

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*

Fifth Sunday of the Year 9th February page 113 of Mass book

Today we return to St. Matthew's Gospel after last week's celebration of Candlemas. We are now in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount! Jesus had seen the crowds, gone up a hill, sat down, was joined by his disciples, began to speak and taught them. The first part of his teaching is the Beatitudes, the realisation that blessedness and happiness can come to those who are open to the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus has inaugurated. The Sermon lasts for 3 chapters with Jesus affirming but also challenging the crowds and his disciples, especially the religious people and, in particular, the leaders. We won't hear all of it because Lent will come our way before too long!

After the Beatitudes, Jesus proceeds to speak to those gathered saying 'YOU are the salt of the earth...YOU are the light of the world...' The Lord speaks to the people *as a whole* - 'you' plural; and they are to be *as one* salt and light. If you were sitting among them, what would you have made of Christ's teaching? In being salt, they are to preserve, add flavour and make a real difference. How does that strike you? How can you make an impact on those around you as a disciple of Jesus Christ? More importantly, how are we together going to transform the world? Last weekend we held candles; at the evening Masses the pool of shared light felt greater and stronger because there was little natural light available. In your every day life, are you light for others? Do you experience the support of your brothers and sisters in Christ in situations of darkness? Amid the calamities of our world do we radiate the Light of Christ? Jesus is convinced that if we allow his light to shine out through our good works, others will give praise to our Father in heaven. What a joy! What a responsibility!

As we enter another week, may God bless us in our endeavours for him and for the sake of his Kingdom. May God's Spirit help us together to be salt and light! ***Fr. Norbert***

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE! Fr Tony writes: ‘On Thursday this week we held the second session of our 8-week study programme called ‘Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible’. This week we studied the ‘Early World’, represented by the first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis. We heard how the first sin of Adam and Eve consisted in a failure to trust in God, and a decision to follow their own way rather than God’s way. The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it like this: ‘Man... let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God’s command. This is what man’s first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience towards God and lack of trust in his goodness’. Even so, Genesis 3:15 holds out a promise that God will triumph in the end. This week we might consider: do I place my trust in God, or in created things? How does the first sin of Adam and Eve affect me today?’

ASH WEDNESDAY this year will be on 26th February as we enter the Season of Lent.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE The annual Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 30th May 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Norbert will then send them on. Many couples over the years have attended this Mass and found it very uplifting.

THOMAS HEALY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Thomas will be this Tuesday 12noon at Holy Family.

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 continues on Monday 10th February at 7.30pm at Our Lady’s.

CONFIRMATION The young people have a Retreat Afternoon at the Focolare Centre (next to St. Bonaventure’s today (Sunday 9th) 1.30 - 5.30pm. The next evening session will be on Sunday 8th March at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will be on Wednesday (12th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady’s Church. First Communion children of Holy Family will be presented today (9th) at 9.30 Mass.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY is being celebrated by the Catholic Church in England and Wales this 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.

THE HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP will be holding a Cake Sale on Sunday 16th February at Holy Family church after the 9.30am Mass. Any home baked donations will be gratefully received as well as your generous support in buying the cakes.

HCPT is having a retiring collection after every Mass this weekend. The group is in great need of your support as they are currently £3000 short of money needed to take children with special needs on the 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.

BUILDING WORKS The new Parish Centre is progressing and should be ready June/July depending on the weather. 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.

CLASS PLACES AVAILABLE AT HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL: Reception – 3 places, Year 2 – 4 places, Year 3 – 1 place and Year 4 - 1 place.

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.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. Friday is Valentine's Day 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.

HEALTHY LIVING MADE EASY A five week course starting 27th February 1-3pm. Free course. Improve your physical and mental health. Learn about the importance of exercise, benefits of nutrition in maintaining health, relaxation and sleep techniques.

The course is open to residents of the Peartree area. Book by calling Fiona on 01707 357733 or email f.plumridge@welhat.gov.uk. At Woodhall Community Centre, Mill Green Road.

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.

OUR LADY'S REPOSITORY New Stock: Welcome to the Church, New Home, Wedding, I said a prayer for you, Thank you Mass, Thinking of you Mass, Mass on your Wedding Day, many new birthday cards, rosary's (single decade and a selection), various candles. Mother's Day, St Patrick and Easter. Open before and after most Masses.

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

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

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

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'.

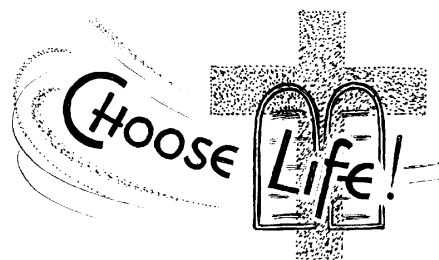
DATES FOR 2020 Special Needs Masses will be at 6pm on Saturdays 7th March and 2nd May. Signed Masses on Saturdays 14th March and 25th July. Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 16th May. Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will be on Saturday 30th May at 2.30pm. Polish-English Mass Saturday 6th June at 6pm. Filipino Mass on Saturday 4th July at 6pm. African Mass Sunday 12th July at 11.30am.

MASS TIMES

10 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Scholastica
11 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Lourdes
	12pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	Thomas Healy (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	Mary O'Neill (R.I.P.)
13 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
14 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Cyril and Methodius
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Sixth Sunday of the Year

15 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
16 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.