

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***

Corpus Christi 19th June

It is good to be back with you after these days of Platinum Jubilee and my own break. As I write this piece, the sun is blazing down upon us and the temperature is above 30 degrees. When you read the newsletter, what will the weather be like?!

Today we celebrate Corpus Christi and give thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist with the Real Presence of his Son putting us in touch with the pure love of Calvary and the power of Resurrection - heaven breaks in! While I was away, there were two First Holy Communion Masses I attended. The second was last Saturday not far from Versailles. It was on my 34th Anniversary of Priesthood and I was concelebrating in French. The children had been prepared well and sang like angels! What really struck me was the fact that one of the families was deaf and so the whole Mass together with the hymns was signed...in French! The parents had their gaze fixed on the interpreter and she, in turn, drew our attention to the altar and the action of the Mass. I could not help but think of Signed Masses here in our own churches and the ministry to the deaf in which I am involved. Afterwards I managed to find on my phone the Masses I have celebrated here in WGC and showed the family and the interpreter. They were thrilled.

The other First Communion Mass was in Stirling where some of our Scottish parishioners hail from, and who had asked me to celebrate the parish First Communion Mass with the Bishop's permission. The sun shone non-stop! In St. Margaret's Church there was a distinctive stained-glass window with a Cross and five doves. I asked a number of people about its meaning and got a variety of responses! However, I decided to base my homily around them linked to the Eucharist. So, here is a quick resume! Firstly, preparation: getting ready, reflecting and thinking in readiness for Mass is crucial. Secondly, the Mass is about remembering: thinking back over the previous week, with its joys and sadnesses, AND calling to mind Jesus Christ and his dying and rising. Thirdly, forgiveness is lavished upon us from God through the Sacrifice of his Son in obedience to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Fourthly, thanksgiving to God for what we have received and the thanksgiving of Christ to the Father for the love he enjoys eternally. Fifthly and finally, love which pours forth from the Mass into our every day and keeps alive in us the Divine Worship which has been celebrated. Perhaps you might stop today to ponder what lies at the heart of the Mass: what Christ is doing, what the Father experiences through Christ's offering of himself, the action of the Holy Spirit between Father and Son...upon the bread and wine...deep within us. Have a great week and God bless you.

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

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL The Solemnity of these great Apostles of the Church is coming up on Wednesday 29th June. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday 28th at 7pm at Our Lady's. On Wednesday 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

FATHER'S DAY Happy Father's Day to each and every father and honorary dad. God bless you!

FATHER WILLIAM will be ONE next Sunday (26th)! There will be coffee and cake after St. Bonaventure's 10.30 Mass. All are welcome to join in the celebration of his First Anniversary as priest. May God bless Fr. William. *Ad multos annos!*

ONE CANONICAL PARISH Fr. Norbert is working on a sheet which will outline the process and the timetable for looking at the possible merger of our three parishes into one parish with three churches. He hopes to have it ready for next weekend. *Thanks for your patience!*

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. Hopefully there will be more news soon.

BARBECUE organised by the African Community for the people of our three parishes and beyond will take place on Sunday 3rd July after the 11.30 Mass. 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. The African Community are going to provide burgers, chicken piri-piri wings, pork and lamb sausages and vegetable skewers; there'll be salads too. The parish will provide the drinks. All are welcome.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wanting to marry this year or next either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork and the Marriage Course. Thank you.

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

FIRST FRIDAY The next 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 1st July followed by breakfast in the Hall. This Mass will be livestreamed. All are welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who keep our churches clean and tidy and to those who look after the grounds.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open every weekday 7am until 6pm.

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.

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.

LORETO COLLEGE will be holding a Centenary Garden Party on Sunday 10th July 12 noon until 5pm. For more information go to www.loreto.herts.sch.uk

OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION at Holy Family Church on 23rd June 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. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Everyone is welcome to Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on the 16th July at 12noon at the Focolare Centre. There will be a buffet lunch organised by the SVP. If you need a lift contact Janet Lewis on 01707326456.

SVP COLLECTION on the weekend of 2nd/3rd July after all Masses. Please be generous.

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.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER *Save the date!* 16th -17th July 2022. Marriage Encounter are hosting a non-residential marriage enrichment weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for couples to spend time reflecting on, refreshing and rejoicing in their wonderful vocation. For details go to:

<https://wwme.org.uk/weekend/me-weekendhend-on-16th-to-17th-july-2022/>

OUR LADY'S HITCHIN EVENT

What: Parish Pals A young adults social (18-30)

When Monday 27th June at 7pm

Where- Our Lady's Church Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS)

Why- Meet like-minded people and have a moment to connect with God

YMCA HOSTEL (Peartree Lane) Creative residents at the hostel in Welwyn Garden City recently gathered broken pieces of stone, tile and glass to produce a colourful mosaic cross that will be unveiled in a special blessing 'moment' at 1.30pm on Tuesday 28th June.

