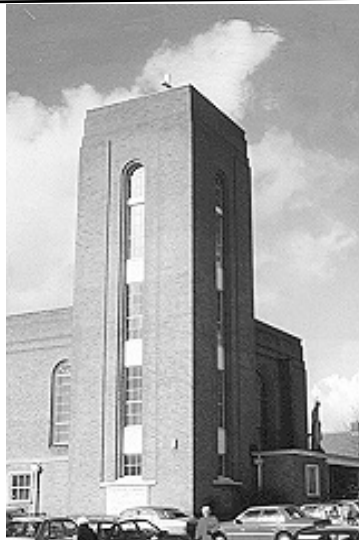


WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd July 2023

In our Second Reading today from St. Paul to the Romans, the Apostle reflects on Baptism. If you had to write a few words about Baptism, what would you say? Perhaps you would speak about joining the Church or washing away of Original Sin or something similar? Would you talk about what is worn or the Baptismal Candle or the Holy Oils? Would you mention the certificate?

St. Paul starts today's passage with 'When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death...' This powerful text is a reminder that Baptism is connected with the Easter Mystery, of the Lord's Death and Resurrection; in fact, today's Reading is always used at the Easter Vigil. St. Paul is convinced that by dying with Christ, we shall share in his Resurrection. For those baptised as adults, there is a much more conscious decision and experience of this teaching. For a baby or child, it is usually the parents who commit their offspring to this 'life in Christ' which is then sealed in the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the Gospel excerpt from St. Matthew, the Lord says that to be worthy of him, we must take up our cross and follow in his footsteps. There is the puzzling language of 'finding life and losing it' and 'losing life for the sake of Jesus leading to it being found'. Jesus teaches us by his example that by giving away everything including his own life, he has received life in abundance which is shared with us. This is the life of Baptism!

The summer will soon be here and it's a time when we take stock of our lives as many of us step back from the normal busy schedule. Ponder the gift you have received by being baptised into Jesus Christ. Ask him to show you a way of developing your relationship with him. Allow the seeds of faith already planted to germinate and blossom. Maybe some reading this have not yet been baptised? Ask yourself whether next Easter will be the right time. If you are an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger, why not commit yourself to completing what started at Baptism by choosing to be confirmed? Parents who seek Baptism or First Confession and First Holy Communion for your children, don't let the opportunities for a deepening of faith to pass by. Young people, think about Confirmation and be ready to respond. After the summer, dates for preparation for the Sacraments will be announced. Be prepared to take that enormous step with loving conviction...be open to what the Lord will lavish on you!

God bless you and your loved ones. With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

FR. WILLIAM JOHNSTONE will be moving in September to The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, London NW10. Fr. William will celebrate a Farewell Mass on Saturday 2nd September at 6pm in Our Lady's followed by a Reception in the Trinity Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

FR. MARCO SALVAGNINI will be the new Assistant Priest starting in September and resident at Holy Family.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR Please have a look at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-administrator-welwyn-garden-city/> for this new post in WGC. Friday 7th July is the closing date for the applications.

KATHRYN HUBBARD Kathryn's last day as Secretary will be Tuesday 5th September. 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 3rd September will be a Farewell with a Reception afterwards to which everyone is invited. We pray for God's Blessing upon Kathryn, her husband David and their family.

FUNERALS

PATRICIA KENNEDY RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 3rd July at 12.30pm at Our Lady's.

RONALD WHITE RIP Ronald's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 10th July at 2.15pm.

HAYLEY MEENAN-WILKIN RIP Hayley's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 12th July at 12.45pm.

GERDA STANLEY RIP Gerda's Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 13th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's.

MAUREEN BRENNAN RIP Maureen's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 19th July at 12.30pm

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. Standing orders 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.

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White, one of our parishoners 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.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE Come and join our friendly choir! Singing For Pleasure was formed 43 years ago by Glynis Rogers. Glynis is a professionally trained singer and musician, as well as our musical director. Singing is excellent for your physical and mental health. SFP is open to all abilities and none! We rehearse every Friday evening at Howlands Baptist Church 8pm. Come along and try us out. 3 free taster sessions on offer! Who knows, you might even enjoy it! Contact Glynis Rogers, tel: 0771329921, email: sfpwgc80@gmail.com

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!

