

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*

Christ the King 20th November 2022

This week it has rained and rained! As I write my piece on Friday morning the sun is shining. Isn't nature strange and challenging? In the world there is such concern about the unfolding of events in Ukraine, the famine in Somalia and the huge burden of the financial crisis on so many. Isn't life demanding? Now in the Church we prepare to let go of Ordinary Time and get ready to enter a new year with the onset of Advent next Sunday. We are immersed in the events of the end of time while being open to the dawn of the Lord's Coming. The Church keeps us on our toes!

Today is the Solemnity of Christ the King. We recall and celebrate the fact that God's Son's presence in our world puts us in touch with eternity and reveals the very best of humanity and our world. This Sunday is our last formal instalment from St. Luke's Gospel and we are presented with the vision of our King on a Cross, humiliated and reviled by humanity and yet offering a taste of paradise to his fellow crucified criminal who yearns to be remembered in the Lord's Kingdom. We are fellow citizens of this Kingdom; forgiveness, salvation and redemption are extended to us too. What impact should that have on our lives? How are we with one another and with our God who is so generous and gracious in offering paradise to us too? As we journey through this final week of the Church's Year, let us look around at nature reaching the end of its annual cycle and reflect on the new life which will emerge. Let us do what we can to reach out to the many needy people at home and abroad and share from what we have. Let us avail of the grace of God lavished upon us in a multitude of ways and consciously build up his Kingdom.

May God bless each one of you. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Each week we will inform you of the timings. This Sunday (20th) 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's. Next Sunday (27th) 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 next meet on Monday 21st 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.

FOOD BANK IN OUR CHURCHES IS BACK IN ACTION 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 are 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. The following items are especially asked for: Tinned items: ham, corned beef, vegetables, fruit, fish, beans. Cereals, long life milk, squash, jam, tea, coffee, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, bleach, clothes washing products, toiletries (shampoo, deodorant), kitchen and bathroom cleaner, ladies' sanitary items, toothbrushes & toothpaste and in the run up to Christmas anything Christmassy to bring joy to families. THANK YOU!

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

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 Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 20th November at 2pm.

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. If you can offer the occasional lift to 10,30am Mass please contact Kay. Thank you.

EVENING OF RECOLLECTION There will be an evening of recollection for men organised by Opus Dei on Thursday 24th November at Holy Family Church beginning at 7pm. The evening will include two spiritual meditations and a talk, the opportunity for confession and benediction. Refreshments will be served before and afterwards. It is a very good way to prepare spiritually for Advent.

FIRST FRIDAY Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 2nd December at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, All are welcome.

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!**

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS **Save the date:** Carols in the Cloisters, December 16th, 7.30pm.

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 Our Lady's Church
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 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! HCPT Group 183, based in WGC, every Easter takes disabled and disadvantaged children on an amazing week in Lourdes, staying in hotels and enjoying the Pyrenees. But this is only possible with the help of volunteers helping to look after the children. Group 183 are in need of more helpers to join the group. As without you we can't take the amazing children away. All helpers must be over 18 and the group will be travelling 8th-15th April 2023. If this is something you think you might be able to do, please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas. In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue at the back of the church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

MASS TIMES

19 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	James Bonass (R.I.P. Anniv)
20 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
	9.30am	Holy Family	Ruperto Cruz Sr. (R.I.P. Anniversary)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Intentions of Thomas Nichols Sr. and Jacqueline Gauchard
 21 Monday	 6pm	 Holy Family	 Holy Souls
22 Tuesday	9.30am	Our Lady	Stella Ethrington (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Stephen Mojo
23 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Family and friends of the Hall and McManus famillies
	12.45pm	Our Lady	Funeral Mass Ron Burgess R.I.P.
24 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Holy Souls
25 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Joe Flanagan and Justin Clark (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Peter Doherty (R.I.P.)
26 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Sheila Mitchell (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Holy Souls in Purgatory (Brand family)