

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*

29th Sunday of the Year 16th October 2022

In our Gospel reading today from St. Luke, Jesus tells his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. There is the wonderful image of a persistent widow who hounds a judge demanding justice against her enemy. The colourful language in Greek implies that she is beating him black and blue! Jesus wants us always to trust in his Father who listens to those who cry to him.

This passage has made me think of St. Bernadette who in 1858 received apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes in the south of France. The 'Lady' told Bernadette that she was the 'Immaculate Conception', words she did not understand but had to commit to her memory. She was asked to request that the Parish Priest should build a Chapel on the site - what a terrifying prospect! She accepted the challenge to wash in the spring which, to begin with, was just a trickle of muddy water. This young girl who was in poor health and came from a deprived background was persistent and see what happened: not just one church but basilicas galore, a trickle of water which is now a spring of gushing water which has been taken all over the world, a name which she managed to remember to tell her Parish Priest which convinced him that this was no made-up tale. So many people have visited Lourdes and have walked in procession, bathed in the water, made the Stations of the Cross, prayed countless rosaries and lit innumerable candles. There have been some miracles and an intense experience of God's presence. St. Bernadette's example challenges us to ask for what we need and never give up. St. Bernadette invites us to share in a deep love of Our Lady who takes us to her Son.

In the coming days, our Deanery will receive the relics of St. Bernadette. For those of you who know of, or who have visited, Nevers where St. Bernadette died, these will not be the body of St. Bernadette which was exhumed incorrupt. This is still in a glass case in France. These are other relics, however, which are in an ornate casket to give them honour and in venerating them we will be close to Bernadette and will have the opportunity to enter intimately into the message of Lourdes. Let us pray for blessings upon our area: healing for the sick, peace for those who are troubled, light for those in darkness and a real togetherness of a community of faith. Visit if you can!

Have a grace-filled week. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Each week we will inform you of the timings. This Sunday (16th) 9.30am from Holy Family. We are grateful to Eddy Gallucci for his hard work in bringing the streamed Masses to us. If anyone would like to be available to help from time to time in the future, please let Fr. Norbert know.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start after Christmas. After half-term 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 n

FIRST FRIDAY Next 6.30am Mass on Friday 4th November at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

ST. BERNADETTE The relics of St. Bernadette will arrive at St. Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, STEVENAGE SG1 1NJ on Monday 17th October at 1pm. 10 local Catholic schools including our own primary schools will be there to greet the relics when they arrive. The children will spend the morning reflecting on the message of Lourdes. There will be Masses at 5pm, 7pm and 10pm and a Healing Service at 3pm. The church will close at midnight. On Tuesday 18th October, the church will reopen at 6am and Fr. Norbert will celebrate the 'Closing Mass' at 7am, with the relics moving on at 8.15am. Many who have had a chance to visit the relics in other places and who have spent time in prayer have found peace and joy. If you are free, why not come and pray for intentions you hold in your hearts?

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.

FUNERALS

SHEILA MITCHELL RIP Sheila's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 20th October at 1pm.

JOHN HILL RIP John's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 31st October at 12.30pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Holy Family Wednesday 19th October at 5pm.

St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 25th October at 10.15am.

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. We have had a very successful first couple of sessions looking at the life of St. Patrick and St. Benedict. This week we will be turning to St. Francis. Please do join us! Refreshments will be served from 7.15pm and the session start at 7.45pm.

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? *The Chapel will be closed in half-term (24th - 28th October)*

NOVEMBER 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY (Tuesday 1st November) This is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. There will be 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12 noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY (Wednesday 2nd November) A day when we remember and pray for the dead. Masses as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure and 7pm at Our Lady's.

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.

RED BOXES/MISSIO

It is that time of year for the MISSIO Red Boxes to be emptied and the monies to be sent on to the Missions.

Please do leave your box with us in Church in the next couple of weeks if you would like us to count and bank the contents and return the box to you in due course.

Alternatively you can count the money yourself and donate by one of the ways listed below:

Sent by cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
Online missio.org.uk/redbox

By text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085 Or by phone 020 7821 9755 (office hours) By Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230 (Reference RB+ your postcode) *Your generosity makes such a difference and supports the work of the Missions. Thank you!*

OPEN EVENING AT THE FOCOLARE CENTRE FOR UNITY Friday 21st October 7.30-9pm: BEING A BOROUGH COUNCILLOR - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES. Michal Siewniak will share his experience as a Christian and newly elected Councillor for Welwyn Hatfield. Tea/coffee provided.

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES are looking for a local storage space e.g. garage etc to store donations. If you can help email woodcraftvicky@gmail.com

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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

HALF-TERM 24TH - 28TH OCTOBER A happy and restful holiday to our children and staff.
Come back refreshed!

CLOCKS will go back one hour the weekend of 29th/30th October as British Summer Time comes to end. Don't forget!!

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

HOLY FAMILY Primary School Nursery and Reception places for September 2023

Applications for reception and nursery places for September 2023 will open on 1st November 2022. Families who wish to apply for a place at Holy Family Primary School are welcome to come and view our school for a tour with the Head teacher Mrs Linnane. Tours are by appointment only and can be booked by calling the school office on 01707 375518. Our nursery setting offers full and part time places and 30 hour childcare codes are accepted. Applications will close on 15th January 2024. For further information go to our website www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk

MASS TIMES

15 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Hedrika Juchelkova
16 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Holy Family	Mary McEvoy (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Maria D'Costa (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Pat Soleil (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	
17 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
18 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Toby Roche (R.I.P. 1 st anniversary)
	7pm	Our Lady	
19 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Margaret Harex
20 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Robert Chronnell (R.I.P.)
21 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Patrick, Mary and John Dever (R.I.P. anniv)
22 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Michael Maher (R.I.P. birthday)
	6pm	Our Lady	Michael Maher (R.I.P. birthday)