just outside Our Lady's Church to be available for the local community. Please note that for those who live near Holy Family Church there is one outside the Hedgehog pub. Let's hope they never have to be used but in an emergency, help is at hand.

THY KINGDOM COME is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer inviting Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Since its start in May 2016, 172 countries have joined in praying 'Come Holy Spirit'.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will: Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ

Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus

Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our Witness

For further information see: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/resources-catholic-church>

Prayer and care – helping those in need locally, as well as praying for them to know Jesus Christ, or know him more fully.

Continuous Prayer – join with friends and colleagues to pray continuously over a fixed time, perhaps 12 hours, or if in contact internationally, over 24 hours.

Pray Together - at regular times, join with others in the parish to pray for evangelisation locally; you may like to use the PentecostNovena.

Light up the World in Prayer - encourage as many people you know to join you in registering their prayer on the TKC website, and so light up the world map with prayer.

Explore digital resources – a range of resources to suit everyone is available on the TKC website, including a Prayer Journal, the interactive Family Prayer Adventure Map and Journey with Mary.

THE PARADOX OF ABUNDANCE Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our food with our Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey resource.

SUPPLY PRIESTS Canon Michael Munnelly, recently retired Parish Priest of Stanmore, will be helping us on Sunday 29th May at 10.30. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Mass on Sunday 29th May at 6pm. We are grateful for their support.

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 next be celebrant on 24th June.

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.

OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION at Holy Family Church on 23rd June at 7pm: This recollection is intended for men.

COFFEE AT OUR LADY'S If you are free on Thursday mornings 10.30-12.00 come and join us in Our Lady's Sacristy for a cuppa and a chat. We would love to see you.

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CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 5pm-5.30pm Our Lady
 Thursdays 10am - 10.30am Holy Family
 Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

MASS TIMES

30 Monday	10am	Our Lady	Intentions of Jean and Alan Hallett
31 Tuesday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Stephanie Cooke (R.I.P. 10 th anniversary)
01 Wednesday	10am	Holy Family	Michael McGeehan (R.I.P.)
02 Thursday	10am	Holy Family	Patrick Curran
03 Friday	10am	St. Bonaventure	John and Josie Rodger (R.I.P.)
04 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Teresa Dyas & Romualdo Gurjao (Wed ann)
04 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Angelo & Elizabeth Laurie & families
05 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	Hannah Howes (R.I.P.) Maurice McSweeney
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Continued love & happiness in our marriage
	11.30am	Our Lady	Kathleen & Gordon Kerr's intentions
	6pm	Holy Family	
06 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Rafael Velmo Pereira (R.I.P.)
07 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Holy Souls
08 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Maurice McSweeney
09 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Peter Richardson (R.I.P.)
10 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Seán Cox's intention
11 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
11 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Donald & Evelyn Mary Shewring and Fam.
12 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Alec Noonan (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Matthew Sawyer (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	
13 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Kevin Lyttle (R.I.P.)
14 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Jonathan Joachim's intention
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Thanksgiving to St. Jude
16 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	
17 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Josie Bell (R.I.P.) & Louise Fearn (R.I.P.)
18 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 28th May

Acts 18:23-28 The preaching of Apollos in Ephesus

John 16:23-28 'Now I leave the world to go to the Father.'

Sunday 29th May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of St. Stephen

Apocalypse 22:12-14,16-17,20 The conclusion of the book and of the Bible.

John 17: 20-26 Jesus prays that the Father's love may be in his disciples and that his own presence too may be in them.

Monday 30th May

Acts 19:1-8 Do you know about the Holy Spirit?

John 16:29-33 Jesus wants his disciples to have peace in him.

Tuesday 31st May THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Zephaniah 3:14-18 The Lord your God is in your midst.

Luke 1:39-56 The Holy Spirit inspires Our Lady and Elizabeth when they meet.

Wednesday 1st June St. Justin (Died 165) Martyr and great writer about the life of the Early Church

Acts 20:28-38 Paul's testament to the Church in Ephesus before he sets off.

John 17:11-19 'Father, consecrate them in the truth.'

Thursday 2nd June

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11 Paul prepares to set off for Rome.

John 17:20-26 Oneness in God

Friday 3rd June St. Charles Lwanga and his Companions Ugandan Martyrs from 1885/7

Acts 25:13-21 Paul's case is put before King Agrippa

John 21:15-19 'Do you love me?'

Saturday 4th June

Acts 28:16-20,30-31 Paul's time in Rome.

John 21:20-25 The testimony of the Beloved Disciple.

Sunday 5th June PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11 The dramatic bestowal of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:8-17 The Spirit makes us cry out: 'Abba, Father!'

John 20:19-23 Jesus breathes upon his disciples and says: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

Monday 6th June MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Genesis 3:9-15,20 Mary the New Eve

John 19:25-34 Mary stands at the foot of the Cross

Tuesday 7th June

1 Kings 17:7-16 Elijah and the widow

Matthew 5:13-16 'You are salt...you are light...'

Wednesday 8th June

1 Kings 18:20-39 Elijah on Mount Carmel

Matthew 5:17-19 The one who is least...the one who is great...in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Thursday 9th June OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

Isaiah 6:1-4,8 A vision of heaven

John 17:1-2,9,14-24 Jesus' Priestly Prayer

Friday 10th June

1 Kings 19:9,11-16 Elijah encounters the Lord on Horeb

Matthew 5:27-32 'But I say to you...'

Saturday 11th June St. Barnabas Apostle and companion of St. Paul in the early Church

Acts 11:21-26,13:1-3 The ministry of Barnabas and its impact.

Matthew 5:33-37 'Say Yes if you mean yes!'

Sunday 12th June TRINITY SUNDAY

Proverbs 8:22-31 Wisdom at play in God's presence and in the world.

Romans 5:1-5 The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit

John 16:12-15 The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus.

Monday 13th June St. Anthony of Padua (1195 - 1231) Franciscan and great preacher. Patron Saint of finding lost things!

1 Kings 21:1-16 Ahab and Naboth's vineyard.

Matthew 5:38-42 'Give to anyone who asks.'

Tuesday 14th June

1 Kings 21:17-29 Elijah preaches against Ahab and Jezebel

Matthew 5:43-48 'You must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Wednesday 15th June

2 Kings 2:1.6-14 Elijah's ascension into heaven

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18 Almsgiving, prayer and fasting

Thursday 16th June

Ecclesiasticus 48:1-15 Elijah and Elisha

Matthew 6:7-15 The Lord's Prayer

Friday 17th June

2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20 Attempts to murder the true king

Matthew 6:19-23 Treasure and heaven.