

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*

Third Sunday of the Year 21st January 2018 page 129 of the Mass Book

In today's passage from St. Mark, Jesus begins his ministry with the words: 'The time has come...the Kingdom of God is close at hand.' What do you make of these words? *Time* implies NOW and connotes an opportunity to be seized. Do you feel like doing anything right this moment? Could Jesus change your life? What does he really ask of you? What is this Kingdom, this Reign of God? The power of the Kingdom is its presence in Jesus Christ! Does this make you feel good - that as he comes closer to you, the Kingdom is made known? Do you regard yourself as an instrument co-operating with the Lord or do you find yourself being an obstacle at times to his Kingdom? 'Repent and believe the Good News' comes next from the Lord's lips...quite technical language! Repentance is a complete re-orientation of one's life, learning to direct oneself towards God. Jesus asks us to believe, to enter into a relationship which involves mind, heart and soul - one's whole being. And it is focused on a message which is Good News - Jesus himself *is* the Good News. Is this what you really think and are willing to live out?

We then turn to the calling of the first disciples; they are two sets of brothers who are fishermen. 'Follow me' is heeded immediately by these men. No questions are asked, no strings attached, a huge cost involved. There is something about Jesus which is magnetic and charismatic that they listen and respond with everything. Was it easier for them because they encountered the Lord face to face, hearing his voice and experiencing his presence? They were not the only ones to follow; so many were drawn to the Kingdom by Jesus Christ, enriched by his dying and rising and willing to make that total commitment. They are the very people who formed the community for which St. Mark wrote and they in their turn handed on this Good News. In our day, Jesus continues to call many to follow him. He and our world need the witness of Christians. Our handing on of this Good News allows another generation to come to life in the Lord. Let us renew our dedication to him this day!

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

JULIAN PERERA RIP Julian's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 24th January at 12 noon. (please note new time).

ROSE ROBINSON RIP Rose's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 25th January at 3pm. Her body will be received into the church on Wednesday at 4.30pm.

RICHARD BOND RIP Richard's Funeral will be at Our Lady's on Friday 26th January at 12 noon.

RAYMONDE RICHARDS RIP Raymonde's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Tuesday 6th February at 12.30pm.

RCIA Next session for adults wanting to join the Catholic Church will be in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 22nd January.

CONFIRMATION The next session for our young people will be today (Sunday) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS from our three churches will have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 24th January at 7.30pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. 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.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on 2nd February at St. Bonaventure's. There will be breakfast in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 9th February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD There will be an afternoon visit to St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm. There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake!

On Saturday 5th May there will be a day in Aylesford at The Friars where there is a Shrine of Our Lady.

CAFOD supporter evening The Holy Family CAFOD group are holding a supporters "Thank You" evening on Friday 26th Jan at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. A light supper will be provided. If you support CAFOD in any way or would like to know more about us please come along to our friendly get together.

CANDLEMAS is on Friday 2nd February when we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. Candles will be blessed at 6.30am and 9.30 Masses at St. Bonaventure's. Our Lady's 7pm Mass will be by candlelight.

BLESSING OF ST BLAISE (for the throat) will be given after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 3rd February.

HCPT group 183 will be having a retiring collection for this Easter's Pilgrimage to Lourdes for disabled children, after each Mass next weekend 27th/28th of January. There will be Gift Aid envelopes at the back of each church for anyone who is able to Gift Aid their donation. We would like to thank you in advance for your support .

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY There will be one Service today (Sunday) at 4pm at Christchurch Baptist Church on Tewin Road AL7 1BW. The Bishop of Hertford, Michael Beasley, will be giving the address. We have our gaze fixed on 2020 when Welwyn Garden City will be 100 years old! If you are free, please come and give your support.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY will be marked in our borough by a Service at The Links in Hatfield on Friday 26th January at 11am. All are welcome.

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

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

ZUMBA for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

FINANCE COMMITTEES St. Bonaventure's will meet on Tuesday 23rd January at 10.15am. Our Lady's on Tuesday 23rd at 7.45pm. Holy Family on Wednesday 7th February 7pm.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231, regular cleaning, fortnightly, monthly, spring cleans, ironing etc.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday. 3.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along and see what we do. All welcome.

MOTHER AND TODDLER This friendly group meets every Wednesday in St. Bonaventure's hall from 10am. Come along with your little ones - lots of toys to play with and it is good opportunity for mums, grandparents, carers, to get to know one another.

T'AI CHI for health and well-being. Relax your mind and body, improve strength, co-ordination and flexibility and get to know this ancient traditional form of self-defence and exercise. Instructor Dan Nichols has recently come back to England having trained with 19th generation Grand-master Chen Xiao Xing in China. Beginners and advanced students welcome. Classes 7-8pm every Tuesday at Woodhall Community Centre. Free introductory lesson.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP Pastoral support for those with mental ill-health workshop on Saturday 27th January 9.30-12.30 (refreshments will be served from 9am) Panshanger Church Hall, 24 Hardings, Panshanger, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 2EJ This workshop aims to begin to equip churches to:

- understand what it means to live with mental distress
- know what help is available and how to signpost
- explore how they can appropriately offer sustained pastoral support
- develop a healthy theology around mental health. It will be facilitated by Richard Allen, a mental health Chaplain with 17 years' involvement, and Pauline Rhodes, an expert through her experience of living with a mental health diagnosis. Spaces are limited so please contact the Church Office to book your place: churchadmin@panshangerchurch.com

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 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 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

<p>CONFESSIONS Holy Family: Thursday 10am St. Bonaventure: Saturday 10.30am -11am Our Lady's: Saturday 5pm -5.30pm.</p>
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CALLING YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS Intergenerational European Pilgrimage travelling to Calais, Brussels, Strasbourg, Taize, Assisi, Rome, Geneva. 2nd - 11th April. Travel is by coach. Price £695 (maybe some help with cost if short of cash). See poster at the back of church for more details.

CAN YOU HELP WITH KNITTING? A parishioner needs to have something hand knitted for her or have help to knit. She would be very grateful for any offers. Contact Dolly 07906645912.

MASS TIMES

22 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Vincent
23 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Francis de Sales
	12noon	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Conversion of St. Paul
	3pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Timothy and Titus
	12noon	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Angela Merici

Fourth Sunday of the Year

27 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
28 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