

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*

Third Sunday of the Year 26th January page 127 of Mass book

Today is the Sunday of the Word initiated by Pope Francis. There are words and words: they are spoken, read, thought about, hidden in our hearts. And then there is *the* Word! We believe this Word to be God's utterance from all eternity, resulting in the creation of the Universe; in history, the Word enters time and space - Jesus Christ. This Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit, has inspired prophets and religious leaders, the poor and the humble, those who never thought they would end up as people of faith. This Word has been set in writing - the Scriptures - especially in the Gospels of the New Testament. It can hard to pick up a Bible and read it from cover to cover. There are so many different kinds of literature to be found, and discerning what is to be taken literally, what is poetic or what is to be left to a previous age is not always straightforward. One of the advantages of our Sunday Lectionary - Book of Readings - is that over a three-year period we are given a glimpse of most of the four Gospels and a taste of many of the other works, both Old and New Testament. The obvious disadvantage is that not everything is covered and it just is not possible to be given the background to every passage...Mass would take a long time!

Today our passage from St. Matthew shows us the picture of the start of the Lord's ministry: he brings light in places of darkness, he calls people to repentance and he invites two sets of brothers to come after him. As St. Matthew reflects on the presence of Jesus he is reminded of a passage from the prophecy of Isaiah and he quotes a small part. There are so many connections in the Bible! The Hebrew Scriptures prepare us for the coming of the Messiah and give us a huge insight into God's love for his people and God's non-stop attempts to keep them on the right part. The Birth of Jesus and his ministry are the ultimate revelation of this undying love and of the God who dwells in the midst of his people.

Today when you get home, think hard about today's passages from Scripture. What makes sense? Is there anything you need to research further? How does this Word of God challenge you and inspire you in your living? Ask the Holy Spirit to let this Word spring to life in you! Have a good week!

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

CENTENARY SERVICE This was a memorable celebration attended by so many people from a variety of churches. There was togetherness, joy, thanksgiving and dignity all rolled into one! Fr. Norbert is most grateful to all of you who made a special effort to attend.

BIBLE STUDY UNDER WAY! Fr Tony writes: ‘On Thursday this week we began our 8-week study programme called ‘Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible’. To allow everyone in our parishes to share this experience, we will publish a short reflection every Sunday based on that week’s teaching, together with one or two points for personal reflection. In this week’s introductory session, we learnt how the Bible is God’s way of coming to meet us and address us personally. The Church puts it this way: “In the Sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets his children with great love and speaks with them”. Have you experienced the Bible in this way, whether reading it alone or hearing it read aloud at Mass? In the video presentation, Jeff Cavins mentioned common difficulties people have when they begin to read the Bible. What challenges have you experienced when reading scripture?’

MARY TIMPSON RIP Mary’s Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady’s on Thursday 30th January at 9.30am. *There will still be a 9.30 Mass at Holy Family that day.*

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 27th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady’s Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The young people’s next session will be today (Sunday 26th) at 7.15pm at Holy Family.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The first meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will this Wednesday (29th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady’s Church.

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.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Monday 27th January 9.30am Hawthorne Theatre, Campus West - a presentation by our local Secondary Schools followed by the Civic Memorial Day Ceremony, Campus West outdoor arena 11am.

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.

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

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 An Iranian couple and their young son have been offered a house and they are in need of furniture, if you can help please contact Vicky Woodcraft: woodcraftvicky@gmail.com.

LOVE TO SING? Welwyn Harmony Chorus welcomes you to come and join in a taster course. A local friendly ladies singing group looking to share the fun of singing together in close harmony. No experience required and no need to read music. Every Tuesday until 4th February 7.30pm - 9.15pm at the Vineyard Barn, Digswell Rise. For more information email: info@welwynharmony.co.uk, but just feel free to turn up, you will be very welcome.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 28th January 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.

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 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS
 Holy Family: Thursday **10am -10.30am**
 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

27 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
28 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	S. Bonaventure	St. Thomas Aquinas
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
29 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
30 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
31 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John Bosco
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
The Presentation of the Lord				
01 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 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.