

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*

Fifth Sunday of Easter 15th May 2022

'By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

Picture the scene. Jesus has just washed the feet of his disciples. He had predicted that someone at table would betray him. He told Peter that he would deny him. Judas goes out. NOW Jesus starts to speak about being glorified and the Father being glorified. What do we make of all this? In St. John's Gospel, the death of Jesus is seen as his glorification. As he is lifted up on the wood of the cross, he is being raised in glory. His dying is the opening of the door to new life and resurrection. All that Jesus does gives praise to his Father whom he has loved from eternity and, in obedience to whom, he came to share our lives here on earth. Jesus is acutely aware of this tremendous bond and of the sacrificial nature of the love given and received. God the Father suffers as he watches his Son die. This is the absolutely amazing core of our faith and the huge challenge of discovering more deeply that our God was ready to suffer for us.

Returning to the words quoted above, Jesus wants us to reflect in our lives the quality of loving which exists in the Godhead: giving and receiving, sacrificial and suffering, obedient and fruitful. Can YOU do this? For many of us we have experienced this multi-faceted love because of the way life has treated us: caring for a loved one who is sick, sticking by someone who constantly lets us down, forgiving time and time again. There are other moments when we have to ponder the responsibility of being the Lord's disciple and discover a freshness of approach which will help others get to know the Lord through us. This isn't easy either!

Eastertide is racing by and we have just a few more weeks to enjoy the glory of this Season. Feel the Lord's love, bask in his light and radiate what you experience! We will definitely glorify our God as we enter this dynamic in the power of the Spirit.

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

EASTER ANTHEM TO OUR LADY

Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia!

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!

Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia!

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!

Because he whom thou didst merit to bear, alleluia,

Has risen as he said, alleluia!

Pray for us to God, alleluia!

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!

ONE CANONICAL PARISH Now that the agreement for the Hall has been signed and sent to Archbishop's House, Fr. Norbert has been advised to request that the Cardinal allow our three parishes to move towards becoming one canonical parish. There is a process to be followed which will involve consultation of you, the parishioners of our three parishes. Soon the steps to be taken will become clearer and Fr. Norbert will keep you informed.

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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) We continue to stream Mass at 10am on 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. The intentions this week have been: People of the Parish, First Communion children and their families, John Almeyda RIP 2nd Anniv, Sheila Almeyda (birthday intentions), John Davin RIP, Thomas and Josephine Connolly RIP, Marjorie Nichols RIP, Fr. Patrick O'Kane RIP, Maureen Scott (nee Sullivan) RIP Funeral, Confirmation Young People, Ronnie Godsel RIP, Genciana Valarao Farinas RIP, John Maguire, Gregorio Federici RIP.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The final First Communion Masses are as follows: Sunday 15th May 9.30am at Holy Family & 11.30am at Our Lady's. Please keep the children in your prayers.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD on Thursday 26th May. Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

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.

CAFOD GROUP CAKE SALE will be on 22nd May at Holy Family after the 9.30am Mass. They will be following hygiene and cleanliness protocols so please be assured that the cakes will be safe for you to buy and enjoy!

NEWSLETTER on 28th/29th May will cover 4th/5th and 11th/12th June. Please let Fr. Norbert have any information by 26th May.

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

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. With 3rd June being a Bank Holiday, there will NOT be 6.30am Mass on that day.

SUPPLY PRIESTS Canon Michael Munnely, recently retired Parish Priest of Stanmore, will be helping us: 15th May at 10.30, 29th May at 10.30. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Masses on Monday 23rd May at 9.30am, and Sunday 29th May at 6pm. We are grateful for their support.

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

INTERFAITH GROUP will be having an evening on Sacred Numbers on Monday 23rd May at 7.30 at the Focolare Centre for Unity. Fr. Norbert will speak from a Christian perspective, also speaking will be Rabbi Yakov Tate and Barney Leith OBE.

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.

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.

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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

SVP Request for a single mum.
Dining chairs, kettle, girls clothes
4,7 and 8 year olds. Contact Janet
on 01707 326456. Thank you.

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. This recollection is intended for men, however, there is also one for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 15th June at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady
17 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family
19 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family
20 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady
21 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure
21 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
22 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady
	6pm	Holy Family

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 14th May ST. MATTHIAS Apostle chosen to take the place of Judas in the Twelve

Acts 1:15-17,20-26 'He can act as a witness to the resurrection!'

John 15:9-17 'I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit.'

Sunday 15th May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 14:21-27 'We all have to experience many hardships.'

Apocalypse 21:1-5 The new heaven and the new earth.

John 13:31-33,34-35 The Son glorifies the Father. We are to love as Jesus loves.

Monday 16th May

Acts 14:5-18 'We have come with Good News!'

John 14:21-26 The Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Tuesday 17th May

Acts 14:19-28 'They put fresh heart into the disciples.'

John 14:27-31 'Peace I bequeath to you.'

Wednesday 18th May

Acts 15:1-6 Tensions in the Early Church between different groups.

John 15:1-8 Bearing fruit gives glory to the Father.

Thursday 19th May

Acts 15:7-21 The Church in Jerusalem meets to discuss what must be asked of pagans who become Christians

John 15:9-11 The love of Jesus for his disciples.

Friday 20th May

Acts 15:22-31 The Christians of Antioch are encouraged by the letter sent to them from the Apostles in Jerusalem.

John 15:12-17 You are my friends. I chose you.

Returning to Mass at Pentecost

An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.” Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply. We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound. We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person. As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the

Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference

Friday 6th May 2022

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Migration issues in the UK

A Statement by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales In his 2014 message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees Pope Francis wrote, 'We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees... are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved'.

1. This plea of Pope Francis is as urgent as ever. Given the events of recent weeks it is of particular relevance for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Our appeal for refugees and asylum seekers to be welcomed and respected is based on the fundamental principle of the dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. Every nation should recognise this dignity and the rights which flow from it.

2. We appreciate the complexity and magnitude of the challenges being faced in the ongoing migration crisis. With over 80 million people across the world displaced by war, poverty, persecution and the effects of global warming, this challenge requires collaborative international action. Although resources are limited and there are many competing demands, wealthy countries, including the UK should give leadership in this endeavour.

3. The value we attach to each person and the compassion which the afflicted deserve demands that we welcome asylum seekers, treating them justly and honouring their dignity as human persons.

4. The Nationality and Borders Act fails to do this. Those seeking refuge in the UK should be provided with safe routes for travelling, have the opportunity to tell their story, be listened to and have their cases assessed justly. We keep in mind that there is no illegal asylum seeker; to claim asylum is a human right.

5. People smugglers and modern-day human traffickers profit from the desperation and misery of refugees. We fully support their prosecution. It is imperative however to make a clear distinction between victims and those who exploit them. Crime is defeated by confronting the perpetrators not by punishing the victims.

6. Many British people have given witness to justice through hospitality, providing a compassionate welcome and campaigning on behalf of refugees. We applaud their efforts and kindness. Our Christian faith demands that we respond generously to asylum seekers whose dignity must be protected and upheld. Jesus taught us, "I was a stranger and you made me welcome." (Matt 25:35) so we will continue to advocate their cause.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference

Friday 6th May 2022