

# 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*

***Thirty-third Sunday of the Year 17th November page 164 of Mass Book***

Today is the World Day of the Poor. Caritas Westminster has made available 'Advent Giving Calendars' which are the back of the church. Each day there is a suggestion of items to collect for a local food bank or food poverty project in time for Christmas. In our own area there is a food bank co-ordinated by New Zion Christian Fellowship which is on Cole Green Lane, opposite Sweet Briar. In every church in the area there are baskets where donations are made and these in turn go to New Zion where they are distributed very Wednesday 9 - 11am. Vouchers are given out by various agencies and these in turn are 'redeemed'. The pastors at New Zion are always delighted at the huge generosity of our Catholic community, so please keep up that giving! Other local projects worthy of support are our own SVP - the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which meets at St. Bonaventure's, the local YMCA Hostel in Peartree Lane and the Women's Refuge in this area. On this important day with just 5 weeks or so till Christmas, please consider supporting those in need.

On a totally different note, our Gospel reading from St. Luke is about the end! When will it be? How will we know? What signs should we look for? Jesus is very clear that it will not be easy, that we should persevere, that we will be given the right words to say. Finally, our endurance will win us our lives. The Lord wants us not to think only of the immediate but to look ahead to our destiny - his desire for us to live for ever with him. He suffered and he understands our trials; he longs for us to come through tribulation to glory, following in his footsteps. This other aspect of November is quite challenging: we remember and pray for the dead, whilst not forgetting that there will be a culmination of time and that the world as we know will reach its conclusion. In the Book of Revelation, we are given wonderful imagery of a New Heaven and New Earth, coming down in our midst, where Christ will be the Lamp shining out and the song of the Angel and Saints will be resonating for eternity. God wants us to be there!

God bless you this week! *Fr. Norbert*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT** There will be meetings as follows: Our Lady's this Tuesday (19th) 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.

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?** Or are you an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger? There is still time to join. Why not come along on Monday at 7.30pm to Our Lady's sacristy?

**CONFIRMATION** The next sessions for our young people will be today (Sunday 17th) and Sunday 24th at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church.

**NOVEMBER DEAD LIST** During November Masses will be celebrated for those who have died. If you wish to write down their names on one of the special sheets, please do so and return to church. There is no need to give any money.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) today (Sunday 17th) at 2pm and Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) next Sunday (24th) at 2pm.

**DEANERY MASS** Our thanks to the children of Our Lady School who served and sang at last Tuesday's Deanery Mass and to all who came. It was a wonderful celebration. Our appreciation is extended to all who helped with refreshments after Mass and the Deanery Lunch.

**MARGARET BATEY RIP** Margaret's Funeral Service will be in St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday at 12.30pm.

**CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS!** Following the success of last year, the Diocese of Westminster Education Service is hosting another evening to engage with Catholic teachers and leaders currently working outside of Catholic education. This occasion is designed to inform, encourage and accompany those who are interested in working within our Catholic schools. The event will take place on Tuesday 18th November at 6.30 in Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN (near Victoria Station).

**PARTY** The Monday afternoon Tea Dance Group at the Woodhall Community Centre will be having a dance party there on Monday 23rd December. The organisers are wondering if any elderly or lonely parishioners would like to come along and join them at the party. If you know of anyone how will be spending this Christmas on their own and think they would like to come along free, please ask them to pop in on any Monday afternoon and put down their names before 1st December on their Christmas list so they know how many to cater for.

**A DEMENTIA FRIENDS** information session will be held at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 21st November at 7.30 for 8pm. See notice at back of the church. If you would like to attend please let Anne Keller know on 07941321801 or Anne Horsman on 01438840566. Everyone welcome.

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** If you or someone you know needs a lift to Mass please contact Martin Moore on 07768 650660 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399 who will endeavour to arrange it.

Our new **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP** will meet at Our Lady's Church on 24th November after the 11.30 Mass. We would welcome new members who would like to contribute in activities to bring our faith into action for the sake of God's creation.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** are have a cake sale on 23/24th November. If there are any bakers out there we would love to hear from you. Any cake donations, bought or home made will be very gratefully accepted. Please ring Sally Rand if you would like them collected. 01707 884492.

