

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fourth Sunday of the Year 28th January 2018 page 132 of the Mass Book

‘Who is this?’ is the question which we must ask ourselves at the end of today’s Gospel passage from St. Mark. The man possessed by an unclean spirit declares: ‘I know who you are: the Holy One of God!’ Jesus releases the man from his affliction and everyone is filled with wonder. How do you feel? What’s your response to the question? What is it in your life and its experiences which convinces you of Jesus’ identity?

In the account, we are told of Jesus’ teaching. We do not know its content but we are aware of the authority with which the Lord speaks. This teaching is not only in words but is evidenced in the healing which takes place. What strange ‘teaching’! Those involved in education are often asked to look for ‘outcomes’; they are to treat their children and students as individuals ensuring that each develops, is stretched and grows. Would Jesus have passed the inspector’s watchful glance and demanding criteria? (That’s not a fair comparison!)

In our own lives, can we honestly say that our faith is shown in words and actions? Last week, we heard about the calling of the first disciples; from their nets and boats along the Sea of Galilee, they find themselves following this magnetic personality straight to the synagogue in Capernaum. Now they witness the wonder of his teaching authority through the healing. What must they have thought? Perhaps they asked themselves: ‘Is he going to expect us to copy him?’ or ‘Are we going to be able to speak and act with such authority?’ Maybe you have the same thoughts running through your minds? To be authentic all the time - with words and actions to match - is challenging; to go out of our comfort zone and reach out to the sick, the disturbed, those who are different, takes the courage of a true disciple empowered by the Lord to become his apostle.

May Christ be with you this week inspiring you with words and actions, putting those you encounter in touch with him! ***Fr. Norbert***

RAYMONDE RICHARDS RIP Raymonde's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Tuesday 6th February at 12.30pm.

PAT DESMOND RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will be on Friday 9th February at 10am at Our Lady's.

RICHARD MORRISSEY RIP Richard's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 19th February at 12.30pm.

RCIA Next session for adults wanting to join the Catholic Church will be in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 29th January.

CONFIRMATION Our young people have a Retreat Afternoon today (Sunday) at the Focolare Centre. Their next evening session will be on Sunday 4th February at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS from our three churches will have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 31st January at 7.30pm. Next Sunday (4th) Holy Family's First Communion children will be presented at 9.30 Mass and Our Lady's at 11.30 Mass.

NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will set aside dates after half-term to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for entry to nursery in our Catholic schools. Dates will be in next week's newsletter.

ASH WEDNESDAY this year coincides with Valentine's Day - 14th February! It also falls in the half-term holiday. Mass with the imposition of ashes will be at 9.30 at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. This is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. If you have any old palms, please bring them to church and they will be burned to make the ashes.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on 2nd February at St. Bonaventure's. There will be breakfast in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 9th February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD There will be an afternoon visit to St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm. There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake!

On Saturday 5th May there will be a day in Aylesford at The Friars where there is a Shrine of Our Lady.

CANDLEMAS is on Friday 2nd February when we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. Candles will be blessed at 6.30am and 9.30 Masses at St. Bonaventure's. Our Lady's 7pm Mass will be by candlelight.

BLESSING OF ST BLAISE (for the throat) will be given after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 3rd February.

HCPT group 183 will be having a retiring collection for this Easter's Pilgrimage to Lourdes for disabled children, after each Mass this weekend 27th/28th January. There will be Gift Aid envelopes at the back of each church for anyone who is able to Gift Aid their donation. We would like to thank you in advance for your support .

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY Today is Racial Justice Sunday. Pope Francis says: 'Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.' We are therefore called to open our hearts to those who are discriminated, those who are lonely, those who are hurt and feel cut off from their communities. More info catholicnews.org.uk/racial-justice-Sunday-2018

HOLY LAND REUNION in Our Lady's Hall after Our Lady's 7pm Mass on Friday 2nd February. Pilgrims, don't forget to bring food to share!

AVIGNON 2018 Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches. 15 have signed up already. Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

ZUMBA for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

FINANCE COMMITTEE Holy Family on Wednesday 7th February 7pm.

THANKS Thank you to all who went to the Service at Christchurch Baptists last Sunday, especially to the children who sang.

ACCOMMODATION A mother and her daughter are looking for accommodation. If you can help, please contact Fr. Norbert.

VOTE FOR THE MIXED GROUP Ashtons Estate Agents are putting up charity boards throughout WGC and surrounding areas until 9th February. They have £10k to be shared out amongst the three highest voted for charities. The Mixed Group run by parishioner Sean Cox provides Christmas dinner to the old and lonely in WGC. If you would like to vote online for The Mixed Group you can do so at www.lifesgreatcauses.co.uk. They fundraise all year round, a win would be great so please vote before the deadline on 9th February.

REPOSITORY Communion and Confirmation catalogue now available in the repository at Our Lady's for you to place an order until the end of February. Available before and after most Masses.

THANK YOU to those who came and cleaned at Holy Family Church recently. Your help is much appreciated.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S Church cleaning takes place this Thursday 1st February.

OUR LADY'S Church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds will take place on Saturday 3rd February at 10am for ONE hour. Refreshments will be available afterwards. All are welcome to come along to help. Thank you.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Saturday 24th Feb at 6pm and Saturday 28th April at 6pm.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY After 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th March there will be a 'Get-together' in the hall. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to help and have any ideas about the entertainment!

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be on Saturday 23rd June at 12 noon at Our Lady's

FILIPINO MASS will be on Saturday 23rd June at 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS will be on Sunday 8th July at 11.30am

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil
 Johnson 01707 377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

<p>CONFESSIONS Holy Family: Thursday 10am St. Bonaventure: Saturday 10.30am -11am Our Lady's: Saturday 5pm -5.30pm.</p>
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CALLING YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS Intergenerational European Pilgrimage travelling to Calais, Brussels, Strasbourg, Taize, Assisi, Rome, Geneva. 2nd - 11th April. Travel is by coach. Price £695 (maybe some help with cost if short of cash). See poster at the back of church for more details.

CAN YOU HELP WITH KNITTING? A parishioner needs to have something hand knitted for her or have help to knit. She would be very grateful for any offers. Contact Dolly 07906645912.

MASS TIMES

29 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
30 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
31 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John Bosco
01 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feriia
02 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Presentation of the Lord
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore

Fifth Sunday of the Year

03 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
04 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**