

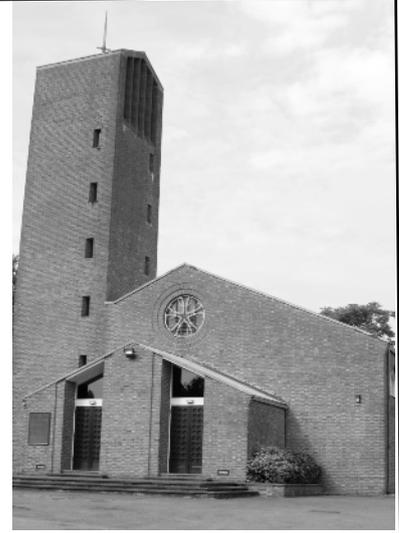
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year 1st October 2017 p. 134 of Mass book

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus confronts his audience with another challenging parable. It is especially targeted at religious people who *say* they will do the right thing and *do not* and the 'sinners' they despise who obviously have not had the time to anything right and yet are bowled over by the message of Jesus, come to their senses and then live out what God really wants. Jesus knows just how provocative his words are as he asks the religious to take a leaf out of the books of the wrong-doers who change their ways.

Words or actions...which do you regard as the more important? In our Catholic Christian Faith, it is easy to say all the right things to keep someone else happy - a priest, a parent, a spouse, God(!). What is far more important is that the words are put into practice. That's the hard part but it really does give authenticity to the words uttered. Humility to admit we've done wrong is another characteristic of the repentant sinner and should result in a godly way of life. If our connection with Christ is only superficial, people will be able to see through us in time. If we are Christ-centred, the more and more they get to know us, the deeper they should fall in love with Christ through their encountering him in us. Sunday Mass is crucial for our identity as Catholics but this Catholic life must overflow into our everyday words and actions.

Soon we are going to be starting up again the RCIA when adults are invited to find out more about faith in Jesus and take the steps which might lead them to become full members of the Church. I have met in recent weeks a number of you who have expressed an interest. I have also confronted some of you with an invitation to come and see! For those of you already fully immersed in the life of the Catholic Church, just think: is there anyone you know who would love to find out more, someone waiting for that personal invitation (and support) which could change their lives? Now is YOUR chance! Now is THEIR opportunity! God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

RED BOX APPEAL Fr. John Hemer and Mrs Eileen Tompkins are with us this weekend 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.

MEMORIAL MASS at Westminster Cathedral for the late Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor on Wednesday 4th October at 5.30pm. There will be some reserved places for diplomats otherwise the rest of the nave will have seating for parishioners from across the Diocese. SO YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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 are at the back of our churches and will be collected the weekend of 7th/8th October. If you are able to GiftAid your contribution that would be great. Thank you!

CAFOD The CAFOD group will meet on Tuesday 3rd Oct at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome...

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our thanks to everyone who helped with last weekend's Mass and Reception. There was a wonderful sense of community and a great time was had by all.

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 should be returned on Thursday 5th October. You may sit if unable to kneel.

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 MEETING 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. Parents welcome. We had a lovely time at McDonalds last week.

CHURCH CLEANING Thursday 10am at St. Bonaventure's. All welcome to help clean. Saturday 10am cleaning of the church and grounds maintenance at Our Lady's.

SVP REQUEST A single mum is in need of a microwave and a baby walker. If you can help please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

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 are again 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.

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

EXPERIENCED GARDENER AVAILABLE to maintain the beauty of you garden. Lawn edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding of flowerbeds. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

ART EXHIBITION at Mill Green Museum from 8th Oct- 5th Nov. Tues, Weds, Thurs 10-5, Sun 2-5. Work by Natasha Wilde.

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 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.

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

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Guardian Angels
03 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Francis of Assisi
05 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Bruno
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of the Rosary

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year

07 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
08 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 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**