**CALENDARS FOR SALE IN AID OF CAFOD** Luke Kelly has created a calendar from photographs of the Artwork from the Parishes of Welwyn Garden City. He will be selling these A4 calendars for £5 each to raise money for CAFOD. He will be at the back of church after the 9.30, 10.30 & 11.30 Masses.

**INTER FAITH** Meditation both Religious and Secular. Come and find out about the history of Meditation in several faiths with examples - an evening event at the Focolare Centre Thursday 21st November 7.15p. - 9.30pm.

**MONDAY MASS** Our Lady's Year 1 and Year 2 children will be joining us for 9.30am Mass on Monday.

**SHOEBOXES** Filled boxes need to be brought to St. Bonaventure's by **this Monday 18th at the latest**. They are being collected and taken to the warehouse this week. We have given out 100 flat pack boxes and so far only 62 have come in. Please don't forget!

**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 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

**MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 13th December at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**SIGNED MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm. We invite people coming to bring food to share. There will be a practice session for signers on Wednesday 20th November 7 - 8pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Anyone intending to come to the practice on the Wednesday should let Fr. Norbert know.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** The next one will be on Saturday 30th November at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'Get-together' in the sacristy. Please bring food to share. There will be bingo and an Advent Quiz. The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Roger Trigg, has asked to come to the celebration!

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next First Friday early Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am on 6th December followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome. On All Saints Day there were over 50 people!

**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.

**COME AND SING** Come along and sing Christmas songs and carols *A Cappella* style with us! We are a friendly local ladies singing group looking to share the fun of singing together in harmony. No experience required and no need to read music. Every Tuesday from 3rd - 17th December 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Vineyard Barn, Digswell Rise AL8 7PU. For more info contact Julie 07941 610406 or [info@welwynharmony.co.uk](mailto:info@welwynharmony.co.uk). Feel free to just turn up on the night- we would love to see you.

**NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** As part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 15th December, there will be a Nativity Play. All children are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is on Saturday 30th November from 3pm - 4pm, on this day we give out parts. The next day (1st December) there will be a rehearsal from 2.30pm - 4pm. Further rehearsals are Tuesday 3rd 3.45-5pm, Sunday 8th 2.30pm - 4pm, Tuesday 10th 3.45pm - 5pm and finally the dress rehearsal on Saturday 14th from 3pm- 4pm. Hope to see you there.

**THANK YOU** Pat Relph, Simon Martin and family would like to thank everyone for they kind messages of sympathy & Mass cards on their sad loss of Deborah.

**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.**

**You can read the newsletter on the Website for our 3 parishes**  
**[www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://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.

**ADVENT BOOKLETS and CALENDARS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN** These will be available from next weekend. Please take one (free of charge) and make good use of it!

**FINANCE COMMITTEES** St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 26th November at 10.15am and Holy Family's on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm.

#### **MASS TIMES**

|              |         |                 |                 |                     |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 18 Monday    | 9.30am  | Mass            | Our Lady's      | feria               |
| 19 Tuesday   | 9.30am  | Mass            | St. Bonaventure | feria               |
|              | 7pm     | Mass            | Our Lady's      |                     |
| 20 Wednesday | 9.30am  | Mass            | Holy Family     | feria               |
|              | 12.30pm | Funeral Service | St. Bonaventure |                     |
| 21 Thursday  | 9.30am  | Mass            | Holy Family     | Presentation of BVM |
| 22 Friday    | 9.30pm  | Mass            | St. Bonaventure | St. Cecilia         |
|              | 7pm     | Mass            | Our Lady's      |                     |
| 23 Saturday  | 10am    | Mass            | St. Bonaventure | feria               |

#### **Christ the King**

|                    |                |      |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| <b>23 Saturday</b> | <b>6pm</b>     | Mass | Our Lady's      |
| <b>24 Sunday</b>   | <b>8am</b>     | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
|                    | <b>9.30am</b>  | Mass | Holy Family     |
|                    | <b>10.30am</b> | Mass | St. Bonaventure |
|                    | <b>11.30am</b> | Mass | Our Lady's      |
|                    | <b>6pm</b>     | 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.**