

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*

24th Sunday of the Year 11th September 2022

This time last week I prepared the first newsletter of September. Who would have thought that a week later we would be mourning the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II? Life is strange and no-one can predict all that happens.

In the last days we have had time to reflect on the sense of loss so many of us feel deeply as individuals, as families, as a country and internationally. She has been the only Queen most of us have known; her presence was always assumed to be there. Now it's different. It is as if we have lost a beloved grandparent. Duty and service have been two words used often in these days of mourning to characterise the Queen. Flowers are being laid at the various royal residences and we await the finer details of her Lying in State and her Funeral. If she is brought back to London by train, the railway line through Welwyn Garden will probably be the route taken.

Prayer is our important instinct as we gather as a Christian Community: for the repose of her soul, for her grieving family, for the Nation in a time of transition AND for the new King Charles III. Through prayer we are in conversation with our God, offering needs and petitions and hearing the message of hope and eternal life. Prayer is the communion of hearts united and raising a word of thanksgiving for so many blessings as well as asking for help. In our Gospel passage this weekend we are presented with the picture of the overwhelming, unconditional love of God revealed in the three parables of Jesus about the finding of what was lost. Sheer delight, joy and celebration ensue!

At this stage, let us take stock and ponder the events which are unfolding and which will certainly be part of our country's history. Let us pray hard, feeling the gentle caress of God's loving arms surrounding us with comfort and tenderness. Let us not be afraid to speak of our hope of Resurrection evidenced in God's own Son who suffered, died and rose again.

May Queen Elizabeth rest in peace. God save the King!

United with you all in grief, love and prayer, *Fr. Norbert*

DEC PAKISTAN APPEAL Devastating floods have hit Pakistan, leaving millions in urgent need of help to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (that's an area almost the size of Great Britain). Your donation will help CAFOD's local partners support communities with clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter. Please pray for those affected and donate now at cafod.org.uk/give.

We are having a retiring collection for this appeal this weekend (9th/10th). There are special envelopes for this purpose so that you can GiftAid your money. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION There is a short summary of the responses so far as we reflect on a possible merger of our three parishes. There is still time for parishioners to express their views. Please write to Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's or email norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk Helga Mangion who is collating the information is offering the opportunity for a conversation (for those who perhaps don't like writing things down) in St. Bonaventure's Hall on Saturday 17th September after 10am Mass. There'll be coffee and a chance to chat. Helga will add people's feelings from this meeting to the overall presentation. Please come to the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 28th September at 8pm in the new Trinity Hall (we hope). On 28th September the more detailed report will be available for discussion and result in a final draft to be sent to the Cardinal. Each one of you is so important in this consultation process. We need MANY of you to come to the meeting!

SUPPLY PRIEST Monsignor Harry Turner is helping us with a couple more Sundays and a weekday. It is good to have his support.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICTY Some of our Catholic Schools require the Parish Priest to provide a Certificate of Catholicity for entry to Primary or Secondary School. In due course Fr. Norbert will publish how this will be done. However, he wants to emphasise that attendance at Mass is a requirement. Covid has placed many burdens on individuals, families and households; now is the time to do your best to return regularly to church. Children can only get here if they are brought by their families. Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start after Christmas. Soon we will ask parents to enrol their children for Communion and young people to enrol for Confirmation. We will let you know when the application Forms are on the website. Also, if any adults would like to be catechists for these Sacraments, please let Fr. Norbert know. There would be training and all the necessary safeguarding guidelines would have to be followed.

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. There are a number who have made themselves known. If you are interested please speak to Fr. Norbert. 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.

FIRST FRIDAY Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 7th October at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

ST. BERNADETTE Some of the relics of St. Bernadette are now in our country. Details can be found on stbernadette.org.uk They will arrive at St. Joseph's Church, Bedwell, Stevenage on Monday 17th October at 1pm and leave on Tuesday 18th October at 8.15am. There are various forms of prayer as well as Masses being planned for Stevenage. Please see the item on the parish website with the details.

FR. WILLIAM WRITES: 'Following the successful Lent course this year we have decided to offer another study course in October this time exploring the importance of the saints in the life of the Church. It is envisaged that this will take place on Wednesday evenings with the first session beginning on the 5th October. More information about this will be given in due course.'

SPANISH PRIEST Fr. Antonio Guerrero Quesada from the Diocese of Jaen in Spain is having a great time in our parishes and enjoying the variety of people and activities. He has also been a tourist! We will enjoy his company until 20th September. May God bless him!

ST. JOSEPH'S CENTRE (which supports adults and children with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends) is celebrating its 45th Anniversary with Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 2.30pm. It would be really great if we (from WGC) could take a group to this Mass and join in the celebrations. There will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall afterwards. It would be a significant moment in starting up again our Special Needs Masses in WGC. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested so he can inform St. Joseph's. Thank you.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. It is a quiet, reflective place to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, light a candle or experience a moment of serenity. Why not pop in?

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 celebrate this Mass on 18th November.

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.

COFFEE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S starts up again this Sunday after 10.30am Mass.

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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) This Sunday 11th September, Mass will be livestreamed at 10am from Our Lady's Church. Each week we will inform you of the timings.

INTER FAITH MEETING Following Fr. Norbert's talk on Sacred Numbers we will be presenting a similar evening featuring the Muslim, Jain, Hindu and Sikh Faiths on Thursday 29th September at 7.30pm at the Focolare Centre. All welcome.

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

OPEN EVENING WITH BRING AND SHARE SUPPER -16 September, 6.45 for 7pm, Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway. All welcome! Any queries contact cathybwgc@gmail.com

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.

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White who is fundraising for Multiple Sclerosis. To support this go to the link below
https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SpencerWhite5?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Spencer-White5&utm_campaign=pfpe-mail&utm_term=2c8397351ca14f26a8df30d16147520a.

MASS TIMES

10 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Jirka Cherny
11 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Dan Doyle (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Chris Doocey (R.I.P. anniversary)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Michael Ryan (R.I.P.)
12 Monday	6pm	Holy Family	Peader Hyland (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Our Lady	Angela Farrugia(R.I.P.)
13 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Ann O'Keefe (R.I.P.)
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Annie Nancy Burrill
15 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Betty Whelan (R.I.P.)
16 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Private Intention
17 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Noel Brady (R.I.P. 7 th anniversary)
	6pm	Our Lady	Jesús Muñiz Castelo (R.I.P. birthday) and Ellen Castelo (R.I.P. birthday)