

# 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 27th January page 130 of the Mass Book***

Today we return to St. Luke's Gospel and are with Jesus as he goes home to Nazareth. Jesus is in the habit of going to the synagogue and no-one is worried when he is asked to read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. It is as if Jesus arrives knowing which passage he is going to choose and the excerpt forms a programme of what he intends his ministry to be. Here - and in so many points in this Gospel - the Spirit is at work and empowers Jesus and others to prophesy or give praise to God. In the Acts of the Apostles which is St. Luke's account of the Early Church, the same is the case: the Spirit seizes hold of the disciples and numerous others and, by forming Church, the Good News of Jesus is proclaimed, lived out and experienced. The people gathered in Nazareth fix their eyes on Jesus and he wins their approval as he announces that the Scripture is being fulfilled as they listen. Wait until next Sunday!

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me' is how Jesus begins his quote. Think back to the Lord's Baptism with the Dove coming upon him as he prayed and the Father's voice calling him the 'Beloved Son'. Consider that Mary was told at the Annunciation that the Child would be conceived through the Holy Spirit. Just before today's passage, Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. Christ is aware of the poor, the downtrodden, captives, the blind - in short those desperate to receive 'Good News'. A Year of Jubilee is what he offers as he cites the centuries-old words of Isaiah. Jesus' audience receive this Good News not only through words but in person; the renewal and refreshment of 'Jubilee' are for now and into eternity. The townsfolk have heard about all that Jesus has been doing. Perhaps they are now waiting with baited breath for something more?

This week let us pray that this same Spirit of Jesus may flood us with love and grace, the energy to reveal Christ to those we encounter. May the words we use and the way we are in action reveal the reality of the Good News of God's Son in our midst. God bless you.

***Fr. Norbert***

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** The Trustees of the Diocese have given the go-ahead for the building of the new Parish Centre to serve our three parishes and have approved a loan of £350k over 12 years at 1.9%. We will be receiving £252k from your generous giving through Growing in Faith (GiF). Soon Fr. Norbert will be forming a Fundraising Committee to raise monies to pay off the loan. We found through GiF that pledged giving really does realise funds in a substantial way and also make the possibility of paying off the loan realistic. GiF for WGC will conclude this summer. Some of you may wish to stop your giving; others continue in a fresh way. Perhaps some were not involved before or are new to the parish. Please do think about it. The Architects have put the project out to tender and soon there will be a tender meeting to choose a contractor. It is possible that demolition might start by Easter! This would mean the new Parish Centre being ready in Welwyn Garden City's Centenary Year. In regard to the possibility of the three parishes becoming one 'canonical parish', conversations have begun and there will be time and opportunities for information to be shared with the pros and cons to be outlined. There will be consultation and a chance for opinions to be expressed.

**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD** will be celebrated on Saturday 2nd February with 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 6pm Mass at Our Lady's (which will be regarded as a 'Sunday Mass'). Candles will be blessed and carried in procession on this 40th Day after Christmas to remind us of Jesus 'The Light of the Nations'.

**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 28th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** There is a session today (Sunday 27th) 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.

**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.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY** is today (Sunday 27th) 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.

**MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY** at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th June at 3pm for couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th 60th and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to receive an invitation from Cardinal Vincent Nichols to this Mass please give your names, full postal address, email/phone number and date of Wedding to Fr. Norbert by 23rd March. Many couples from our parishes have gone up to Westminster for this event and have found it very uplifting.

**CANTERBURY OUTING** 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. Flyers including booking forms are at the back of the churches and must be filled in and returned well in advance. It should be a brilliant day.

**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

**OUTING** Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. T

**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](mailto:info@welwynharmony.co.uk) or Facebook message Welwyn Harmony.

**COMMUNION DRESSES** Birdcage Bridal Boutique in Moors Walk, Panshanger have a beautiful range of First Holy Communion dresses, veils, shoes and accessories. Please contact Anne-Marie or Bethany on 01707 394411

**The CAFOD Group** will be meeting in the Parish Room at Holy Family on Tuesday 5th February at 2pm. All are welcome.

**ARE YOU A GAELIC SPEAKER?** Tanya Sealy is looking for a Gaelic speaker for a family member who wishes to learn it. 07887888446.

**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.

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

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
St. Bonaventure's Church  
81 Parkway AL8 6J

**Fr. Tom 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
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**

28 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Thomas Aquinas
29 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
31 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John Bosco
01 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Presentation of the Lord
<b>Fourth Sunday of the Year</b>				
02 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**