

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year 17th September 2017 p. 128 of Mass book***

Today is designated as Home Mission Sunday. The Church in this country invites us to think of our hearts as 'homes'. Who is important in your life? Who depends on you for care, support, love and affirmation? What events have you shared with these people: happy, sad, ordinary? How have these people influenced the kind of person YOU are? Hopefully there are many people who spring from your heart into your mind. Deep within your soul, say 'Thank you' to God for them. As you reflect on the gift of these people in your life, consider Jesus: his friendship, the salvation he brings, the power of eternal life. Do any of your loved ones who live in your heart, need to hear from you fresh news about Jesus? Now the tough part! Try to find just the right words to express what is at the heart of your faith, why Jesus matters to you, what it is about the Church which inspires you and keeps you going through the ups and downs of life. Someone who loves you will surely respect you in what you hold dear? That person would listen? What extra aspect might you need to offer which would make a difference to them at this stage in their lives? This is 'mission'! This is an encouragement which can transform. This is the Gospel as Good News being proclaimed.

In our Gospel passage from St. Matthew, Jesus tells us about forgiveness - forgiveness from the heart offered as many times as is necessary. It might be something small; it could be a huge offence. He asks us to forgive in the way God our Father is ready to forgive us. Just think about the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father, which we recite so often. Today as you pray these words, dig deep into your heart and bring to the Lord people you find it hard to forgive; ask him to help you to be open to those who are asking you for forgiveness. This gift of mercy-put-into-action is definitely a treasure which will reconcile hearts and minds, leaving souls at peace.

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

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** This Monday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Hall to look at the year ahead including the plans for the refurbishment of the Hall and a sharing of presentations of all the great work done by groups in our three churches. Please come.

**KEN FIRMIER RIP** Ken's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 20th September at 1.30pm.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** Today's 9.30 Mass will be led for us by children from Holy Family School. We welcome children and their parents, staff and governors and ask God's blessing on the new school year. Our Lady School will lead 11.30 Mass on 8th October. Our Lady School will be coming 9.30 Mass on Monday 18th September.

**FATIMA** Fr. Norbert and the pilgrims to Fatima prayed for you and lit candles for our people last week. Thank you for your prayers.

**HOLY FAMILY KNEELERS** The kneelers of Holy Family Church are going to be reupholstered. They will be taken away on Monday 25th September and returned on Thursday 5th October. This means for Masses during these weeks there will only be the floor to kneel on. Those of you unable to do so may sit.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION** Sessions for the parents of the children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place early next year. Children for Confession and Holy Communion are in Year 3 or above. **At St. Bonaventure's** the children have classes once a month on Saturdays - the Enrolment Meeting will be on Saturday 7th October at 11am in St. Bonaventure's Hall (with the first class on Saturday 14th October). **At Holy Family Church** the classes are weekly usually on a Wednesday afternoon after school starting in January/February - the Enrolment Meeting will be in Holy Family Church after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 5th November. **At Our Lady's Church** the classes are on Sunday mornings before 11.30 Mass starting in January - the Enrolment Meeting will be on Tuesday 14th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people from our three churches in Year 9 and above at school are invited to come with their parents to an Enrolment Meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 15th October at 7pm in Holy Family Church. The course will begin in November.

**RED BOX APPEAL** Fr. John Hemer and Mrs Eileen Tompkins will be with us the weekend of 30th September/1st October to make the 'Red Box' Appeal on behalf of Missio (APF). Many of you already contribute generously but this gives everyone an opportunity to get a box.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Welwyn Cemetery - Sunday 5th November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery - Sunday 12th November at 2pm. Southway Cemetery - Sunday 19th November at 2pm.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS** Our Lady's Tuesday 19th September at 7.45pm. St. Bonaventure's Monday 25th September at 10.30am and Holy Family Wednesday 18th October at 7pm.

**THANK YOU** The family of Mrs. Laura Brigid Scheck would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to you for all your support during their bereavement. May God richly bless you.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Children from our three parishes are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up. Parents welcome.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** This will take place next year on Saturday 24th March (venue to be confirmed). Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

**RCIA** For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will be on Monday evenings starting on 9th October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Perhaps you are an adult baptised as a child who have not been confirmed? You are most welcome too! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd September at 6pm Mass at Our Lady's with a gathering in the Hall afterwards. There will be a quiz and bingo! Please bring food to share.

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** will be celebrated on Saturday 7th Oct. at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Fr. Norbert urges parents to visit the different schools with their children. An open morning allows you to see the school in action and the way the pupils and staff are. Think about where your child will flourish, taking into account his/her gifts, travelling, friendship groups and what schools offer. Definitely read the admissions criteria and try to see whether or not your child has a good chance of getting in. Some Catholic schools will need a Certificate of Catholicity which implies weekly attendance at Mass. Fr. Norbert will be available in October (dates and times will be in the newsletter) to sign these certificates. All Catholic schools will need a Baptismal Certificate, so now is a good time to request one if you have not got the original. If the Baptism was here in Welwyn Garden City, contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579); otherwise make sure you give yourself time to acquire one from the church of Baptism.

**INTERFAITH Music and Religion:** following our recent musical event which drew a large audience, the local inter faith group will be presenting the second in a series of how music is viewed and used by different faiths. You are warmly invited to the Focolare Centre on Tuesday 19th September at 7.15 when we will be hearing from representatives from the Hindu, Muslim and Baha'i faiths.

**CWL** meet on 19th September at Our Lady's after the 7pm Mass. On 22nd September there will be a Quiz Night starting at 7.30 - please come and bring a friend, make up a table of six and join us for a friendly, sociable night and "stretch your minds". If there are any questions please contact Anne Davidson on 01707 327569.

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** - the project is making good progress and we have 26 volunteer drivers. We now have the capacity to provide lifts to more people. If you know of anyone who would like a lift to Mass, please take them one of the pink forms at the back of the church and return it to the envelope marked "Transport to Mass". Also, if you are able to volunteer as a driver, then please complete a yellow form and place it in the same envelope. The next project meeting is on Friday 22nd September at 7.30pm at Holy Family For any further information contact Joe Galloway on 894207 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES)** We will again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world. Details, boxes and leaflets will be available next weekend.

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** Meets every Wednesday 10am in St. Bonaventure's. All are welcome to come along with babies and toddlers.

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

**Fr. Tom 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**

**CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS** We find that the Catholic papers at the back of our three churches are not being taken and very often many are left. If this continues to be the case, perhaps it might be better for individuals to take out subscriptions so that these papers are sent directly to your homes? Please let Fr. Norbert know what you think.

**ALTAR SERVERS** Over the years altar servers retire from active service but do not return their albs and cinctures. We urge parents to check cupboards and bring back any which are no longer in use. Thank you!

**CONCERT** The WGC Male Choir will be having a concert in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 28th October after 6pm Mass.

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

**MASS TIMES**

18 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Andrew Kim and Paul Chong
	1.30pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
21 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Matthew
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

**Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year**

<b>23 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>24 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	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**