

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

The Presentation of the Lord 2nd February page 297 of Mass book

Today is the 40th day after Christmas! We celebrate the Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas. Many countries still have the tradition of leaving their cribs, trees and decorations out until this Feast. In our Gospel reading from St. Luke we are reminded of Mary and Joseph's journey to Jerusalem to fulfil the requirements of the Law and their encounter with Simeon and Anna. The significance of the old man, Simeon, calling the baby 'The Light of the Nations' has led to the custom of the Blessing of Candles and Procession with them at the start of Mass. Jesus is the Light of the World and the Light of our lives! Anna is a sign to us of the constancy and perseverance of an 84-year old who comes by at just the right moment and is not afraid to tell others about Jesus. Can we do the same?

Our celebration this day invites us to reflect personally on the qualities of the 'light' which Jesus brings: direction, hope, wisdom, communion, a glimpse of eternity, forgiveness, salvation, redemption...the list goes on! A candle burns itself up in order to produce warmth and light - it is sacrificial. Through the candles we hold today we are put in touch with the One who will give up his life for the sake of humanity. Simeon is certain that Our Lady will have a share in the suffering of the Cross with her heart being pierced with a sword. Surely we can learn from today's Feast about what Jesus does for us AND what it is possible and necessary for us to do to radiate his presence to others?

In our land we have entered a new era with the dawn of Brexit. For many there has been huge relief and rejoicing, for others confusion and sadness. Let us allow Candlemas to fill us with the Light of Christ: Christ to be enjoyed as Lord and Saviour, Christ to be shared with others as Friend and God's Son.

A final word. I have just returned from Hungary where I spent a week with Daniel Voros who was with us last July. He is still so full of joy at his wonderful experience of being in our midst; people I met knew all about it! I had the opportunity to meet the Bishop of Szombathely (in the west), to celebrate Mass in English in a secondary school and to concelebrate Mass in Hungarian - an amazing time. He sends prayers and regards to our parishes. Have a brilliant week.

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

DAVID CLARK RIP David's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 3rd February at 9.30am.

SUSAN JOHNSON RIP Susan's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Monday 3rd February at 12 noon.

KEITH TIPPING RIP Keith's Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 6th February at 9.30am at Holy Family. *There will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions that morning.*

MARY O'NEILL RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 12th February at 12.30pm.

RCIA for those preparing to join the Catholic Church at Easter meets again on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The young people have a session today (Sunday 2nd) at 7.15pm at Holy Family. Next Sunday the young people will have a Retreat Afternoon at the Focolare Centre (next to St. Bonaventure's 1.30 - 5.30pm).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The second meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will be on Wednesday (5th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. First Communion children of Our Lady's will be presented today (2nd) at the 11.30 Mass and those of Holy Family will be presented next Sunday at 9.30 Mass.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY will be celebrated by the Catholic Church in England and Wales next weekend. The theme this year is 'You are at the heart of the Church' which acknowledges the contribution travelling communities make to the Church in England and Wales. Bishop Paul McAleenan who lives here in Welwyn Garden City has responsibility nationally for migrants and international affairs. He asks us to remember that historically Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have experienced discrimination both in wider society and within the Church. He invites us to be more welcoming and celebrate the presence of Travellers in our community. There are cards at the back of our churches for you to take away. For more information, contact Fr. Dan Mason who is the National Chaplain for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on 01277 624891.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. Valentine's day is fast approaching and then it will be Leap Year Day on 29th February! The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

BUILDING WORKS The new Parish Centre is progressing and should be ready June/July depending on the severity of the winter. There has been a delay at Holy Family with the Tower but we have been assured that things will get moving soon.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 21st February and 27th March.

TRANSPORT TO MASS contact Martin Moore on 07768 650660 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399 who will endeavour to arrange a lift for you.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING This Thursday at 10am. New faces are very welcome. Refreshments after the hard work!

FINANCE COMMITTEE Holy Family's Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday 5th February at 5pm.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL The minutes of the meeting on 15th January are available at the back of the church.

HCPT will be having a retiring collection after every Mass of the weekend 8th and 9th of February. The group is in great need of your support as we are currently £3000 short of money needed to take children with special needs on our pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes at Easter. There will be gift aid envelopes available at each church this weekend. We would like to thank you in advance for your support.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTER FAITH GROUP BUILDING PEACE Fr. Norbert and Rabbi Tatz will be the speakers at this next meeting of the interfaith group. Tuesday 4th February in the Focolare Centre 7pm (doors open) Start 7.15pm until 9.30pm.

ASSISI 2020 Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. There will be limited places so if you are interested, please return your booking form to Pax Travel as soon as possible. If anyone needs an electronic version, please let Fr. Norbert know.

OBERRAMMERGAU Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version. Europe was affected by a terrible plague at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1633 the people of the village of Oberammergau in Germany prayed and promised that if the plague left their village, a play commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ would be performed every ten years. Their prayers were answered and the first Passion Play was performed in 1634.

FOCOLARE NEWS On Saturday February 8th there will be a Focolare News Updating, including video news of events around the world to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chiara Lubich. We know that our own celebration that took place in Birmingham on January 18th will be featured. The meeting will begin at 3pm at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, and all are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

HOLY FAMILY lost property – could we ask parishioners to check at the back of the church for any lost property. It is our intention to take all the unclaimed lost property at the back of the church to a charity shop at the end of February. If you have lost small articles of clothing gloves glasses umbrellas etc in the last 12 months it is worth checking the lost property.

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES Thank you to all who responded so generously to the recent appeal. The family are now well stocked with furniture etc.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 4th February 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along?

MOTHER AND TODDLER Come and give this small friendly group a try - every Wednesday from 10am - 11.30am in St Bonaventure's Parish Hall.

MANCHESTER UNITED - 24 of the current first team squad signed a shirt for Sophie Constable at the Xmas Party at Old Trafford last month. Sophie would like to auction it to raise money for CAFOD's work in Africa. As always cheques to be made payable to CAFOD. Please contact Sophie on 07956 287130 or at Holy Family Church.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD group will meet on Tuesday 4th Feb at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome.

THANK YOU The CAFOD group would like to thank Luke Kelly and the Kelly family for the magnificent Christmas calendar and card sale in our 3 churches during Advent which raised £520 for Holy Family CAFOD Fundraising.

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 6JF

Fr. Tony 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS

No Confessions at Holy Family this
 Thursday
 St. Bonaventure: Saturday **10.30am -11am**
 Our Lady's: Saturday **5pm -5.30pm.**

You can read the newsletter on the Website
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at 6.30 at St. Bonaventure's will be on 7th February followed by breakfast in the hall.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 14th February at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome. Please note that in 2020 Friday 10th April will be Good Friday and Friday 8th May will be a Public Holiday; so on those Fridays there will not be the scheduled 'Restoration Holy Hours'.

DATES FOR 2020 Special Needs Masses will be at 6pm on Saturdays 7th March and 2nd May. Signed Masses on Saturdays 14th March and 25th July. Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 16th May. Polish-English Mass Saturday 6th June at 6pm. Filipino Mass on Saturday 4th July at 6pm. African Mass Sunday 12th July at 11.30am.

MASS TIMES

03 Monday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's David Clarke R.I.P.
	12noon	Funeral Service	Susan Johnson R.I.P.
04 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	S. Bonaventure feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family St. Agatha
06 Thursday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Holy Family Keith Tipping R.I.P.
07 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
08 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure feria
Fifth Sunday of the Year			
08 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
09 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)**