

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year 25th October 2015 (p.149 of Mass book)

Today we come to the completion of a major section of St. Mark's Gospel as Jesus leaves Jericho and is on the road towards Jerusalem. Bartimaeus the blind beggar has the privilege of encountering the healing love of God in Jesus and then follows the Lord on the road. He now could see - REALLY SEE! The journey will take Jesus to his Passion, Death and Resurrection; presumably Bartimaeus sees Christ's great Sacrifice unfold. The meeting on the road is so personal and intimate. 'What do you want ME to do for YOU?' is Jesus' question to the blind man and the very simple but profound response: 'Master, let me see again' says everything.

Let us reflect on the times we 'meet' Jesus. Here at Mass we listen to his Word, discover his presence in the community and in his priest, and especially in the Eucharist, his Body and Blood which put us in touch with his Sacrifice. We are opened to his gentle but firm touch in the everyday through people, situations and circumstances. We might search for quiet moments when we can contemplate his presence and allow his love to nurture and sustain us. Perhaps we can be arrested by the power of the beauty of God's Creation - especially in the autumn leaves of Welwyn Garden City! Crucially it is being able to see, and really see, which enables us to experience so much.

Today I will be with the parish group in Padua on pilgrimage. We will keep you all in our prayers every step of the way. St. Anthony whose body lies in the Basilica in Padua was a great preacher whose life mirrored the simplicity and poverty of St. Francis. We will visit Venice and St. Mark's Basilica - Mark the Evangelist whose Gospel will be proclaimed at Mass today. We will also be in Verona and be close to the balcony of Romeo and Juliet! So much to see and take in but the most important thing of all is to feel the closeness of Christ. That is something we can all do!

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

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS available at the back of each church. Write down the names of loved ones who have died and they will be remembered at Mass during November. Please return to the presbyteries for OL's and HF and the office or mailbox for St. B's.

ALL SOULS DAY on Monday 2nd November. The Church encourages us to come to Mass and pray for the dead. Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane on Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway on Sunday 8th November at 2pm. Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm on Sunday 22nd November.

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE Many of you took home the pledge cards regarding the Planned Giving Drive we recently had in our three churches. We would ask that you return them as soon as possible. At all the Masses the weekend 7th/8th November members of the Finance Committees will be at the back of each church to receive the pledge cards and answer any questions. Thank you for your co-operation and great generosity.

RECEPTION CLASS AND NURSERY Fr. Norbert will make times available in December. Watch this space. Please note that there will now be a Certificate of Catholicity instituted by the Bishops of England and Wales. Basically a priest can only give a family a Certificate of Catholicity if the family attends Mass every week. So the responsibility is on each family to do all they can to live up to what has always been the Catholic Church's expectation that Catholics attend Mass every week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016 Our Lady's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.45pm in the church. Preparation will begin in January and takes place on a Sunday morning. Holy Family's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

CONFIRMATION The first session for our young people will be on Sunday 22nd November in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church at 7.15pm. Anyone who missed the enrolment meeting should contact Fr. Norbert.

POLISH MASS Our thanks to the Polish Community for leading us last Saturday evening at Mass and providing a wonderful celebration afterwards in the hall.

POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES Do you want to learn another language and have a bit of fun? Do you want to try something new and different? If your answer is yes, then there is a new project which you may want to be part of!

Polish Saturday School in Peartree and Welwyn Garden City are launching new and a really exciting project called: "Adventures with the Polish language".

Cost: £3 per session, delivered by the qualified teacher. Great value for money. You simply can't miss it!". Each session will take place on Monday. Beginners class – 4.15 pm – 5.45 pm. Intermediate class – 6 pm – 7.30 pm. The address – Welwyn Garden City Fire Station: Bridge Road East, AL7 1LP. The deadline for booking – 25th October. For more information – contact Iwona Pniewska: iwonapniewska13@gmail.com or Ania Zochniak: ania.zochniak81@gmail.com

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION The annual collection takes place next weekend. Many of you are already contributing generously to the welfare of the Retired Clergy through Growing in Faith. This Fund ensures that elderly and infirm priests are not alone in their senior years, after a lifetime of service. Your gift helps defray the costs of housing, medical, convalescence, companionship and spiritual support needs. Envelopes are available at the back of our churches. Please Gift Aid your contribution if you are able. Thank you for your generosity.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Filled boxes, knitted hats, scarves, gloves/mittens can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. If you were unable to get a flat pack box please use a normal shoe box and cover it - lid and box separately (all boxes have to be opened to check the contents before they can be shipped).

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our party on Tuesday 3rd November from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (hot dogs, pizza provided). £2 to cover costs. All children (and parents) welcome.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD Group have a Michaelmas Fayre on Sunday 1st Nov where you can buy homemade preserves, chutneys, homemade Christmas puddings, craft items, Christmas presents and Fairtrade goods. The CAFOD group would like to thank everyone for their support last weekend with the cake stall which raised an amazing £177!! Thanks to everyone who baked and bought, for your wonderful support and generosity.

WORLD YOUTH DAY brochures will be ready this week. There will be a meeting for anyone interested on Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. Pax Travel will give a presentation and young people from the parishes of the Deanery will be invited too. So let your friends know! Parents whose sons and daughters are at university, pass on this info to them too. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?!

PILGRIMAGES Pax Travel is organising for us a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Prague next year 22nd - 26th October, 2016. Brochures will be available soon. There will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. There will be a meeting about the Holy Land trip on Tuesday 26th January, 2016 at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall.

OUR LADY'S ROTA FOR MINISTERS: The rota for Welcomers, Readers and Holy Communion Ministers for the period November 2015 to January 2016 is now available. Copies are at the back of Our Lady's Church. However, if you have provided a regular email address you will receive it by email. Thank you for your commitment to these ministries.

LILIAN ECCLESTON R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Lilian Eccleston will be in Holy Family Church on Wednesday 28th October at 11am.

PETER SHIELDS R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Peter Shields is at 11.15am in Holy Family Church on Friday 13th November. The body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Thursday 12th. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends.

LIKE TO SING? Then come to the choir practice on Tuesday 27th at 10.15am at St. Bonaventure's.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourlady-parish.info

Fr. Martin 01707 327434

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson
01707 377442

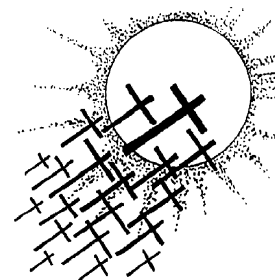
YEAR OF MERCY Fr. John Hemer will be leading a day for the catechists of our Deanery on the Year of Mercy. It will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS) on Saturday 21st November 10am - 3pm. Fr. John has led the days for catechists for the last couple of years and has always given an inspiring presentation. For this reason, and with the importance of the Year of Mercy for everyone, ALL parishioners are welcome to attend as well. Please bring food to share at lunchtime.

BEREAVEMENT A new group called Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide will be launched on Tuesday 17th November and will meet in Old Hatfield. For more information, please call Sheila on 07902077751 or email hatfieldSOBS@outlook.com

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

MASS TIMES

26 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
27 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Simon and Jude
	11am	Funeral Mass	Lilian Eccleston	R.I.P.
29 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Blessed Martyrs of Douai College
30 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
31 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
		All Saints		
31 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 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 you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463