

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*

Fifth Sunday of the Year 10th February page 136 of the Mass Book

We are by the sea today! Galilee, of course; strictly speaking the Lake of Gennesaret. St. Luke presents us with the picture of Jesus teaching the crowds from a boat which is Simon Peter's. The Lord then invites him to pay the nets out for a catch which causes Peter some consternation as he and his companions had been fishing all night. The resulting haul of fish overwhelms Peter and he realises his sinfulness. And before you know it, he has been called to catch people!

Jesus invites us to trust in the God of encounter. He shows us our worth in God's eyes. There is a commission he offers even to those who are sinful. In our First Reading from Isaiah, the prophet has a vision of heaven and the sight leads him to say: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost...' He is purged of his sin and hears the question: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' His confident response is now: 'Here I am, send me.' Paul continues in our Second Reading with his First Epistle to the Corinthians, telling them that the Lord appeared to him and that he hardly deserved the name apostle; however, the grace of God is with him. The persecutor has become the proclaimer of Jesus Christ - even Paul is surprised by this.

What about us? Have you been 'caught' by Jesus Christ? Who did his work in your case? Or what is the story of your coming to believe in him? Each one of us is so different with a unique tale to tell. Perhaps some of you are still wondering whether the 'catch' has been made or might be trying to evade Jesus THE Fisher of people? Maybe you don't feel ready or adequate to be his instrument? Don't worry. He has every confidence in you and furnishes you with his gifts. Keep listening. Never stop looking out for him. Be aware of someone desperate to know him. Wait to discover what will happen!

Have a good week and God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

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.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION It is Valentine's Day this week! 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 the 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.

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.

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

CONFIRMATION Our young people have an Afternoon Retreat today (Sunday) at Focolare 1.30 - 5.30pm. After the half-term break the next session will be on Sunday 10th March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Next parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 13th February at 7.30pm.

VACANCY FOR CARETAKER/SITE MANAGER at Our Lady School, hours are negotiable. If interested contact the school office for more information on 01707 324408.

CWL The Catholic Women's League are pleased to announce that the "Olive Brand", a society who help Young Mums who have no family support, are coming to talk to us on Tuesday, 12th February at 8pm in the Sacristy. We will be very pleased to welcome newcomers and all our members to hear about and support this very worthy cause.

DAVID FOX RIP David's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 27th February at 12.30pm.

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

NURSERY REFERENCES Many parents came to Fr. Norbert before Christmas to get the Certificate of Catholicity forms signed. Fr. Norbert will be available on Monday 11th March at Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to make a 5-minute appointment. At the back of our churches is the 'extra' form (gold or yellow) which should be filled in and brought to the appointment. Fr. Norbert would like to meet the child as well as parent/s.

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!.

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

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.

THANK YOU to all who came and cleaned St. Bonaventure's on Thursday.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING will take place on Wednesday 13th February from 12pm. Any volunteers wishing to join our elderly and depleted team for an hour or two will indeed be very welcome.

REGIONAL CAFOD MEETING Saturday 23rd February, 11:30 - 4pm, Holy Family Parish Room, Welwyn Garden City. You are invited to join with CAFOD volunteers and supporters from across Herts to learn about the different kinds of activities undertaken on behalf of CAFOD in other parishes. A chance to swap ideas with CAFOD supporters from those parishes and learn more about CAFOD's projects abroad from a CAFOD representative. We'll have a shared lunch (please bring a food contribution) and so we know how many to expect, register with Ann at ann.milner@cafod.org.uk. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet CAFOD people without having to go to London! *Come and support this great event!*

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.

SCHOOL VISITS Swallow Dell Primary School's Year 2 children will visit Our Lady's on Friday 1st March in the morning. A Year 9 class from Stanborough Secondary School will come to Our Lady's on Thursday 14th March in the morning.

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 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE Wednesday 20th February 7.30pm -9.30pm at Fleetville Community Centre, Royal Road, St. Albans (opp Morrison's) . John Fogarty can offer a lift to anyone wanting to go. 01707 327771. Also phone John if you wish to know more about it.

LIVE SIMPLY Reducing how much meat and dairy is in your diet is the easiest and most effective way to help our planet. If you missed out on trying vegan for January you can still sign up to find out more about it, hear from others who've tried it, or sample some delicious recipes. Go to www.Veganuary.com to get involved.

MASS TIMES

11 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Our Lady of Lourdes
12 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
14 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Cyril and Methodius
15 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
16 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Sixth Sunday of the Year

16 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
17 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