FIRST FRIDAY The early Mass at St. Bonaventure's will next be on Friday 7th July at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome!

VISITING PRIEST Fr. Juan de Dios Prieto Garralda writes:

Dear Church of Welwyn, I'm glad for this letter, because I have writing to my new family to England for fifteen days. An affectionate greeting.

I introduce myself. My name is Juan de Dios (John of God in English) and I'm 29 years old. I'm from Granada, the most beautiful city in Spain. I'm priest for three years. I entered in the seminary when I was fifteen years old, I'm an early vocation. I have been seven years in the seminary and in 2020 my bishop ordained me a priest. After that I have been in a beautiful town in the beach of Granada, Almuñecar, like assistant of the parish. There I have been three years unforgettable: with the young people, with the marriages, with all the people there. Now last summer my bishop asked me to study philosophy in Rome. Then I had to leave my dear parish and I went to Rome for study. This year I have studied philosophy in Rome and I have started the doctorate in philosophy. For that I don't have any parish and I can be with you these days.

I really want to see you and to meet you. But you must apologize me for my English, because it's not very well.

An affectionate greeting for all of you, Juan de Dios

If anyone would like to spend conversational time with Fr. Juan or show him one of the sights in our area, please let Fr. Norbert know - especially 7th to 10th July. Fr. Juan will be hearing Confessions on Thursday 6th July 10.00 -10.30am at Holy Family and on Saturday 8th July 10.30 -11.00am at St. Bonaventure and 5.00 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's. He will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in English, Spanish and Italian! All the necessary paperwork is in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

FILIPINO MASS A huge 'Thank you!' to the Filipino Community for such a wonderful celebration last weekend. Everyone had a brilliant time!

SIGNED MASS Our thanks to Sarah Metcalfe from the Deaf Service for coming last Sunday and helping us with our Signed Mass. These Masses continue to raise our awareness of the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing.

AFRICAN MASS today (Sunday 2nd) at 11.30 at Our Lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. Come and celebrate!

CAFOD GROUP will meet in Holy Family's Parish Room on Tuesday 4th July at 2pm. All welcome.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK This great celebration organised by the SVP (Society of St. Vincent de Paul) will this year take place on Saturday 15th July at 12 noon at the Focolare Centre. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. If you need a lift contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

INTERFAITH On Thursday 6th July at 7.30 in the Focolare Centre we have invited a very special speaker, Rev. Hosoya who is the UK director of a world wide Buddhist movement for peace and inter-religious cooperation formed during WWII. We look forward to a very interesting evening. For further information please see the leaflets at the back of the church.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING after Mass at St. Bonaventure's this Tuesday. Come and join the group.

Also our thanks to all who helped with church cleaning at Our Lady's and the maintenance of the grounds.

MASS INTENTIONS If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please contact Fr. Norbert.

SVP The annual report is attached to the newsletter this week. Next weekend there will be a retiring collection to support their work in our local area. Please be generous and thank you!

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.

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and he 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.

STREAMED MASS on youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches This weekend will be streamed at 11.30am.

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.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

01 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Deceased members of Mulvany family
02 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwi (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Archbishop Emeritus Raul Gonsalves (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Thomas and Josephine Connolly R.I.P. and Denis and Bella Dunne R.I.P.
	11.30am	Our Lady	Aleyamma Mooleparambil (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	Alan McEvoy (R.I.P.)
03 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Paddy Glynn (R.I.P.)
	12.30pm	Our Lady	Funeral Mass
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Thanksgiving to St. Jude
	7pm	Our Lady	Michael Maher (R.I.P. anniversary)
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Thanksgiving to St. Jude
06 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Peter Conroy (R.I.P.)
07 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Special intention
	7pm	Our Lady	Jim Davies (R.I.P.)
08 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Bill Gray (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Our Lady	Peter Bonass (R.I.P. birthday)