

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Canon Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. William Johnstone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Trinity Sunday 4th June 2023

We are now back in Ordinary Time though our Sundays have some important celebrations. Today the Church invites us to consider and give thanks for God who is a Trinity of Persons and yet One. This Mystery is pivotal to our Christian Faith AND is difficult to explain fully! God from all eternity has existed: Father pouring out love upon the Son with the Son returning that love and the dynamism between the two being the Holy Spirit. This foundational triune relationship then flows into Creation culminating in the creation of humanity and the Incarnation with the Son becoming flesh as one of us. God's generosity has resulted in our experience of his Presence in our midst and the invitation to join this Trinity of Persons one day in the glory and wonder of heaven. Then we will see and truly know the Trinity!

Our Scripture passages today express in variety of ways the marvels of who God is. From Exodus: 'a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness'. From St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians: 'the God of love and peace'. From St. John's Gospel: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.' We are called into this life and, in turn, to share this love with others. God understands when we do not always get it right and God forgives, offering a fresh start. The Cross and Resurrection are the source of reconciliation.

A week ago, I had the opportunity to visit Rome for a few days. My main purpose was to catch up with friends, some of whom have come to Welwyn Garden City. Talking, listening, celebrating and praying were key elements of my time there. I met the two Spanish priests who will be coming this summer and they are very excited as the prospect of spending time in our churches. There were also moments when the languages being used were Italian and Spanish and so I had to focus on people's facial expressions and hand gestures to read what was going on! Last Saturday my older brother celebrated his 60th birthday with a James Bond themed party. Many family members were there as well as his friends and there was a brilliant experience of a togetherness which no-one wanted to end when the celebration concluded. The Trinity calls upon us to enter into its family life and rejoice in its friendship. Heaven will be a banquet for eternity as well as contemplation of the pure Love which is God!

God bless you and your week. With much love, *Fr. Norbert.*

CHANGES:

FR. WILLIAM JOHNSTONE After nearly two years with us, Fr. William will be moving this summer to take up a new appointment as Assistant Priest at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, London NW10. The move was announced earlier this week. We are grateful to Fr. William for his service here in our churches and we ask God's blessing upon him in this new role. A date for a Farewell Mass and Reception will be announced in due course.

FR. MARCO SALVAGNINI will be the new Assistant Priest starting in September and resident at Holy Family. He was ordained with Fr. William for our Diocese and will come to us from Our Lady of Victories, Kensington High Street. We look forward to welcoming him to our community.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR With the new canonical parish, it has been necessary to restructure and create the post of Parish Administrator which include the responsibility of book-keeping for all three churches. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have given of themselves for many years: Bill Hayes at St. Bonaventure, Alison Augur at Holy Family and Linda O'Loughlin, Ernest Owusu-Afriyie and Affie Osayande at Our Lady's. The new post will be advertised and open to applications.

KATHRYN HUBBARD With the changes which have been made, the post of Parish Secretary will no longer exist. A process of consultation has taken place and Kathryn Hubbard who has served in this role for over 21 years has agreed to be made redundant after the summer. Fr. Norbert would like to express his gratitude on behalf of the parish for Kathryn's loyal and dedicated service over these decades in his time as Parish Priest and previously. There was a period with no resident Parish Priest of St. Bonaventure and Kathryn worked tirelessly to keep things going. She also kept a watchful eye on Fr. Joe Boward who lived in the Presbytery. There will be a Mass and Reception which will be announced soon. We pray for God's Blessing upon Kathryn, her husband David and their family.

FUNERALS

PETER CULLEN RIP Peter's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 14th June at 1pm.

PATRICK GLYNN RIP Paddy's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 19th June at 1.15pm.

There is also a Funeral Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 26th June at 11am.

FR. ANTONIO from Spain writes: Almost a year after my visit to your city. I have met Father Norbert again in Rome and we have once again remembered those great moments that we all lived together during that summer month. It has made me very happy to know that you are well, that you continue to take great care of yourselves and share many things together. I have only heard good words from you and I do not doubt any of that.

I cannot deny that I miss you very much and that I really want to return. For now, I send you many memories and thanks from Rome. I keep praying for you. All the best, Antonio Guerrero.

NEWS FROM HITCHIN What: Youth group at Our Lady's Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road SG5 1QS) When: Friday 9th June 6-8pm Fun, faith and Food. No charge. We meet in the parish hall.

The dates of the final sessions before the summer break: Friday 23rd June & Friday 14th July 6-8pm

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH are pleased to invite you to our Summer Shared Supper on Thursday 8th June at 7 pm. Please bring a cold dish, savoury or sweet, to share. Our new mayor will be our guest of honour. **ALL WELCOME**

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING: THE SCIENCE OF GRATITUDE. Friday 16th June 7.30-9.00, Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Tea/coffee provided, all welcome! This will be the last Open Evening before the summer break.

