

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*

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year 29th October 2017 p. 146 of Mass book

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England + Wales & Bishops' Conference of Scotland
Statement on Abortion Executive Summary

This statement, published by the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1967 UK Abortion Act, is addressed not only to Catholics of our countries, but more broadly to all people who seek to uphold the dignity of human life and protect the unborn child. Over the last fifty years, the bishops of our countries, along with many other people, have spoken consistently in favour of the intrinsic value of human life and both the good of the child in the womb and the good of the mother. This anniversary provides an opportunity to lament the loss of life due to abortion and seek a change of minds and hearts about the good of the child in the womb and the care of mothers who are pregnant.

Fifty years ago, few envisaged the possibility of that there would be almost 200,000 abortions in Great Britain in 2015. Every abortion is a tragedy and few consider that abortion is the desirable or best solution to a pregnancy, which may be challenging on account of many different factors. The complex set of conditions in which a woman finds herself pregnant and may consider having an abortion may limit the exercise of freedom and diminish moral culpability. When abortion is the choice made by a woman, the unfailing mercy of God and the promise of forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation are always available. There is always a way home to a deeper relationship with God and the Church, as recent Popes have emphasised, which can heal and bring peace.

Today the language of 'choice' dominates discourse about marriage, gender, family and abortion. This needs further exploration. Choice has come to mean doing whatever I feel to be right for me - a very subjective view of the good - rather than taking into account a wider set of fundamental values. This is a very inadequate understanding of free choice, which requires an education in important truths about what is truly good and the possibility of other options. In this case, these must include the good of the unborn child, care and support for pregnant mothers, and the responsibility of the father.

This statement presents a number of different challenges for the future: a new understanding of the intrinsic value and worth of every human life in the womb, a better protection of unborn

children diagnosed with a disability, a great need for education in moral responsibility about human sexuality and the meaning of sexual expression within marriage. Many professionals face the challenge that respect for conscientious objection against abortion has been eroded. Personal conscience is inviolable and nobody should be forced to act against his or her properly informed conscience on these matters. We encourage greater debate about this right and these challenges in our society.

Finally we thank many people, of religious faith and none, who have sought to protect unborn life and the life of the mother over the last fifty years; mothers who have continued their pregnancies in difficult circumstances, politicians who have sought to reform the legislation to better protect unborn life, those people whose prayers have been offered for greater respect to be shown to the wonder of the life in the womb, for mothers and those whose lives are cut short by abortion. Together let us better cherish life.

Copies of the full statement are at the back of our churches.

ALL SAINTS DAY is on Wednesday 1st November and is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks us to attend Mass. The Tuesday 7pm Mass at Our Lady's will be a Vigil Mass and then on the day there will be Masses at 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. Parishioners are also welcome to attend 9.15am Mass at Holy Family School or 2pm Mass at Our Lady's School.

ALL SOULS DAY on Thursday 2nd November is a Day of Prayer for those who have died, commending the faithful departed into God's merciful hands. Prayer for the dead is an important part of our Catholic way of life. The Masses will be as follows: 9.30 Holy Family, 12 noon St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Our Lady's.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets at the back of our churches on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. These will be kept close to the altar and the names remembered at Masses throughout November. There is no need to give any money.

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 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. At St. Bonaventure's the children have classes once a month on Saturdays. (If you missed the enrolment meeting, please contact Kathryn Hubbard).

CONFIRMATION Young people from our three churches in Year 9 and above who missed the enrolment meeting for Confirmation should contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The course begins on Sunday 19th November at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church.

MONTHLY ADORATION Some parishioners have offered to lead a monthly Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music and reflections. It will take place on the second Friday of the month at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass with a 7.45pm start. There will be Benediction to conclude. The name chosen for the hour is 'Restoration'. The first Restoration Holy Hour will be on Friday 10th November. Everyone is welcome.

CALLING ANY SCOTS!!! Next month sees the feast of St Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. It would be good to mark the day with something after the morning Mass that day with a Scottish flavour. Are there any Scots who are willing to help organise a celebration? Contact Fr Tom

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the annual Deanery Mass at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 21st November at 11am followed by coffee/tea in the Parish Room. There will not be a 9.30am Mass that morning at St. Bonaventure's. Everyone is welcome!

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Bonaventure's is **this Tuesday** at 10am. All welcome.

OUR LADY'S The monthly cleaning of the church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next Saturday 4th November at 10am for ONE hour. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

OUR LADY'S The Ministers' Rota for Welcoming, Reading and Holy Communion from November to January 2018 is now available at the back of the church. A copy will also be available on the Parishes' website. Thank you.

The AFRICAN COMMUNITY will be meeting on Sunday, 12 November after 11.30am. Mass at Our Lady's. The meeting will be held at Our Lady's Hall and all African parishioners are requested to attend.

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. Perhaps you are an adult baptised as a child who have not been confirmed? There still is time to join the RCIA Course. Come to Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm for the next session this Monday.

SIGNED MASS in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 11th November at 6pm. If you know of anyone who is deaf, please inform them that the whole Mass (including hymns) will be signed that day.

HOLY LAND The pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Welwyn Garden City in November will include Christians from various Churches. The dates are Wednesday 22nd - Thursday 30th November and the price is £1149 for a person sharing a room. 37 have signed up and there are still some places. If interested please take a brochure (and booking form) from the back of the church. There will be a meeting of all pilgrims in Our Lady's Hall on Sunday 12th November at 4.30pm.

AVIGNON 2018 Next year there will be a trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES) Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. Thank you.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our party on Tuesday 31st October from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (pizza provided). Parents are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 4.45pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. £2 to cover costs.

SHAMROCK CLUB 'An Irish Night For Macmillan' at the Shamrock Club, The Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2AD on Friday, 3rd November from 7:30pm to 11:30pm. Tickets £10. Available from The Shamrock Club on 01707 329361 or from Liam DeRoe on 07960 447624 or liamderoe@hotmail.com

INTER FAITH Our local inter faith group will hold two events during national inter faith week. As usual we will be hosting a Shared Supper at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 16th from 7pm until 9.30 pm. Guests are asked to bring a savoury dish or dessert (these can be heated if required). Do come, it is always a great evening. Also on the Sunday 19th from 10 am until 4 pm we will be joining the Jewish community collecting food at Morrisons for the local food bank. If you are able to offer an hour to help, please phone Valerie on 01707 324828.

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

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.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'curry night' in the Hall. All welcome!

OUR LADY'S AND HOLY FAMILY REPOSITORIES Christmas stock now in, and a large selection of general cards. Open before and after most Masses.

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

MASS TIMES

30 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
31 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	All Saints
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	All Souls
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Friday	6.30pm	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Charles Borromeo
	12noon	Memorial Service		
		Thirty-first Sunday of the Year		
04 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 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**

