

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*

32nd Sunday of the Year 6th November 2022

'May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.'

These are St. Paul's words to the Thessalonians in today's Second Reading. When I read them, they seemed so appropriate for the month of November: comfort and hope are key to so much of what we need as we remember and pray for the dead. I went to the cemetery last weekend where my Mum and Dad are buried - I thought I might not have time on All Souls Day! When my Granny died in 2004, there was an option to buy the plot next to her for my parents. They really weren't sure about taking this big step but I said I could be buried with Granny, and Mum and Dad would be next door. Standing at the graves I thought about so much which I had shared with these significant people in my life and was able again to say to God 'Thank you!' I also was mindful that one day I would be there too! I didn't leave the graveyard mournful or down but glad to have had time to pray and have a heart filled with gratitude.

Over the coming weeks we will all be doing a great deal of remembering, especially next Sunday. It is a painful time as the sadness of grief hits home once again and we relive so much shared and acknowledge the things that will never be the same again. St. Paul's conviction is that God's love and grace are lavished upon us, that healing and comfort can come as we proclaim our hope in the Resurrection founded upon the Easter mystery revealed in Christ. Every Sunday is the Day of the Lord, the Day of Resurrection - EASTER! The light of hope shines out in the midst of darkness and we are renewed. This light, we pray, will be radiant bringing eternal life to those who have gone before us. May our own faith be strengthened this month and enable us to find words and actions which can help us support people in their grief. My own experience has been that just by being there, the bereaved know they are not on their own.

May the Lord be with each one of us this week as we approach Remembrance Sunday.

God bless you. With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Each week we will inform you of the timings. This Sunday (6th) 10am recorded at Our Lady's (Saturday 6pm). Next Sunday (13th) 11.30am from Our Lady's.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wanting to marry in 2023/2024 either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork. We are hoping to have the Preparation Day on Saturday 18th February (after Valentine's Day!) It will be the whole day and end with a Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6pm Mass. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to attend. 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.

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 now have the Mass Intention diaries for 2023 so if anyone has a particular date to arrange a Mass in the coming year, why not let us know now so as not to be disappointed closer to the time?

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION There will be an enrolment meeting for parents and children from St. Bonaventure, Holy Family and Our Lady's on Tuesday 22nd November at 6pm in Our Lady's Church. The meeting should last around 40 minutes and dates will be given for the preparation and the First Holy Communions which will be celebrated in all three churches. Children should be at least in Year 3 at school.

CONFIRMATION Enrolment for young people for Confirmation will be on Sunday 27th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church. Bishop Paul McAleenan has given us Friday 9th June 2023 as the date for Confirmation here in Welwyn Garden City.

Young people need to be at least in Year 9 at school and should come with their parent/s to the meeting which will last around 40 minutes. Dates for preparation will be given that day.

RCIA The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults for adults who would like to join the Catholic Church will start on **Monday 7th November at 7.30pm** in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. This is also a great way for adults, who missed out on Confirmation when they were younger, to prepare for Confirmation. In some countries you cannot get married in the Catholic Church if not confirmed. The meeting will last an hour. There will be a warm welcome!

PARISHES MERGER Fr. Norbert will be presenting the proposal of merging our three parishes into One-Parish-with-three-churches to the Diocesan Council of Priests on Wednesday. Helga Mangion's Final Report from the consultation is now available to see on the parish website and there are some copies at the back of our churches. We are grateful to Helga for her work on this project. Fr. Norbert will keep you informed about the next stages in the process as they develop.

FIRST FRIDAY Last Friday there were people waiting outside St. Bonaventure's when Fr. Norbert arrived at 6am to open up for the early Mass! 10 children and many adults shared in Mass and partook of croissants and pains au chocolat. Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 2nd December at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

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. A parishioner has kindly agreed to collect the food and take it to New Zion.

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 celebrate this Mass on 18th November.*

FUNERALS

PAULINE QUANTRILL RIP Pauline's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 10th November at 2pm.

RON BURGESS RIP Ron's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 23rd November at 12.45pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Our Lady's Tuesday 15th November at 7.45pm.

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: Our study course on the Lives of the Saints continues on Friday evenings in the Parish Room of Holy Family. This week we will explore the life of St. Therese of Lisieux. Please do join us! Refreshments served from 7.15pm and the session starts at 7.45pm.

