

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twenty-second Sunday of the Year 1st September page 130 of Mass Book

Welcome back to everyone who has been away! Happy holidays to those preparing to leave. I hope the summer has been kind to all who have spent these months at home. Here in our parishes it is a time of transition. Today we bid 'Adieu!' to Fr. Tom and get ready for the arrival of Fr. Tony. I start my twelfth year as your Parish Priest. The new Parish Centre is well on its way and is on course for completion by next summer. In the coming year the town of Welwyn Garden City will be celebrating its centenary - what an achievement! I'm sure that there will be many key moments in which we will share together with the other Christian Churches and the wider Community. There is a huge amount of building work going on across our area which means that new families, couples and individuals will take up residence in our midst. A good proportion, I am sure, will be Catholics and so it is crucial that they feel at home in our churches. Possibly some newcomers might be interested in joining the Catholic Church and so we will have the responsibility of introducing them to the riches and joy of Faith.

In our Second Reading today from the Letter to the Hebrews, the passage starts with the words: 'What you have come to is...' The Author gives his community the feeling that they have already arrived at Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, with all it has to offer especially Jesus Christ our Mediator. Those hearing this excerpt would have got so excited to think that their present experience was a taste of what was still to come, and that what they could not achieve themselves, Christ would realise through his Blood shed on Calvary. There is a sense of the already-but-not-yet! How does that speak to you today as we begin a 'new' year? Gathered at church with loved ones, friends and family, or as a fresh arrival or visitor, do you really have a glimpse of heaven? Can you feel Christ's presence and his reconciling love? Does it only seem like an unachievable dream? The Eucharist puts us in touch with heaven and with the Event of the Lord's Death and Resurrection. The transforming Spirit which consecrates the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of God's Son, holds us together forming Community and creating Communion with so many across the world and across the ages. Heaven is in our midst! Let this be our aspiration and hope.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

FR. TOM This is Fr. Tom's last Sunday in Welwyn Garden City. We wish him every blessing as he starts his new ministry at St. Bernard and St. Gabriel's Parish in Northolt and South Harrow. We are very grateful for all he has done to serve our three parishes. Fr. Tom's 'Farewell' will be at the 6 o'clock Mass this evening (Sunday 1st) at Holy Family Church. You are all most welcome! The new Assistant Priest will be Fr. Tony Thomas and he starts next weekend.

FR. TOM WRITES: When I was a Franciscan, when someone left the community we would pray our farewells. It was a time of looking to the past and to the future. Those prayers sum up my time in Welwyn Garden City, I ask of your forgiveness where I have failed, but I thank you for all the kindness that I have received and assure you of my love and prayers. In those prayers as the community spoke of the future the individual would respond "I know that God goes with me". Change is always tinged with sadness, but in following the vocation as a priest, change is always a new possibility in serving the Lord. Welwyn Garden City has played a part in making me the priest that I am today. Thank you. My new address is St Gabriel's Church, 390b Northolt Road, South Harrow, Middx HA2 8EX. Tel: 020 8864 5455 and my email remains tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk

MAUREEN LIGHT RIP Maureen's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 6th September at 3pm.

SCHOOLS We wish the staff, children and young people a fruitful and successful new academic year. We welcome Mrs Katie Linnane to Holy Family School as the new Head.

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Both Holy Family and Our Lady's Primary Schools are in need of Foundation Governors. These are appointed by the Diocese and play a crucial role in the life of our schools. Please have a word with Fr. Norbert if you are interested.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on 6th September at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

HOLY HOUR The next Restoration Holy Hour at Our Lady's will be on Friday 13th September at 7.30pm. There will be Scripture, prayer, music and silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

MEDAL Sophie Constable has been an altar server at Holy Family for 20 years. She will receive a special medal from the Guild of St. Stephen at 9.30 Mass next Sunday (8th) September. There'll be a 'Get-together' afterwards.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's will have to remain closed while the new Parish Centre is being built. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY- SVP - sends a very warm THANK YOU to all its parishioners in response to the annual collection in June 2019, which amounted to £1750.30. These donations help provide food hampers and gifts to families in need at Christmas, contribute to sending children to the St John Bosco Summer Camp and benefit all those supported by our SVP throughout the year. Recipients are extremely grateful and overwhelmed by the kindness and good wishes of so many people. Thank you so much and God bless you.

