

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year 24th September 2017 p. 131 of Mass book***

‘My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways.’ This is a line from our First Reading today from the Prophet Isaiah who expresses God’s words. How often have you felt it really difficult to understand how and why something has taken place, where God was in the midst of pain and confusion, also, why God ‘allowed’ an event to take place? This is one of the great mysteries about our faith, namely that there is not always an answer for everything. We can find ourselves sometimes having to stand quietly before God and admitting that God is bigger than us and that his ways can be unfathomable.

In our Gospel passage from St. Matthew, we are given a parable with the customary beginning ‘The kingdom of heaven is like...’ This time Jesus takes the world of employment and shatters our expectations! All the workers get paid exactly the same amount - what was agreed at the time of being taken on. The first-comers, who have worked the longest, echo our feelings as they complain ‘IT’S NOT FAIR!’ How and why could the kingdom be compared to the situation Jesus offers? The landowner insists he can do what he likes with his property and challenges the audience who begrudge his generosity. God IS generous with his mercy, never wanting to exclude anyone. There are people who might turn to God at the last moment but God’s generous love will allow them in even at the last minute. ‘IT’S NOT FAIR!’ we are probably thinking in our hearts. I have tried so hard, I have been faithful - I...this and I...that! We can be so busy protesting that we miss the look of compassion on God’s face and the sheer joy of the one whose heart is converted to God despite what might have happened in the past. Our God is amazing! Can we follow the example given by Christ and exercised at every stage of his ministry? Or are we going to let our hearts become stony, hard and exclusive? We don’t hear the outcome of the story. The conclusion of the parable has to be lived out in the every day. What will God see in us this week?!

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

**CAFOD FAST DAY** for Harvest will be on Friday 6th October. The theme this year is taken from a prayer written by Blessed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, who was murdered while celebrating Mass because he supported the poorest of the poor. Reflect on his words: 'We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We nurture seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise...it may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.' Special envelopes will be given out this weekend and will be collected the weekend of 7th/8th October. If you are able to GiftAid your contribution that would be great. Thank you!

**RED BOX APPEAL** Fr. John Hemer and Mrs Eileen Tompkins will be with us the weekend of 30th September/1st October to make the 'Red Box' Appeal on behalf of Missio (APF). Many of you already contribute generously but this gives everyone an opportunity to get a box.

**PATRICK COUGHLAN RIP** Patrick's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 25th September at 12.30pm.

**BERYL McGROARY RIP** Beryl's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 5th October at 12.30pm.

**HOLY FAMILY KNEELERS** The kneelers of Holy Family Church are going to be reupholstered. They will be taken away on Monday 25th September and returned on Thursday 5th October. This means for Masses during these weeks there will only be the floor to kneel on. Those of you unable to do so may sit.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION** Sessions for the parents of the children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place early next year. Children for Confession and Holy Communion are in Year 3 or above. At St. Bonaventure's the children have classes once a month on Saturdays - the Enrolment Meeting will be on Saturday 7th October at 11am in St. Bonaventure's Hall (with the first class on Saturday 14th October). At Holy Family Church the classes are weekly usually on a Wednesday afternoon after school starting in January/February - the Enrolment Meeting will be in Holy Family Church after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 5th November. At Our Lady's Church the classes are on Sunday mornings before 11.30 Mass starting in January - the Enrolment Meeting will be on Tuesday 14th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people from our three churches in Year 9 and above at school are invited to come with their parents to an Enrolment Meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 15th October at 7pm in Holy Family Church. The course will begin November.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS** St. Bonaventure's Monday 25th September at 10.30am and Holy Family Wednesday 18th October at 7pm.

**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. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up. Parents welcome. This week we go to McDonalds!

**DEMENTIA FRIENDS INFORMATION SESSION** Sat 30th Sept at 11am. Come and have coffee after 10am Mass and stay for a short (finish by 12) session which aims to help build a more dementia friendly community, by tackling misconceptions in a light-hearted way. Frances Wall who attended a recent session says that 'I now understand that it is possible to live well with dementia'. More information: [anne.horsman@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.horsman@btinternet.com)/01438840566

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** This will take place next year on Saturday 24th March (venue to be confirmed). Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

**RCIA** For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will be on Monday evenings starting on 9th October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Perhaps you are an adult baptised as a child who have not been confirmed? You are most welcome too! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested. Please tell family, neighbours and friends that we are making a start AND INVITE THEM!!

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** will be celebrated on Saturday 7th October at 6pm at Our Lady's. Hymns will be sung with verses in English and Polish; Readings and Bidding Prayers will also have the two languages being used. Afterwards everyone is invited into the Hall for a Get-together with food, drink and music.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Fr. Norbert urges parents to visit the different schools with their children. An open morning allows you to see the school in action and the way the pupils and staff are. Think about where your child will flourish, taking into account his/her gifts, travelling, friendship groups and what schools offer. Definitely read the admissions criteria and try to see whether or not your child has a good chance of getting in. All Catholic schools will need a Baptismal Certificate, so now is a good time to request one if you have not got the original. If the Baptism was here in Welwyn Garden City, contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579); otherwise make sure you give yourself time to acquire one from the church of Baptism. Some Catholic schools will need a Certificate of Catholicity which implies weekly attendance at Mass. Fr. Norbert will be available to sign these certificates as follows: Monday 9th October 4.30 - 6.30pm and Tuesday 17th October 4.30 - 6.30pm. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard to book an appointment. Parents and children should come together and wait in Our Lady's Church. Fr. Norbert will call you when ready. There is an 'extra form' for parents to fill out before they come to give Fr. Norbert details of Baptism etc. Please make sure you collect one from the back of our churches.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES)** We will again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world. As you go around the shops please buy some little gifts to put in these boxes (they don't need to be expensive) - there are leaflets at the back of each church advising you about what can or cannot be included - please read carefully. Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. We have some flat pack boxes for you to use if you don't have a box at home (or dislike covering a box). Please take one if you can fill it. You don't need to buy hats as we have some being knitted for us.

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** Meets every Wednesday 10am in St. Bonaventure's.

**OUR LADY'S** Thank you very much to the Monday Bingo Group for their generous donation of £200 towards the Benches Refurbishment.

**HCPT** Group 183 are starting planning for Easter 2018 pilgrimage. If you are interested in volunteering as a helper there will be a meeting on Sunday 8th October at 6pm in Our Lady's sacristy. Also if you would like to nominate a child or young adult who will benefit from travelling with the group please email Emma Moore at [group183@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group183@hcpt.org.uk)

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** Our thanks to Holy Family School for leading last week's Mass for Education Sunday. Our Lady School will lead 11.30 Mass on 8th October.

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
 Our Lady's Church  
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
 St. Bonaventure's Church  
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF  
**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE** Bookings  
 should be made with Phil Johnson 01707  
 377442

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

**CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS** We find that the Catholic papers at the back of our three churches are not being taken and very often many are left. If this continues to be the case, perhaps it might be better for individuals to take out subscriptions so that these papers are sent directly to your homes? Please let Fr. Norbert know what you think.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Welwyn Cemetery - Sunday 5th November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery - Sunday 12th November at 2pm. Southway Cemetery - Sunday 19th November at 2pm.

**CONCERT** The WGC Male Choir will be having a concert in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 28th October after 6pm Mass.

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

**MASS TIMES**

25 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Service	St. Bonaventure's	
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Vincent de Paul
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
29 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Jerome

**Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year**

<b>30 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>01 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 Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333** via text message: **07876 526935** email: **chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**