

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-fourth Sunday of the Year 15th September page 136 of Mass Book

What a contrast we have in our lengthy Gospel passage today from St. Luke with Jesus' three parables of the 'Lost and Found'! We are told firstly that the scribes and Pharisees complain that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. All Jesus can respond with is a set of stories which are filled with the sheer delight of people who find what/who was lost: a shepherd his sheep, a woman her coin and a father his son. To Jesus' audience it is scandalous that he should invite people, who are known to be sinners, to be with him and that he shares food with them. Would they contaminate him by their talk, their experiences, the company they might bring along too?! Surely they responded to the invitation because they recognised he wanted them to be there and that he had a message-in-person to deliver - a God who reverses the fortunes of so many is ready to forgive and offers a fresh start. Those who grumble begrudge the Lord's generous love and a mercy which is munificent.

As we respond to Christ's invitation to the Eucharistic Banquet, we come in need of God's love, forgiveness and healing. We have gathered with a multitude of humanity who are on the way but haven't yet made it. We draw strength from God's Son who does not turn anyone away but lovingly calls each one into an intimacy where he or she can realise their importance in God's eyes and the gift of salvation from Jesus' Cross and Resurrection which makes up for what is lacking in our lives. What we experience here in this Church setting, we are challenged to live out in the everyday: persevering, being agents of reconciliation, open to others as the Lord has welcomed us. It is not easy but it is a joy for us just as God's delight overflows in abundance when we turn back to him humbly and feel his embrace.

Today the Cardinal is in our midst for Our Lady's 60th Anniversary. May it be a moment of blessing for our whole community. Have a great week!

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

OUR LADY'S 60TH Today we welcome Cardinal Vincent Nichols to Our Lady's to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Foundation Stone. We give thanks for all the people and priests who generously gave of themselves to finance and realise the building of the church and who have over the last 60 years created a community of warmth and welcome.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT There will be a meeting for young people who wish to be confirmed next year (they must be at least in Year 9 at secondary school) on Sunday 6th October 7pm in Holy Family Church. Parents also are asked to come to the meeting. The meeting will last about an hour.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT There will be meetings as follows: St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 5th October at 11am (1st session Saturday 19th October), Our Lady's on Tuesday 19th November at 7.45pm and Holy Family on Sunday 1st December after 9.30am Mass. Children for First Communion should be at least in Year 3 at Primary School.

Preparation for children at St. Bonaventure's is monthly on a Saturday morning, at Our Lady's after Christmas before 11.30 Mass on Sundays and at Holy Family after Christmas on Wednesdays after school. There will also be joint parents' meetings on Wednesday evenings after Christmas.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICITY Fr. Norbert will sign these forms in October. In a few weeks' time dates will be available for appointments to be made.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? Have you got lots of questions? Does now seem like the right time? Is someone close to you encouraging you to take the first step? Why not come on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm to Our Lady's Sacristy. The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a wonderful way of preparing, reflecting and meeting others in the same boat, supported by great catechists! Also, if you are an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger, the RCIA is the best way of preparing to be confirmed. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

MARY GOSLIN RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 23rd September at 9.30am.

ELIZABETH MARSHALL RIP Elizabeth's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 23rd September at 12noon.

RODDY BRYCE RIP Roddy's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Monday 30th September at 12.30pm.

CHRIS DOOCEY R.I.P. Chris died on Thursday evening. Details of Funeral will be announced.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 10th November at 1.30pm, Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) Sunday 17th November 2pm and Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 24th November at 2pm.

SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED 2nd November at 12noon at St. Bonaventure's.

SIGNED MASS Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm. There will be a practice session for signers on Wednesday 20th November 7 - 8pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

SCHOOL MASS Holy Family School will be leading Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church on Sunday 13th October at 9.30am.

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

HOLY HOUR The next Restoration Holy Hour at Our Lady's will be on Friday 11th October at 7.30pm. There will be Scripture, prayer, music and silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

ORDINATIONS Remy Pignall from the Diocese of St. Denis, Paris, who has visited us in WGC many times, will be ordained deacon on Saturday 21st September in Paris. Fran Lopez, Fran Trigo and Ruben Perez from Seville who have come to WGC will be ordained deacons in Seville Cathedral on Saturday 28th September. Please keep them in your prayers.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 27th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEES Our Lady's on Tuesday 12th November at 7.45pm, St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 26th November at 10.15am and Holy Family's on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm.

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Wednesday 2nd October at 7.30pm at Holy Family. 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 an Evening of Reflection on Wednesday 18th September 7.30 - 9pm for all Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musicians and Singers, Welcomers, Adult Servers and Catechists. This will be in Our Lady's Church.

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.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY Saturday 21st September is International Peace Day and to mark the occasion there will be a Peace Gathering from 2pm to 4 pm in Howardsgate near the war memorial. This event is being organised by the borough council in conjunction with the local inter faith group. This is free family event where there will be music and dance and the opportunity to make pinwheels to express our hopes for the future.

THANK YOU From Sophie Constable

Thank you for coming to my 20th Anniversary last Sunday morning. Thank you for the lovely cards and presents that you gave me last Sunday on my anniversary. Thank you for the support that you gave me, and thank you for being kind and caring and for your belief and passion about God. Thank you for everything that you have done for me over my 20 years as an altar server. Thank you and God bless, Sophie

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 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tony 01707 327434
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 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

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert is celebrant on 4th October.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE The organiser is Martin Moore, telephone number 07768650660. Desi Russell is a backup 07956097705.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on 4th October at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

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.

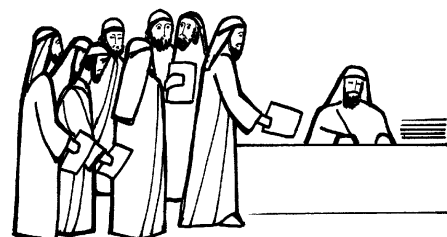
ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Meets again this Tuesday 17th September at 3.45pm in the parish hall.

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong and companions
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Matthew

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year

21 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
22 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.**