

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Third Sunday of the Year 22nd January 2017 p. 127 of book***

Light is shining in the Galilee region, St. Matthew tells us, as Jesus begins his preaching. He cries out 'Repent!' and in no time he is gathering around him disciples and asking them in turn to 'fish' for more. It is all happening! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand and we cannot but help see this Kingdom present in Jesus - a Kingdom embodying God's presence and radiating Divine Light. As we heard on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Jesus is 'Emmanuel' - God-with-us. This is crucial as we now embark on a major section of St. Matthew's Gospel Sunday by Sunday. Keep remembering Emmanuel and the brilliance of his Glory.

Jesus walks along the seashore going to where people are at their daily work and normal activities. There he sees the two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew, James and John, and asks them in turn to follow him. They are to be connected with the light of Jesus and to enter into relationship with him; their calling is to draw others to him. There is a price to pay which entails leaving everything behind - family, livelihood, familiar surroundings and security. The amazing thing is that they respond and they do so immediately! St. Matthew concludes today by telling us that Jesus goes round Galilee, presumably with these brothers in tow! They hear him and see him teaching, proclaiming and healing. What an awesome privilege that must have been for them and also a huge challenge - trying to work out the identity of this Teacher.

An important lesson for us is that Jesus is to be encountered in the everyday aspects of our lives. He comes to us and takes the initiative. He sometimes asks difficult things of us and perhaps we don't always realise the consequences of following him! In your daily life, how can you 'fish' people for him? Can you be a trustworthy witness? Do you embody the Kingdom he proclaimed? At this point in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is no mention of Church but in time Peter will be called the 'Rock' on which Jesus will build the Church. How is Jesus going to use you? And will you co-operate?!

May God bless your week ahead. ***Fr. Norbert***

**JULIAN OF NORWICH - MEDITATION** at St. John's Church, Monks Rise AL8 7NF on Saturday 28th January 6.30 - 7.45pm. Julian of Norwich was a woman of her time, the 14th Century, a woman who had received 16 Divine Revelations when she was about 30 years old. She spent the rest of her life, locked away in a cell - at her own choosing - reflecting on all that God had revealed to her. The Meditation being presented at St John's is an adapted version of her reflections in original music and dance, backed up by artistic interpretations and narration. Free entry. All welcome.

**BENCHES** at Our Lady's are going to have an overhaul. The kneelers will be taken away on Monday (23rd) (we're not sure when they are coming back!) and the broken benches repaired.

**MONDAY 9.30 MASSES** Our Lady School will be coming to the 9.30 morning Masses at Our Lady's Church: Year 6 on 23rd and Year 5 on 30th January.

**CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS** this week celebrates 25 years of being a Bishop. There will be Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Monday (23rd) at 5.30pm. All welcome.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY** will be on Friday 27th January and will be commemorated at a Service in Parkway WGC at 11am followed by tea and coffee in the Synagogue near the Barn Theatre. All welcome.

**CANDLEMAS** Thursday 2nd February is the 40th day after Christmas and is a day when candles are blessed in commemoration of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. As well as the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, there will be an extra Mass at Our Lady's at 7pm.

**FIRST FRIDAY** Our next early morning Mass will be on Friday 3rd February at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the Hall. The Blessing of the throat on St. Blaise's Day will be given that day.

**KAY CUNNINGHAM RIP** Kay's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 24th at 12.30pm.

**DOUGLAS PAGE R.I.P.** The Funeral Service for Douglas is at Harwood Park Crematorium on Friday 27th January at 11.45am.

**GRAZYNA ADAMCZEWSKA RIP** Grazyna's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 3rd February at 9.30am.

**JOAN LAIRD RIP** Joan's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 3rd February at 12.30pm.

**SUSAN HUGHES RIP** Susan's Funeral Service will be in the Chapel of Southway (Hatfield Lawn) Cemetery on Friday 10th February at 1.30pm.

**The CAFOD** group are holding a "Thank You" evening for all parishioners on Friday 27th January at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Tea coffee wine and a light buffet will be provided. There will be no charge or collection for this evening, it is simply to thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

**EXHIBITION** Have you ever wondered how the first residents of WGC spent their leisure time before TV and computers? To find out, there will be an exhibition on the top floor of Sainsbury's from 4th - 10th February. Entrance is FREE and times of opening on the poster and handbills at the back of the church.

**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.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL** has its next meeting on Tuesday 7th February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Please let Fr. Norbert know if there are any points you would like raised.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES** The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday 11th February at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. The sick and infirm of our parishes are especially invited.

**LISTER HOSPITAL** Deacon Anthony Curran, the Catholic Chaplain at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage is needing help from parish Eucharistic Ministers to support Holy Communion being taken to patients on Fridays/Sundays. If you are a Eucharistic Minister in one of our three churches and are available to help, please contact Deacon Anthony. His details are on the back of the newsletter.

**CARDINAL'S MASS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** will be on Saturday 3rd June at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more, and would like to be invited to this Mass, please give the details of your names and address, email, phone and date of wedding to Fr. Norbert and he will send them on. Every year many couples have attended this Mass and have come home extremely happy!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 25th February at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**WOMEN OF VALOUR** is a Prayer Group made up of women who meet every Saturday at 4pm in Our Lady's Chapel (near the entrance to the Hall) to say the Rosary and to share the Word. They would like to invite you to join them and encourage you to bring your children along.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The first meeting for parents of our three churches will be on Wednesday (25th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. If you have not yet signed up for your child at Our Lady's or Holy Family Churches, please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible. Children should be at least in Year 3. Children's sessions will start soon after this date.

**CONFIRMATION** The next session is today (Sunday 22nd) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**RCIA** Next meeting on Monday 23rd January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall starting with coffee at 10.30 and finishing around 5pm. Couples are invited to stay for 6pm Mass when there will be a special Blessing of Engaged Couples. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 should come. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you plan on coming.

**HOLY LAND** (Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017: 46 have booked) and **FATIMA** (Sunday 10th - Thursday 14th September 2017: 18 have booked so far) £689. We have run out of brochures for both pilgrimages, so best to contact Pax Travel for more details on 020 7485 3003 or [info@paxtravel.co.uk](mailto:info@paxtravel.co.uk) Not many places left!

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** The main Service will be today (Sunday 22nd) at 4pm in the United Reformed Church opposite Sainsbury's. The final Service of the week will be on Wednesday 25th at 8pm at Revival Chapel, 18 Martinfields, Welwyn GC, AL7 1HG All welcome.

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

**Fr. Martin 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**

**HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES** the AGM of this organisation will be held on Wednesday 25th January, at the Quaker Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane, WGC, Herts AL8 6SP. Start at 7.30pm, with coffee and biscuits, and the AGM will start at 8pm. Past and future activities will be discussed and there will be a report from the Refugee Council's Casework manager. All are welcome.

**HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH** A date will be set for a meeting to continue the preparations for Holy Family Church's 50th. Watch this space.

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

**MASS TIMES**

23 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
24 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis de Sales
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Conversion of St. Paul
26 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Timothy and Titus
27 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Angela Merici
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Thomas Aquinas
			<b>Fourth Sunday of the Year</b>	
28 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
29 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**