

# 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-ninth Sunday of the Year 22nd October 2017 p. 143 of Mass book***

‘Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.’ This is the punch-line at the end of today’s Gospel passage from St. Matthew. Not many words and yet the interpretations are so diverse! As you read these words here, what do you think they really mean? Are you aware of the context within the Gospel narrative? How would the people of Jesus’ time have regarded them when they considered their own religious background?

Some like to jump to the conclusion that Jesus implies a separation of Church and State - some things belong to the State and some pertain to God and religion. This very much reading into the words our own framework of understanding and present day questions! It is interesting that Jesus himself does not appear to have the denarius coin in his pocket! Is that because of his poverty or as an act of defiance against the Roman occupiers or because he does not want to pay tax? We do not know for certain. The Pharisees do not come themselves to Jesus with their trap; instead they send their disciples to do the dirty work! The latter are even accompanied by the Herodians, collaborators from the court of a puppet king. What a combination!

One commentator on this passage feels that in Jesus’ mind, these words might be translated as: ‘Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, but don’t forget that you belong to God.’ A piece of metal has Caesar’s image engraved on it; so let the coin be given back to him (in tax). We have been created in God’s image and likeness; we belong to God - our whole being, our aspirations, our desires. How does that strike you? Moreover, as Christians, we can say with confidence that Jesus is calling us to share in a Kingdom beyond compare, to be play a part in the Reign of God, to worship God alone and Jesus Christ whom he has sent in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what really matters.

At present there is so much going on in the realm of politics both at home and abroad with various slogans being bandied here and there. It is very easy to fall into the trap of going with the flow. Take time this week to reflect on Jesus’ words. Ponder what he is really saying and respond! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**HALF-TERM BREAK** We wish all children and school staff a refreshing half-term break.  
**CLOCKS** Don't forget that next weekend the clocks go back one hour as British Summer Time ends. It is going to get dark earlier in the evenings!

**UKRANIAN SERVICES** There is a large gathering of Ukranian Bishops in the Focolare Centre this week. They will be celebrating Vespers at 5pm on Thursday and Divine Liturgy (Eucharist) on Friday at 5.30pm both in St. Bonaventure's. Parishioners are most welcome to attend but remember the services might be longer than ours!

**ROBERT CLOUGH RIP** Robert's Memorial Service will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 23rd October at 11am.

**DAVINA KIRKPATRICK RIP** Davina's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Monday 23rd October at 12.30pm.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** Saturday 4th November 12.00 at St Bonaventure's. We would like to invite you and your family and friends to join us for a short Service of Prayer to remember our loved ones who have died and comfort for all who mourn them. Tea/coffee and a chance to meet after the Service in the Parish Hall.

**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 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. At St. Bonaventure's the children have classes once a month on Saturdays. (If you missed the enrolment meeting, please contact Kathryn Hubbard).

**CONFIRMATION** Young people from our three churches in Year 9 and above who missed the enrolment meeting for Confirmation should contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The course begins after half-term.

**MONTHLY ADORATION** Some parishioners have offered to lead a monthly Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music and reflections. It will take place on the second Friday of the month at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass with a 7.45pm start. There will be Benediction to conclude. The name chosen for the hour is 'Restoration'. The first Restoration Holy Hour will be on Friday 10th November. Everyone is welcome.

**CALLING ANY SCOTS!!!** Next month sees the feast of St Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. It would be good to mark the day with something after the morning Mass that day with a Scottish flavour. Are there any Scots who are willing to help organise a celebration? Please contact Fr Tom so we can start planning.

**MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY** Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the annual Deanery Mass at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 21st November at 11am followed by coffee/tea in the Parish Room. There will not be a 9.30am Mass that morning at St. Bonaventure's. Everyone is welcome!

**NOVEMBER DEAD LIST** There are sheets at the back of our churches on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. These will be kept close to the altar and the names remembered at Masses throughout November. There is no need to give any money.

**ALL SAINTS DAY** is on Wednesday 1st November and is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks us to attend Mass. The Tuesday 7pm Mass at Our Lady's will be a Vigil Mass and then on the day there will be Masses at 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. Parishioners are also welcome to attend 9.15am Mass at Holy Family School or 2pm Mass at Our Lady's School.

**ALL SOULS DAY** on Thursday 2nd November is a Day of Prayer for those who have died, commending the faithful departed into God's merciful hands. Prayer for the dead is an important part of our Catholic way of life. The Masses will be as follows: 9.30am Holy Family, 12 noon St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Our Lady's.

**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. Perhaps you are an adult baptised as a child who have not been confirmed? There still is time to join the RCIA Course. Come to Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm for the next session on Monday 30th October.

**SIGNED MASS** in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 11th November at 6pm. If you know of anyone who is deaf, please inform them that the whole Mass (including hymns) will be signed that day.

**HOLY LAND** The pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Welwyn Garden City in November will include Christians from various Churches. The dates are Wednesday 22nd - Thursday 30th November and the price is £1149 for a person sharing a room. 37 have signed up and there are still some places. If interested please take a brochure (and booking form) from the back of the church.

**AVIGNON 2018** Next year there will be a trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES)** Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. Thank you.

**INTER FAITH** Part of the local inter faith group's function is to give people the opportunity to find out about other faiths. The next evening meeting will be on a little known religion, Zoroastrianism. It will take place on 24th October in the Community Meeting Room at Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Rd., Hatfield AL30 0DA at 7.15 - 9.30pm. All welcome.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'curry night' in the Hall. All welcome!

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY** We have our party on Tuesday 31st October from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (pizza provided). Parents are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 4.45pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. £2 to cover costs.

**OUR LADY'S AND HOLY FAMILY REPOSITORIES** Christmas stock now in, and a large selection of general cards. Open before and after most Masses.

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

**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? *A decision needs to be made soon. Please let Fr. Norbert know what you think.*

**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.

|                    |                  |                         |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| <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              |
|              | 11am    | Memorial Service | Our Lady's      |                    |
|              | 12.30pm | Funeral Mass     | Holy Family     |                    |
| 24 Tuesday   | 9.30am  | Mass             | St. Bonaventure | feria              |
|              | 7pm     | Mass             | Our Lady's      |                    |
| 25 Wednesday | 9.30am  | Mass             | Holy Family     | feria              |
| 26 Thursday  | 9.30am  | Mass             | Holy Family     | Sts Chad and Cedd  |
| 27 Friday    | 9.30am  | Mass             | St. Bonaventure | feria              |
|              | 7pm     | Mass             | Our Lady's      |                    |
| 28 Saturday  | 10am    | Mass             | St. Bonaventure | Sts Simon and Jude |

### Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

|             |         |      |                 |  |
|-------------|---------|------|-----------------|--|
| 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**