CAFOD Group – The next CAFOD meeting is on Tuesday 6th June in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome.

CAKE SALE The CAFOD group are holding a cake sale at Holy Family on Sunday 11th June after the 9.30am Mass. We will welcome any donations of cakes for sale.

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

EMAIL ADDRESS Please note that the Diocese has created a new email address for our one parish of Welwyn Garden City: wgc@rcdow.org.uk Please start using this new address from now on. Thank you.

FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY Fr. Norbert writes: New standing order forms are available at the back of our churches. Thank you to all who have signed up! I would ask others please to consider setting up a standing order to make your regular gift to the church. Sometimes (or often) the machines at the back of the churches play up! Standing orders should be more straightforward and give us a steady income.

We also ask those of you who are tax-payers to allow the parish to claim back the tax you have paid - GiftAid. This results in an extra source of income which doesn't cost you anything as long as you are a tax-payer. The donation must come from a bank account in the name of the taxpayer who is claiming Gift Aid which can be a joint account.

Thank you for your great generosity - it is much appreciated.

LISTER HOSPITAL If a parishioner or a family member goes into the Lister Hospital, the following links might be helpful: Non-urgent referrals 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), Chaplaincy Team email is spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net Please remember that the sick person must want the Chaplaincy to know that they are Catholic and that they want to be seen by a priest!

VISITING PRIESTS

Fr. Juan de Dios Prieto Garralda from the Diocese of Granada (Spain), studying Philosophy in Rome, will come at the beginning of July to improve his English.

Fr. Julio Barcudi from the Diocese of Mallorca (Spain) will come at the end of August to improve his English. He studies Scripture in Rome. All the necessary paperwork is in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

Fr. Stephen Coker from Letchworth is celebrating 9.30am and 11.30 Masses on Sunday 4th June and 10.30 Mass on Sunday 11th June. We are grateful to him for his support.

ELY The Christian Churches in WGC have arranged a day out in Ely on Saturday 10th June. The 57-seater coach is now full. We will leave from outside Our Lady's at 8.15am and depart from Ely at 6.15pm. You will all be in our prayers. If anyone would like to attend Mass before, Fr. Norbert will celebrate Mass at 7.30am in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 10th June.

LOOKING AHEAD The Filipino Community will lead 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th June with a party afterwards. There will be a Signed Mass on Sunday 25th June at 11.30am at Our Lady's. The annual African Mass will be on Sunday 2nd July at 11.30 with a celebration afterwards. The Polish-English Mass clashes with another event and so has been cancelled.

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White, one of our parishioners for his first full iron distance triathlon on the 15th July 2023. A gruelling 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run, in aid of Parkinson's UK, something his mother-in-law and Auntie are suffering terribly from. You can donate to his JustGiving page by searching here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spencer-white6> or if easier Spencer or his wife Jenny will be at Mass at both HF and Our Lady's over the coming weeks. Many thanks.

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. Thank you.

TRANSPORT TO MASS If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! All necessary safeguarding and health and safety guidelines are followed. The new co-ordinator is Anne MacLean-Eltham. Our thanks to Kay Mason for all her work over many years. Kay has moved to Bath. We wish her well.

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.

Parish Priest
Canon 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

TRINITY HALL The Hall is now available for general hire. Bookings and enquiries can be made through the www.wgc-catholics.org.uk website, which contains the terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary showing bookings and time available for hire. Please enjoy this wonderful resource and spread the word amongst friends and family who may be looking for a Hall to hire. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open. On weekdays (except bank holidays), come and spend a moment in prayer, light a candle and feel the peace of the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle 7.30am until 6pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS Final celebration on 11th June 11.30 at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 9th June at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

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.

MARRIAGE Any couples planning on getting married this year or next should speak to Fr. Norbert to arrange the necessary preparations.

HOLY LAND AND JORDAN 59 people have booked for November! Fr. Norbert plans to have a meeting of pilgrims in October to go through the travel plans. Also, a coach will be organised to take pilgrims to and from the airport (from WGC). All Saints Travel will keep pilgrims posted.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches Sunday 10.30 from St. Bonaventure's.

MASS INTENTIONS

03 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Patricia Hart (R.I.P.)
04 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Robert and Val Callingham and children (ints)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Federici family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Patrick Creamer (R.I.P. Anniversary)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Deceased members of McEleney family
	6pm	Holy Family	Family and carers of Pat Frost
05 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Sean Cox's intentions
06 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	John and Eithne McShane (R.I.P.)
07 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Virginia Rees (R.I.P. anniversary)
08 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Carol Organ (R.I.P.)
09 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7.30pm	Our Lady	Confirmation Mass
10 Saturday	7.30am	Our Lady	
	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Pat Meenan (R.I.P.)