CARITAS PARISH BULLETIN is available to read on the parish website.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 22nd - 26th June 2022 #WMOF22 – this year we are invited to celebrate the WMOF locally using resources developed under the title 'Rome at home' to enable as many families to participate at the local level. <https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/marriage-and-family-life-catechesis/world-meeting-of-families-history/>

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – LOOKING TO LISBON

World Youth Day 2023 will take place in Lisbon in the beginning of August 2023. Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry with support from Cardinal's Appeal is offering a limited number of places on this pilgrimage with a 50% discount to young people between the ages of 16-25. Any 16-year olds who apply will need to be finishing Year 12 by the start of World Youth Day pilgrimage. These young people will commit to a series of preparatory sessions from September 2022, to prepare them to assist in support roles during the pilgrimage, such as by acting as small group leaders, and also offer formation to them which will be helpful in living their faith post-World Youth Day. More details can be found at <https://dowym.com/programmes/world-youth-day-leadership-training/> or by contacting Westminster Youth Ministry at youth@rcdow.org.uk. Please apply by 31 July 2022.

WILL YOU TAKE THE FIRST STEP? CAFOD's Gap year programme, Step into the Gap is a great opportunity for Young Adults aged between 18-30 to immerse themselves in interactive experiences, develop leadership skills while exploring their faith, and meeting new people. This is a chance to reflect on your role in global society while spending a year inspiring other to act for the poor and most marginalised. Based in the UK in a retreat centre or Catholic Secondary school with accommodation, travel and stipend included. Take the first step and find out more information and how to apply for September 2022 go to cafod.org.uk/gapyear

FOCOLARE MARIAPOLIS GATHERING on Saturday 30th July at Chilton Village Hall OX11 0SR. Please see the note on the parish website.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE Come and enjoy a Jubilee concert in Welwyn Civic Centre on Saturday 9th of July at 7:30pm, featuring Singing For Pleasure, Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir and Welwyn Garden City Town Band. Tickets £8, under 12's free.

Email sfpwgc80@gmail.com or ring 07717329921 for information or tickets"

Parish Priest
Fr. 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

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE Bishop David Oakley is the lead for Marriage and Family Life at the Bishops' Conference and would like to commend the charisms and approach of the Alliance of Catholic Marriage Organisations founded at the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) in 2018. The Alliance was formed with intention of providing couples and families with an easily accessible platform of resources to form, nurture, enrich and support them to grow in their vocation. These are well-regarded organisations and movements working collaboratively to support and grow the domestic church. "No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love," Amoris Laetitia 325

Please have a look at the parish website for more details. Thank you.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) 10am Sunday

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. We are now publishing in the newsletter the intentions for the coming week.

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION Hall Grove Group Practice are looking for translators when some patients come to the surgeries are unable to explain properly in English what the problem is. The languages needed are Farsi, Arabic, Polish, Ukranian, Syrian. If you can help contact the practice on 01707 328528 (Hall Grove surgery) or 01707 332233 (Parkway surgery) and speak to Anne Knight Practice Manager.

MASS TIMES

18 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Richard & Laura Brand and children.
19 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	Special intention (CW)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady	Denis and Bella Dunne (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	
20 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	In thanksgiving for healing of Agnelo de Souza
21 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Fabio Cicala (R.I.P. anniversary)
	7pm	Our Lady	John Maguire (R.I.P.)
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Virginia Rees (R.I.P.)
23 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Deacon Michael Guthrie
24 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Paul Chappell (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Domagoj (seminarian)
25 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Kay Hussey (R.I.P.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 18th June

2 Chronicles 24:17-25 The spirit of God takes possession of Zechariah
Matthew 6:24-34 Look at the birds in the sky!

Sunday 19th June CORPUS CHRISTI

Genesis 14:18-20 Melchizedek, priest and king, brings bread and wine.
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Paul's account of the Last Supper
Luke 9:11-17 They all ate as much as they wanted - the Feeding of the Five Thousand.

Monday 20th June St. Alban *Martyred in 3rd century for being a Christian.*

2 Kings 17:5-8,13-15,18 The people keep sinning against God.
Matthew 7:1-5 The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given.

Tuesday 21st June St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) *A Jesuit novice who served the people of Rome during a time of plague which he himself caught and then died of.*

2 Kings 19:9-11,14-21,31-36 Jerusalem is protected from the foreign king.
Matthew 7:6,12-14 It is a hard road that leads to life

Wednesday 22nd June ST. JOHN FISHER (1469-1535) *Bishop of Rochester and Cardinal* **AND ST. THOMAS MORE** (1477-1535) *Chancellor of England whose conscience inspired him always. Both Martyrs.*

2 Maccabees 6:18,21,24-31 Eleazar dies leaving an example of nobility and a record of virtue.
Matthew 24:4-13 The man who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Thursday 23rd June THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah 49:1-6 The Lord called me before I was born
Acts 13:22-26 John said: 'I am not fit to undo his sandal.'
Luke 1:57-66,80 The events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist

Friday 24th June MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Ezekiel 34:11-16 I shall be a true shepherd to them
Romans 5:5-11 Christ died for us while we were still sinners
Luke 15:3-7 The joy of finding the lost sheep.