ELIZABETH MARSHALL R.I.P. Funerals details are not yet known

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE. From 1st September the organiser will be MARTIN MOORE, telephone number :- 07768650660. Desi Russell remains as a backup on :- 07956097705.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION Dates for enrolment of children for First Confession and Holy Communion and young people for Confirmation will be published after the summer. **OPEN PARISH MEETING** on Wednesday 2nd October at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed). Representatives of the various groups in our parishes are invited to give short reports, the finances of the three churches will be published. It will be an opportunity to plan for the coming year, so the presence of as many parishioners as possible will be crucial. Please come!

RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS will be the weekend of 5th/6th October at all Masses. In preparation for this there will be a an Evening of Reflection on Wednesday 18th September 7.30 - 9pm for all Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musicians and Singers, Welcomers, Adult Servers and Catechists. (Venue is yet to be decided.)

SPECIAL NEEDS Masses in the autumn will be on 12th October and 30th November.

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. Please let former parishioners know. Everyone is welcome. If you can contribute 'finger-food' for the reception afterwards, please let Ann Chappell of the hospitality group know by 6th September (ahchappell@aol.com). Thank you.

ASSISI 2020 Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will have Christians from WGC to mark the Centenary and will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. There will be limited places so if you are interested, please return your booking form to Pax Travel as soon as possible. If anyone needs an electronic version, please let Fr. Norbert know.

OBERRAMMERGAU Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version. Europe was affected by a terrible plague at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1633 the people of the village of Oberammergau in Germany prayed and promised that if the plague left their village, a play commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ would be performed every ten years. Their prayers were answered and the first Passion Play was performed in 1634.

MOTHER AND TODDLER Meets again on Wednesday at 10am in St. Bonaventure's hall. Why not come along. A good opportunity for your children to play together and for mums etc. to get to know one another.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Meets again on Tuesday 10th September at 3.45pm in the parish hall.

CHURCH CLEANING Holy Family Wednesday after Mass, **St. Bonaventure's** 10am Thursday, **Our Lady's** 10am Saturday. All welcome to come and help.

CAFOD The next CAFOD meeting is on Tuesday 3rd September at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome.

HAVE YOU GOT A FEW HOURS TO SPARE EACH WEEK? Resolve's Night Shelter is looking for community minded people to make a difference to peoples lives and work with us to help combat homelessness in our local area' If you are interested or have any questions please contact Sarah on 07305 838522

PLEASE SPONSOR NEVILLE who will be walking in the Hidden London 10 mile walk from Little Venice along the Regent's Canal to the Olympic park on Sunday 22nd Sept to raise funds for the Isabel Hospice in memory of Deirdre. His Just Giving page is Neville-Davis2.

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. Tony 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

FINANCE COMMITTEES Holy Family's meets on Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm and St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 10th September at 10.15am.

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

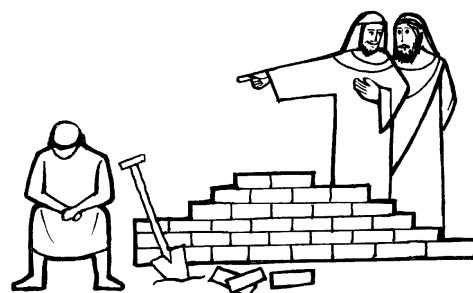
DANCE CLUB Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) in the Woodhall Community Centre 2 - 4pm. Price for those who join in the tea dance £5. However, pensioners, those in wheelchairs or people on their own who would like to come for a cup of tea and a chat are welcome; no entry charge just price of a cup of tea.

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
03 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Gregory the Great
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
05 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
06 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	3pm	Funeral Service	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Twenty-third Sunday of the Year

07 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
08 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.