

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*

Second Sunday of the Year 20th January page 127 of the Mass Book

The first newsletter of 2019! How have these weeks been for you? I have just returned from visiting my friend, Fr. Alvaro, who is University Chaplain in Seville and who was 40 last Monday. I had never made a surprise trip in this way with a host not expecting me! Some amazing experiences included having to celebrate a weekday Mass completely in Spanish (with a couple of days' notice); going out late at night with the Caritas Group - made up of university professors and students - to visit the homeless, talk to them and offer them a smile and hot soup; watching a 400-year old carved 'corpus' of Christ, which had been restored, being hoisted back into position in the University Chapel - I was asked to help pull the rope to raise Jesus to a height, making me ponder what it was like on that first Good Friday for Jesus to be lifted up on the Cross. The birthday celebrations also went really well!

In our Gospel reading today we are with the Mary, Jesus and his disciples. We find ourselves at a wedding feast where things go terribly wrong with the wine running out. Our Lady notices what has happened. Jesus is her Beloved to whom she turns. The servants are the ones asked to 'Do what ever he tells you.' Water is then turned into wine - the very best ...and the party continues! There are times in life when things can go pear-shaped for us, no matter how much hard work or thought we have put in. We can feel so let down. And yet Mary our Mother reminds us to put our trust in her Son. He can do all things and the power of his activity has its source with the Father. As we embark on a new year, it is vital to remember that Jesus brings something fresh into our lives: divine love, compassionate care, reconciling grace and the desire to draw us deeply into his 'hour' of exaltation. May 2019 be a year of blessing for you, your families and friends. May the presence of Christ strengthen the bonds of community as we listen to him, carry out what he asks and share with others the wonder of our faith.

May God be with you! ***Fr. Norbert***

ETHEL GRAYSON RIP Ethel's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 4th February at 12.30pm.

MARY READY RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 8th February at 11am.

RCIA Next session on Monday 21st at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Sunday 27th January at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION First parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 30th January at 7.30pm.

Our Lady's children start on Sunday 27th January at 10am in church.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL will next meet on Friday 1st February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 22nd January at 10.15am. Our Lady's on Friday 25th January at 7.45pm. Holy Family to be confirmed.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY The main Service for Welwyn Garden City will be at Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout (AL7 1FT) today (Sunday 20th) at 4pm. It would be wonderful if many of you from our three churches joined our fellow Christians. The Baptist Regional Minister Geoff Colmer will give the address. The Service will last around 40 minutes and be followed by refreshments.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY is on 27th January and remembers the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions of people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

There will be a unique event 09:30 - 11:30 - Hawthorne Theatre followed by a Civic Memorial Service outdoors at The Campus West Arena delivered in partnership by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, The Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group and our local secondary schools. Doors open at 09:00am. Refreshments will be served in Campus West Terrace Suite at 11.30am where you will have the opportunity to browse an exhibition of a range of themed art pieces and written work created by local young people.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on 1st February at St. Bonaventure's. There will be breakfast in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

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

PEACE SUNDAY The Bishops of England and Wales invite us today to pray for peace and reflect on Pope Francis' message entitled: 'Good politics serves peace'. Think about the following words: 'Peace involves work; it is not about staying calm and doing nothing. No! True peace means working so that everyone has a solution to the problems, to the needs, that they have in their land, in their homeland, in their family, in their society.' (Pope Francis 2015) 'In Germany, first they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak out because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak out for me.' (Martin Niemoller, Lutheran Pastor imprisoned by the Nazis)

OUR LADY'S 60TH The Foundation Stone of Our Lady's Church was laid on 30th September 1959. The Cardinal has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 15th September at 11.30am. A date for your diaries!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Saturday 16th March 6pm and Saturday 11th May at 6pm. Watch this space!

AFRICAN MASS The celebration for 2019 will be on Sunday 14th July at 11.30am

OUTINGS Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong in Cathedral.

2020 Don't forget that the Centenary of Welwyn Garden City will be celebrated in 2020. Hence the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May. Also, the Passion Play in Oberammergau only happens every 10 years and so we have booked the 9th - 11th September for a trip. We're waiting for the brochures.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet from 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along?

MOTHER AND TODDLER This friendly group meets every Wednesday from 10am in the parish hall at St. Bonaventure's. Lots of toys to play with, mums, grandparents etc. to chat to. A good opportunity to get to know other families. This is open to all who would like to come.

DO YOU LOVE TO SING? For a happier, healthier you in 2019, join Welwyn Harmony A Cappella Chorus for a 'Love to Sing' Course. Beginners and improvers welcome whether or not you read music. Total cost £8 per person. Tuesday 22nd, 29th January and 5th and 12th February 2019 from 7.30pm to 9.15pm at the Vineyard Barn, The Vineyard, Digswell Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7PU. To register please e-mail: info@welwynharmony.co.uk or Facebook message Welwyn Harmony.

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St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6J

Fr. Tom 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

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

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 8th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

DO YOU KNOW anyone who would like to attend Mass but cannot manage the journey? We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399.

HERTS WELCOME SYRIAN FAMILIES 6 new families have arrived in Hertfordshire Are you able to provide (in good condition) Boy's bike - suitable for a 4'6" boy, Bikes for 2 girls aged 10 and 7 and 2 boys also aged 10 and 7, Bike for an 8 year old boy. We also need helmets, locks and hi viz vests as well. Vicky gmail Woodcraft <woodcraftvicky@gmail.com

MASS TIMES

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|---------------------------------|---------|------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 21 Monday | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady's | St. Agnes |
| 22 Tuesday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 23 Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family | feria |
| 24 Thursday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family | St. Francis de Sales |
| 25 Friday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | Conversion of St. Paul |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 26 Saturday | 10am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | SS Timothy and Titus |
| Third Sunday of the Year | | | | |
| 26 Saturday | 6pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 27 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 and need a Catholic Chaplain contact **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 403130 (44/1) Urgent need: 01438 314 333** via text message: **07876 526935** email: **chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**

