

# 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*

## ***Seventh Sunday of the Year 19th February 2017 p. 139 of book***

Jesus continues to speak on the hill to his disciples and the other people. Jesus gets more and more challenging! 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...' What do you make of these words?

Last Tuesday was Valentine's Day. How did you mark it? What did you give to - or receive from - a loved one? Of course, it is possible that you regard it as purely a commercial affair and do not indulge in spending money in this way! The fact is that love is more than just a warm feeling inside. Love needs to be articulated in words and in actions. Love has to find ways of communicating itself. Jesus asks us to love our enemies. What does this really mean? We cannot pretend that someone who wishes us the worst arouses the best within us. What we can do is imitate Jesus and show a kindness beyond measure to those who hate us. We can try to offer forgiveness. Nothing should stop us from doing a good deed to a neighbour whom we might regard as an enemy. We then become true children of God just as Jesus is God's Son. Jesus even implores us to pray for those who persecute us. How far is he asking us to take this 'love'?!

Today's passage finishes with an imperative: 'YOU MUST BE PERFECT JUST AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT!' We can only be perfect in a divine way because of God himself. We have been created in God's image and likeness. We can reflect God's life of love and kindness like a mirror. We cannot do it on our own! The challenge, as we watch Jesus, is to see God's Son living out a total obedience to his Father for our sakes. He can't but help wanting to be like his Father; his nature is the desire to forgive and save. This can only take place if we are open to him and let God be God *to us, for us, within us and through us*. Let's give it a go and see what happens! Let's see if others notice! It is worth trying with God's grace. Have a good week.

***Fr. Norbert***

**MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS** On Saturday 11th March at 2.30pm in the Cathedral a Mass will be celebrated for all bereaved parents. As parents arrive in the Cathedral that day they will be invited to write the name of their deceased child, which will later be collected and taken to the sanctuary. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to go.

**HCPT GROUP 183** will be gathering on Saturday 25th February to prepare for the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in Easter Week. They will attend the 6pm Mass on that day. We will have a retiring collection for our WGC Group 183 the weekend of 4th/5th March. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**WOMEN OF VALOUR** is a Prayer Group made up of women who meet every Saturday at 5pm 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.

**HOLY LAND** (Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017: 46 have booked) and **FATIMA** (Sunday 10th - Thursday 14th September 2017: 20 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!

**CAKE SALE** The CAFOD group will be holding a cake sale at Holy Family on Sunday 26th February after the 9.30am Mass. Please come and support this fundraising event. Donations welcome.

**JULIAN OF NORWICH** After its success at St John's, Digswell, the 'JULIAN OF NORWICH - MEDITATION' will move to the medieval splendour of Norwich Cathedral for its second presentation on Sunday 26th February, 6.30pm - 7.45pm. Free entry.

Julian was a woman who in the fourteenth century received 16 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. It is proposed that a coach be booked to Norwich for the Hatfield Parishes leaving St Peter's at 2pm, calling at Our Lady's at 2.15pm and returning home at 8.30pm. The cost of the coach will be about £24.00 per person. Please contact Tessa Banfield 07759 391537 or Anne Stapleton 01707 707063 by February 10th, if you would like to come.

**HELP!!** Please join us - St. Bonaventure's Coffee Group. We enable parishioners to meet, talk, build bonds after the 10.30am Mass. At the same time we are raising money for CAFOD. One is only called to help every 6 to 8 weeks; there are two people on duty; it is not hard work; it is a very easy way to be of service. Ring Jenny on 01438717798 if interested or come and talk to us after Mass we are in the Parish Room.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** this year will be on 1st March.

**SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES** Cathy Staniforth has completed her training and is now the new Safeguarding Representative at St. Bonaventure's following Peter Bell's retirement from this role. Cathy joins Barbara Moore (from Our Lady's) and Ann Chappell (from Holy Family). We are grateful to Peter for all the hard work he has put in over many years to ensure everything has been in order. The three Safeguarding Representatives will meet with Fr. Norbert in due course.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** 27th February - 12th March. Please think about this as you do your shopping. Also 'Towards Trade Justice in the Post-Brexit Era' A discussion on Saturday 11th March from 10.30am - 12.30pm at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew, Hitchin, Nightingale Road. Led by Mary Milne - Campaigns Manager Traidcraft.

**NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES** Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice forms for Nursery entry on Wednesday 8th March 3.30 - 5.30pm and Monday 13th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents are asked to contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 (or email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk with preferred date and approximate time) to arrange an appointment with Fr. Norbert. After half-term, Fr. Norbert will be giving out his 'extra' form either before or after Mass at weekends. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come into Our Lady's Church with their child and wait to be called. Parents whose children were baptised in one of our three churches in WGC may request a Baptismal Certificate from Kathryn Hubbard.

**FR. MARIUS COJAN** is a Romanian priest from the Diocese of Iasi who will be with us in WGC sharing in the life of our parishes. He will arrive on Monday 20th February and stay until Friday 3rd March.

**HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH** The next meeting to continue planning for Holy Family Church's 50th Anniversary will be on Tuesday 7th March at 8pm in the Parish Room (after the CAFOD Meeting). All welcome.

**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 number 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!

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The next parents' meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Children from St. Bonaventure's will make their First Confession in the church at 11am on Saturday 25th February. Holy Family's will be on the same day at 2pm at Holy Family Church. Our Lady's First Confession will be on Saturday 4th March at 11am. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

**CONFIRMATION** Next session will be on Sunday 5th March at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family.

**RCIA** Next meeting on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. The Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral will be on Sunday 5th March at 3pm. The adults and child for the Sacraments at Easter will be presented to the Cardinal and Bishops of our Diocese on that day. The weekend before (24th/25th February) they will sign scrolls at Mass which will be taken up to the Cathedral.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Meets Tuesdays in term time at 3.45pm. All welcome.

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** Meets every Wednesday 10am. All welcome.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 25th February at 6pm at Our Lady's. This is the last weekend before Lent begins and so the Mass will have a Carnival dimension to it! The Diocesan Deaf Service will be coming and so the whole Mass will be signed. There are members of the deaf community in this part of Hertfordshire who would like to come. If you are aware of anyone who would like to be invited, please let them know. Please bring food to share for the celebration afterwards in the hall. As ever, there will be bingo and a quiz!

**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](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk)**

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL** Minutes will be left at the back of our churches when they are ready.

**LOOKING AHEAD** We will be having our Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday 10th June. We have been asked to host a Mental Health Awareness Day on Saturday 1st July in Our Lady's Hall; MIND mid-Herts will be assisting. Mass led for us by the Filipino Community will be on Saturday 13th May at 6pm at Our Lady's. This year's African Mass will be on Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's. There will be a Day in Walsingham on Saturday 20th May - a coach will be booked.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231.

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

### MASS TIMES

20 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
21 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle
23 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Polycarp
24 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

### Eighth Sunday of the Year

25 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
26 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](tel:01438285138) (24/7)**  
**Urgent need: [01438 314 333](tel:01438314333) via text message: [07876 526935](tel:07876526935) email: [chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net)**