

# 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*

## ***Thirty-first Sunday of the Year 5th November 2017 p. 149 of Mass book***

In Parliament this week there has been a change in expectations of personal behaviour and morals. Resignations and accusations have altered the view people have of those who have the responsibility of governing us. For some time personal conduct was seen as something private and no one else's business. It seems now that times have changed and memories of bad treatment and suffering are affecting how we perceive what should be the right way. Very appropriate as we contemplate today's Gospel reading as Jesus speaks about the (religious) leaders of his day.

The scribes and the Pharisees are given a hard time again! In today's passage from St. Matthew, Jesus praises their teaching but not their putting it into practice! He has no time for titles and honours; he is not happy with the adulation they seek in public. Why does St. Matthew choose to remember these words for posterity in his Gospel? Perhaps his own community is suffering very much at the hands of the religious adherents of the Law adding many, many extra requirements which have to be followed? Maybe all they see is an empty, superficial response to God's love for his people? Could it be that St. Matthew sees in his own (Christian) community the very things that Jesus criticises and realises that this might be a problem in the future for those who follow Jesus?

It is very easy in general when confronted with a hard-hitting Gospel passage to think to oneself 'Jesus is talking about someone else...he can't have me in mind?!' For me as a priest, this passage challenges me to the core of who I am and all that I do as the Lord's servant in regard to what people call me, what I wear, where I am sat at table at events, my attitude to others, the way I am with family, friends, parishioners and strangers. It is not easy to be let off the hook! And yet truly to be the Lord's disciple I have to want to be like him; I have to admit my mistakes; I need to learn to let what I do be in harmony with what is going on inside. This is only possible with the Lord's help! Please pray for your priests. May your loving example and selflessness be an inspiration as we all build up God's Kingdom. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND** The annual collection takes place next weekend. Many of you already support the sick and retired priests of our Diocese through Growing in Faith - for this we are grateful. If you are able to contribute this fund, your generosity will help cover medical, housing, convalescence and personal needs of priests as well as helping in an emergency. There are special envelopes for this purpose. Please take one and return it with your offering. Thank you for your generosity.

**COMMISSIONING AND RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS** in our three churches will take place at all the Masses the weekend of 2nd/3rd December as the new Church's Year begins with the Season of Advent. So this involves Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musicians & Singers, Altar Servers, Catechists (including Children's Liturgy) and Welcomers.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** In our three churches we are very much in need of extra Eucharistic Ministers to help with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Obviously, as with all ministries, a person is very much upfront and so reverence for - and love of - the Eucharist is paramount. From a practical point of view the ability to be a part of a rota helps. If you would like to offer yourself, please speak to Fr. Tom or Fr. Norbert. There will be a gathering in Our Lady's Church after 7pm Mass (so at 7.45pm) on Friday 17th November to go through what is required. Thank you.

**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.

**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 today (5th). 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 who missed the enrolment meeting for Confirmation should contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The course begins on Sunday 19th November at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church.

**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? Contact Fr Tom

**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!

**THANKS** to those who cleaned at St. Bonaventure's and to those who cleaned and maintained the grounds at Our Lady's this week. It is much appreciated.

**The AFRICAN COMMUNITY** will be meeting on Sunday, 12 November after 11.30am. Mass at Our Lady's. The meeting will be held at Our Lady's Hall and all African parishioners are requested to attend.

**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.

**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** There will be a meeting of all pilgrims in Our Lady's Hall on Sunday 12th November at 4.30pm.

**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.

**INTER FAITH** Our local inter faith group will hold two events during national inter faith week. As usual we will be hosting a Shared Supper at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 16th from 7pm until 9.30 pm. Guests are asked to bring a savoury dish or dessert (these can be heated if required). Do come, it is always a great evening. Also on the Sunday 19th from 10 am until 4pm we will be joining the Jewish community collecting food at Morrisons for the local food bank. If you are able to offer an hour to help, please phone Valerie on 01707 324828.

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** a reminder that we now have a service in place to provide a lift to Mass for people who are not able to get there by themselves. If you know of anyone who would like a lift, 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 Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. For any further information contact Joe Galloway on 01707 894207 or Desi Russell on 371399.

**\*OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES\*** Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as possible and by the weekend of 18th/19th November at the very latest. We have about 50 boxes returned already but if all come back we should have well over 150. Only two weeks to go!

**NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 17th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 3rd December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

**SEWING MACHINE** available to go to a good home. Just make a donation to CAFOD. Contact Sandy on 01707 321157

**NEXT CAFOD GROUP MEETING** This Tuesday 2pm in the Parish Room at Holy Family.

**ADVENT FESTIVE FAYRE** at Holy Family Church in aid of CAFOD after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 19th November - Come and buy a homemade Christmas Cake and other Christmas goodies. Do come and support this hardworking team of CAFOD volunteers.

**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**

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

**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!

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** is having a sociable get together on Tuesday 14th November at 8pm in Our Lady's Family Centre. Everybody is invited, men and women. The subject is "Extreme Knitting". Please do

not feel this isn't for you. It is a sociable, fun evening with an unusual subject. If you would like a lift please ring Anne Davidson, 01707 327569. Please come and bring a friend.

**RCIA** Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 6th November.

**CONFESSIONS**

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

**MASS TIMES**

06 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
07 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
09 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Dedication of the Lateran Bascilia
10 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Leo the Great
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Martin of Tours

**Thirty-second Sunday of the Year**

11 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
12 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**