

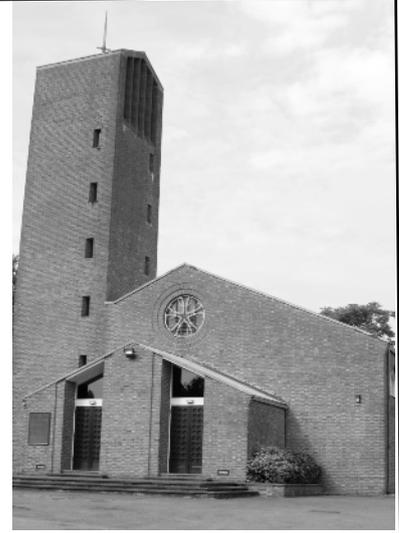
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Thirty-second Sunday of the Year 12th November 2017 p. 152 of Mass book

It is 99 years since the end of the First World War. This weekend, we have Armistice Day on Saturday 11th November and today, Remembrance Sunday, to put us in touch with the sacrifices of countless people who gave their lives for freedom and peace. The horrors of war never lessen. The striving for peace is still our goal. The sadness of loss continues to leave pain. However, *we will remember them*. And not only the dead from the Two World Wars but also the thousands and thousands who have died in subsequent conflicts. We remember the forces who even at this time act for peace and justice throughout the world, those maimed by warfare, their loved ones and the grieving families. *We will remember them*.

In this month of November, we take time to call to mind our loved ones who have died. I am very grateful to the newly formed Bereavement Group for last Saturday's moving Remembrance Service. I couldn't help but think of my own Mum and Dad. Many of us will find an opportunity at this time to visit a cemetery or crematorium to pray for our dead. As the days and weeks go by there are the constant reminders of those who have been so important to us. As Catholic Christians our instinct in remembering the dead is to pray for them that our loving and merciful God may, through the saving Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ his Son, shower upon them forgiveness, healing and redemption. Every Mass puts us in touch with Christ's great Act. When we pray for the departed, there is such a Gift from God which shines upon them. Our prayer for them is an action which can be an instrument of help towards eternal life. That is why *we will remember them*.

Our Gospel passage from St. Matthew invites us to remember that one day God will call us to him, that we must be ready, that a wise use of our time here on earth will prepare us to meet him face to face. He wants us to be saved. We will need him to remember his mercy. We will require others to remember us in prayer!

God bless you as another week begins. ***Fr. Norbert***

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND Today's retiring collection is for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund of the Diocese. 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 to 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 GiftAid your offering if you are a tax-payer. Thank you for your generosity.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR will be next Sunday. Pope Francis asks us to reflect on the words: 'Blessed are the open hands that embrace the poor...they are the hands that bring hope.' It just happens that we have received the annual report from the Food Bank at New Zion which is supported by our three churches and many others. There is a huge expression of gratitude for the generosity of our parishioners who regularly give to help the needy. The report is on the notice board. Perhaps next Sunday might be an opportunity to bring something 'extra' for the poor of our own community which can be left in the basket marked 'Food Bank' at the back of each church. Thank you.

RITA RIDGEWELL RIP Rita's Funeral Mass will be at St. Thomas More Church, Knebworth on Wednesday 15th November at 1pm.

EILEEN FIRMIER RIP Eileen's Funeral Mass will take place in December.

THANKS to the Bereavement Group for last Saturday's Service which was very moving and prayerful. Let us continue to remember the bereaved in this month of November.

COMMISSIONING AND RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS in our three churches will take place during each of 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.

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. Enrolment at Our Lady's Parish will be this Tuesday at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. (The meeting is principally for parents but children may, of course, attend). If parents missed Holy Family Parish's enrolment last week, please see Fr. Norbert.

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.

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!

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.

HOLY LAND If anyone would like Fr. Norbert to take intentions to the Holy Land, please let him have them by next Sunday (19th) evening.

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.

THIS IS INTERFAITH WEEK and our local interfaith group will hold two events during national interfaith 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 10am 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.

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 (they are being collected on 21st). We have about 70 boxes returned already but if all come back we should have well over 150. Only one week 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 in the hall at St. Bonaventure's.

HCPT GROUP 183 desperately need bottles for their Christmas fair on the 3rd of December. If you are able to help please leave your bottle donation at the back of the church.

JUSTICE AND PEACE This Sunday (12th) at 6.30pm, meet at John Fogarty's (23 Duncan Close) to discuss the recent review (instituted by Cardinal Nichols) into the future of Justice & Peace, in the diocese, and all are welcome. Comments on the review have to be submitted by the 17th of this month and, if you would like more information, please telephone John on 01707 3277771 (john.fogarty@ntlworld.com).

CAFOD will be having a Mass of Remembrance on Wednesday 22nd November at 11am at Christ the King Church, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood N14 4HE. You are invited to join in commemorating all those who have touched our lives and made the world a better place.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. It starts this Thursday 16th. There will be activities and refreshments.

ZUMBA for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED WRITES: Everyday Christians are suffering persecution because of their faith. Christians are the victims of at least 75% of all religiously-motivated violence and oppression – the extent of this persecution is largely ignored by our media. On Wednesday 22 November please join Christians around the world as we Stand up for Faith and Freedom on #RedWednesday. More than 30 cathedrals, churches and schools from the west coast of Scotland to the south coast of England have so far pledged to take part in #RedWednesday as the UK prepares to stand up for faith and freedom. Faith groups from across the UK will be taking part in the initiative to promote faith and tolerance in society, stand in solidarity with victims of persecution, and oppose violence and oppression carried out in the name of religion. We are holding a week of events from 19 – 26 November for #RedWednesday with the headline event taking place at Westminster Cathedral Piazza on Wednesday 22 November; beginning at 6pm, please join us for an evening of solidarity and witness for our persecuted brothers and sisters - with guest speakers, music, film and prayer. Please join us as we raise our voices and our prayers for religious freedom and the right to believe.

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

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.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Hyde Cemetery - today (Sunday 12th) 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.

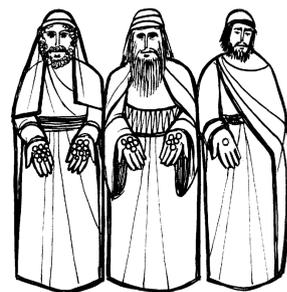
RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 13th November.

CONFESSIONS

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

MASS TIMES

13 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
14 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Albert the Great
16 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Edmund of Abingdon
17 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Hugh, St. Elizabeth, St. Hilda
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
Thirty-third Sunday of the Year				
18 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
19 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**