

# 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*

***Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year 2nd October 2016 p. 146 of book***

Faith is a strange quality! It is about a relationship. Faith can determine one's identity. It entails knowledge. There are times it may be tested. Perhaps it may lie dormant or feel as good as dead. Faith is a gift. The apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith in today's Gospel passage from St. Luke. Jesus proceeds to speak about a faith which may be as small as a mustard seed and yet work miracles. Why do the apostles ask the question? Jesus spoke (last week) about the Rich Man and Lazarus - a shocking passage for some. Then he proceeds to speak about forgiveness - forgiving seven times a day! (This is not mentioned in the Lectionary.) After this comes their appeal to the Lord to increase their faith.

How would you describe the state of your faith today? Has it always been like this? Is it weaker or stronger than it was in the past? What circumstances have helped shape it or undermine it? Who has been influential? Reflect this week on your relationship with Jesus who forgives us and asks us to forgive one another, who defines who we are as children of God through our bond with him, who teaches us about God and heaven. Ask God to fan into a flame the gift of faith which you have received. Don't be afraid to let your faith however small grow into a mighty force which can transform your own life and do amazing things for others.

This weekend I begin my 9th year in Welwyn Garden City! Time flies...I am still very happy here and I feel privileged to be your Parish Priest. I am so grateful for the support and encouragement I receive. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you every day. May God bless each one of us in the particular mission he has entrusted to us. May our enthusiasm for faith and zest for life be infectious and a force for good here in our town.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

**CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY** takes place this Friday. Please take an envelope from the back of church and return it in the retiring collection on Sunday. If you can gift aid your donation please fill in your details on the envelope. This year CAFOD are inviting parishioners to make a regular gift through their *Hands On* project. *Hands On* supports specific communities as they undertake a project to transform their lives. Everyone who signs up will start by following an innovative project on the Altiplano in Bolivia, which will support people with seeds, materials and training to help them grow enough food.

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH FLOOR** is being laid in from Monday 3rd until Tuesday 18th October. For that period there will not be a Sunday 9.30am Mass; the Sunday 6pm Mass will be at Our Lady's. Wednesday 9.30 Mass will be at Our Lady's and Thursday 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's. We are sorry for this disruption but the new floor should be splendid.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Enrolment meetings are Our Lady's - Tuesday 1st November at 8pm; Holy Family - Sunday 6th November after 9.30 Mass. Children should be at least in Year 3 at school. (If you missed the meeting at St. Bonaventure's, have a word with Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.)

**CONFIRMATION** Young people (at least in Year 9 at school) who wish to be confirmed should come with their parents to a meeting on Sunday 9th October at 7pm at Our Lady's Church. Preparation starts in November.

**RCIA** If you are an adult who wishes to join the Catholic Church or if you are a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation when younger and now feel ready to be confirmed, come to Our Lady's Sacristy on Monday 3rd October 7.30pm. There will be a chance to meet others and find out more about what is involved.

**ST. ALBANS** Bishop John Sherrington will be preaching at an Ecumenical Evensong at St. Alban's Abbey Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 4pm for this Year of Mercy. Bishop John would like all the schools of Hertfordshire to lead a procession from Verulamium Park at 2.30pm which will enter the Abbey and prepare for Evensong. There will be an enactment of the martyrdom of St. Alban with massive puppets, music and prayer. Everyone is welcome.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES)** We are again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world particularly migrants and refugees. 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.

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** at St. Bonaventure's. This informal and friendly group meets every Wednesday from 10am. Come and let your baby or toddler play whilst you enjoy the company of other mums, grandparents or carers. All are welcome from our three parishes and from the local community, no need to let anyone know you are coming - just turn up.

**BISHOPS' VISITS** Two other Auxiliary Bishops of our Diocese will be coming to preach on Mercy at Our Lady's: Bishop John Wilson on Sunday 9th October at 11.30am and Bishop Nicholas Hudson on Sunday 30th October at 11.30am.

**HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES** Catherine Henderson of HWSF is going to Calais on Oct 7th and has been asked to take smartphones plus chargers that anyone isn't using. These are to be given to the children who they are afraid may be scattered when the camp is demolished and who will be at risk from traffickers. If you have a working smartphone plus charger or any mobile that you no longer need could you drop it into 106 Handside Lane, by Wednesday 5th - they can be put through the letter box if no one home. Thanks.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** It is important for parents to go to school open days/evenings with their children and see the options available. Read the admissions criteria carefully to ensure you have a good chance of getting into the school if it is oversubscribed. Get hold of your child's Baptismal Certificate in good time. Think about the environment in which your child will flourish. In terms of the Certificate of Catholicity, the form will be given by the schools and will have to be signed by Fr. Norbert. The Certificate of Catholicity is a statement that the child comes from a practising Catholic family which means there is attendance at Mass every week. To facilitate this, Fr. Norbert will give out an 'extra' form for WGC parishes for parents to fill out for him. These can be collected from him *before or after Mass*. Meetings will be as follows: Tuesday 4th October 4 - 6pm, Monday 10th October 4 - 7pm, Friday 14th October 4 - 6pm. when parent/s and child will come to meet with Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book a 10-minute appointment. The same process will apply for entrance to Reception Class and then Nursery later on in the year.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Children from our three parishes are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way.

**OUR LADY'S RED BOXES** If you are able to bring your box to church in the next couple of weeks we will empty it, bank the contributions, and then return the box to you as soon as possible.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S RED BOXES** the promoters will contact you or you can leave your boxes at the church. New box holders please make sure your name is written on the white label. Thank you for your support and generosity.

**ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE** the independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, will be holding an Open Morning for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18) on Saturday 8th October 2016 from 9.30am – 12.30pm. Means-tested bursaries are available for Catholic boys entering Year 3 and Year 7. Applications for September 2017 must be made by the end of October 2016. For further information, please contact Mrs Cathy Lovett, Admissions Officer. Email address: [admissions@stcolumbascollege.org](mailto:admissions@stcolumbascollege.org). Direct line: 01727 892012.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE** 35 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Angela Edwards on 01707 690157 (evenings) or 07879610109.

**OUR LADY'S** Many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CLEANING** This Thursday from 10am. All welcome to help.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD** group will be meeting on Tuesday 4th Oct at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Please do come along and join us you will all be very welcome.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)** A speaker from the Air Ambulance will be at the CWL meeting on Tuesday 11th Oct. at 8pm. All parishioners are welcome to join us.

**THANK YOU** The family of Peter Bonass would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during this sad time. Thank you also to Fr. Norbert and to those who sent flowers and made donations to the British Lung Foundation, which raised £128.

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** on Saturday 15th October 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a Get-together in the Hall.

**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. Martin 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
 Holy Family Church  
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

**Website for our 3 parishes**  
**www.wgc-catholics.org.uk**

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. After the summer, please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** (For those of you who want the dates for your diaries!) Hatfield Hyde (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Sunday 20th November at 2pm. Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 27th November at 2pm.

**FATIMA 2017** Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel could offer us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. If you are interested, please let Fr. Norbert know so that brochures etc could be produced.

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

**MASS TIMES**

03 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
04 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis of Assisi
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
06 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
07 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of the Rosary
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

**Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year**

<b>08 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>09 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's



**CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:** If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7)**  
**Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net**