

# 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 3rd February page 133 of the Mass Book***

A new month has begun, the snow has fallen AND soon it will be Valentine's Day!!! Is this the reason why St. Paul's 'Hymn on Love' is one of the Scriptures set which may be read at some of the Masses today. Chapter 13 of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (or a part of it) is often chosen by couples getting married probably because of the sentiments expressed and, I guess, as the word 'love' is mentioned so many times. I know that on many retreats, people are asked to replace 'love' with their own names and reflect on whether the statements can be applied to themselves or to put Jesus' name into the equation and come to a realisation of the power of love which he reveals.

All of this is good and instructive but it might help to consider the Epistle as a whole, especially starting from the beginning. St. Paul is very upset with this community because of the factions which have formed, the taking of sides and the slogans being used. St. Paul chastises the Corinthians because Christ is being lost in the midst of their arguments. The Apostle then turns to the state of morals - anything seems to go and he feels the need to upbraid these people he knows so well. He reminds the congregation of the Gift handed on to him which he in turn has passed on to them—namely the Eucharist. He does so in order to hold them to account for neglecting to feed the hungry of the community and having a hierarchy of places to sit at the assembly. Then there is the issue of the different gifts of the Spirit which lead some to think they are better than others. This too has led to disharmony. It does sound quite disastrous!! It is in this context that Love is proclaimed: the Love radiated by Jesus Christ, especially on the Cross, and Love which forms community, overcomes barriers, unites bringing harmony. This Love does not come to an end but takes us to the eternal Love of God in heaven from where it has come down on earth and been made incarnate. This is what Paul wants the community in Corinth to learn, experience and share. What a challenge to us too!

I invite you to take a moment this week to read and reread Chapter 13 of First Corinthians. Let each of us reflect on our personal way of living and how we affect relationships at home, school, work or in the community. Through the power of God's Word and in the Holy Spirit, let us ask for the help we need to let Christ's Love be our inspiration and joy, forming us into individuals who create harmony and peace to the glory of God.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere this year or in 2020 should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019. This 'Day' gives couples a chance to step back from the usual organisation of the Wedding Day and to focus on themselves and their relationship. They have serious, privileged experience of getting ready for a lifetime of Marriage as well as the fun and enrichment of being with other couples in the same boat.

**SIGNED MASS** Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service of the Diocese will be coming to help with the signing of Mass on Saturday 30th March at 6pm at Our Lady's. There will be two 'practice' sessions to prepare on Tuesdays 19th and 26th March at 7.45pm for an hour in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. Those who took part in the Deaf Awareness Course should let Fr. Norbert know if they can come. Others too may come to these sessions but the maximum number for a fruitful session would be 16 people.

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** The Trustees of the Diocese have given the go-ahead for the building of the new Parish Centre to serve our three parishes and have approved a loan of £350k over 12 years at 1.9%. We will be receiving £252k from your generous giving through Growing in Faith (GiF). Soon Fr. Norbert will be forming a Fundraising Committee to raise monies to pay off the loan. We found through GiF that pledged giving really does realise funds in a substantial way and also make the possibility of paying off the loan realistic. GiF for WGC will conclude this summer. Some of you may wish to stop your giving; others continue in a fresh way. Perhaps some were not involved before or are new to the parish. Please do think about it. The Architects have put the project out to tender and soon there will be a tender meeting to choose a contractor. It is possible that demolition might start by Easter! This would mean the new Parish Centre being ready in Welwyn Garden City's Centenary Year. In regard to the possibility of the three parishes becoming one 'canonical parish', conversations have begun and there will be time and opportunities for information to be shared with the pros and cons to be outlined. There will be consultation and a chance for opinions to be expressed.

**MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY** at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th June at 3pm for couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th 60th and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to receive an invitation from Cardinal Vincent Nichols to this Mass please give your names, full postal address, email/phone number and date of Wedding to Fr. Norbert by 23rd March. Many couples from our parishes have gone up to Westminster for this event and have found it very uplifting.

**ETHEL GRAYSON RIP** Ethel's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 4th February at 12.30pm.

**MARY READY RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 8th February at 11am.

**RCIA** Next session on Monday 4th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** There is a session today (Sunday 3rd) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church. The Afternoon Retreat will be NEXT Sunday 10th February at Focolare 1.30 - 5.30pm

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Next parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm.

**CANTERBURY OUTING** Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong in Cathedral. Flyers including booking forms are at the back of the churches and must be filled in and returned well in advance. It should be a brilliant day. Forms and money have already started coming in! Don't miss out.

**OUR LADY'S 60TH** The Foundation Stone of Our Lady's Church was laid on 30th September 1959. The Cardinal has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 15th September at 11.30am. A date for your diaries!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES** Saturday 16th March 6pm and Saturday 11th May at 6pm. Watch this space!

**AFRICAN MASS** The celebration for 2019 will be on Sunday 14th July at 11.30am

**FILIPINO MASS** Saturday 6th July at 6pm has been chosen for this celebration. Keep the date free!.

**MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 8th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**OUTING** Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. T

**2020** Don't forget that the Centenary of Welwyn Garden City will be celebrated in 2020. Hence the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May. Also, the Passion Play in Oberammergau only happens every 10 years and so we have booked the 9th - 11th September for a trip. We're waiting for the brochures.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We meet from 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along?

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** This friendly group meets every Wednesday from 10am in the parish hall at St. Bonaventure's. Lots of toys to play with, mums, grandparents etc. to chat to. A good opportunity to get to know other families. This is open to all who would like to come.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** Many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING** This Thursday 10am. Come and help!

**DO YOU LOVE TO SING?** For a happier, healthier you in 2019, join Welwyn Harmony A Cappella Chorus for a 'Love to Sing' Course. Beginners and improvers welcome whether or not you read music. Total cost £8 per person. Tuesday 5th and 12th February 2019 from 7.30pm to 9.15pm at the Vineyard Barn, The Vineyard, Digswell Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7PU. To register please e-mail: [info@welwynharmony.co.uk](mailto:info@welwynharmony.co.uk) or Facebook message Welwyn Harmony.

**THE HOLY FAMILY CAFOD group** will be holding a cake sale on Sunday 10th February at Holy Family after the 9.30am Mass. Any donations of home baking will be very warmly received.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231, regular cleaning, fortnightly, monthly, spring cleans, ironing etc.

**ST ALBANS** Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** Holy Family's Finance Committee will meet in the Parish Room on Tuesday 12th March at 8pm.

**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 6J

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

### CONFESSIONS

Holy Family: Thursday **10am**  
St. Bonaventure: Saturday **10.30am -11am**  
Our Lady's: Saturday **5pm -5.30pm.**

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

**DO YOU KNOW** anyone who would like to attend Mass but cannot manage the journey? We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399.

**COMMUNION DRESSES** Birdcage Bridal Boutique in Moors Walk, Panshanger have a beautiful range of First Holy Communion dresses, veils, shoes and accessories. Please contact Anne-Marie or Bethany on 01707 394

**THE CELLAR CLUB** A volunteer is needed (at URC) for 3rd Thursday of the month to help serve teas/coffee, snacks etc to those in need. Contact Vicky woodcraftvicky@gmail.com for more details.

**SCHOOL VISITS** Holwell Primary School's Year 6 will be coming to visit Our Lady's Church on Tuesday afternoon. Swallow Dell Primary School's Year 2 children will visit Our Lady's on Friday 1st March in the morning.

### MASS TIMES

04 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Agatha
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Paul Miki and Companions
07 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
08 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	11am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
<b>Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>				
09 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333** via text message: **07876 526935** email: **chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**