SIGNED MASS The Diocesan Deaf Service will be here in WGC at 6pm Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 17th December. If anyone would like to help with signing hymns and helping on the day, please let Fr. Norbert know. A practice has been set for Wednesday 7th December at 7pm at Our Lady's for one hour. It would be great to have a good number coming!

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6pm. It's a quiet and peaceful place to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and light a candle.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS There are sheets at the back of each of our churches for you to write down the names of loved ones who have died. They should be returned to whichever church you attend and the names will be prayed for collectively during the month of November. There is no need to give any money.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 13th November at 1.30pm (followed by the Remembrance Day Service at War Memorial at 3pm). Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 20th November at 2pm.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF DEANERY This year's Mass will be at St. Thomas More, Knebworth (72 London Road SG3 6HB) on Tuesday 8th November at 11am. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Mass together with the priests of the Deanery. All are welcome!

COST OF LIVING CRISIS There will be a (free) Conference 'Firm Foundations in a Cost of Living Crisis' organised by our Diocesan Caritas on Saturday 12th November at All Saints College, St. Charles Square, Ladbroke Grove W10 6EL. If anyone would like to attend, please let Fr. Norbert know and he'll give you the link for ticket/s.

TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY The Diocese is aiming to have a neutral carbon footprint by 2030. The briefing arranged for 5th November has been postponed until 18th February 2023 because of the train strike. If anyone is interested in helping us in our parishes to work on this, then please contact Fr. Norbert.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The annual collection will be this weekend. There are at present 66 sick and retired priests who receive support from this fund. By 2025 the number living in retirement will be double that figure. By giving to this fund, you ensure that our priests are cared for. There are special envelopes for this purpose and also a QR code to facilitate online giving (www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity.

EVENING OF RECOLLECTION The next evening at Holy Family Church organised by Opus Dei will be on Thursday 24th November. More details to follow.

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.

SVP The St Vincent de Paul Society sends a very warm THANK YOU to all WGC parishioners in response to the annual collection in July 2022. This amounted to £2573.06 and will help provide supermarket vouchers for families throughout the year, lunch and tea parties, help towards heating bills, support for Ukrainian refugee families, Christmas gifts and hampers. Your generosity and kindness is so much appreciated by all. Thank you and God bless you.

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Holy Family Church
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CONFESSIONS

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

GIVING TREE Once again we have decided to provide supermarket vouchers for local families in need at Christmas time. If you can help, please put your donation in an envelope labelled 'Giving Tree' and put it through the door of the Presbytery at Holy Family or Our Lady's by 20th November.

CAFOD GROUP COFFEE MORNING after 9.30 Mass today (6th) at Holy Family. All are welcome. **Holy Family church cleaning** will take place on Wednesday 16th November. There will be tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass and cleaning will be after the tea and coffee. If you are able to give any time to help us out it would be very gratefully appreciated.

OPEN EVENING AT THE FOCOLARE CENTRE FOR UNITY, Friday 18th November 7.30-9pm: An Evening of Song, tea/coffee provided. All welcome!

Save the date: Carols in the Cloisters, December 16th, 7.30pm.

SAFEGUARDING The Diocese is requesting that Disclosing and Barring rechecks are completed on all holders of a DBS, that was completed more than 3 years ago (unless you signed up for automatic rechecks at the time). The Parish Safeguarding Representatives ask that you make contact with one of them to start this process.

Ann Chappell (wgcdigswell@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Holy Family,

Mary Stephenson (wgceast@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Our Lady's

Cathy Staniforth (wgcsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) St Bonaventure's

Sending one of them an email, will allow them to add you to the system and start the process off. They will then meet with you, to confirm your identity documents. **This is essential and so your cooperation is appreciated...Thank you!**

MASS TIMES

05 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Con Gilhooly (R.I.P. Anniv)
06 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anene Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Archbishop Emeritus Raul Gonsalves R.I.P.
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Roger Shelford (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Rafael Vecho Pereira (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	Holy Souls
07 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Holy Souls
08 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	CWL Deceased members
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	George Moran
10 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Margaret Walsh
	2pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass Pauline Quantrill R.I.P.
11 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
	7pm	Our Lady	Miroslav Vajoik and all his family
12 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Anene Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	James Bonass (R.I.P. Anniv)