

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*

Second Sunday of the Year 14th January 2018 page 127 of the Mass Book

We are now back in Ordinary Time and the Church this Sunday gives us a passage from St. John's Gospel. John the Baptist is carrying out his role of putting people in touch with the Christ; Jesus is beginning his ministry and gathering his first disciples. So much is happening at an amazing speed! What I especially love about today's excerpt is that the two disciples spend a day with Jesus. It is always worth revisiting this notion in our daily lives.

Each day, how do you spend time with the Lord? Is there quiet and stillness? Are you surrounded by frenetic activity? Is it hard to find an opportunity or a place solely to be with Jesus? Obviously through our responsibilities, work, those entrusted to us we can discover Christ. However, finding that extra moment to listen, to intercede, to ponder, to say 'Thank you!' is vital as followers of Jesus Christ. Maybe a resolution for 2018 might be to create a personal and profound moment which opens us up to God's grace and a peace which fills us with serenity. This isn't just wishful thinking! It can become a reality.

The other aspect of today's Gospel reading which I often reflect on is what it must have been like to witness Jesus at work. Imagine seeing him with the sick, the outcast, braving the hostility of his opponents. Picture him at prayer or spending quality time with family or friends. Soon after today's passage the Lord is in Cana and works his first sign, changing water into wine and calling so many to faith and an experience of God's glory. What do you think he was like at the wedding feast? Did he look as if he was enjoying himself? What did his face look like as Mary pointed out that they had run out of wine? Amazing! Our joy and responsibility is to let our actions and words be signs of Christ's presence, to radiate something extra in life which is suffused with the divine. He knows we can do it and calls us to be his family and his instruments!

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

PEACE SUNDAY The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to make today, a day of prayer for world peace, using a theme proposed by Pope Francis: **MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES - SEEKERS OF PEACE**. Sadly we are so used to images of those driven from their homelands by warfare or famine but Pope Francis reminds us that they are ‘no different to our own family and friends. Each of them has a name, a face, a story, as well as a right to live in peace and to aspire to a better future for their sons and daughters’ There is a special prayer card for you to take home today.

JULIAN PERERA R.I.P. Julian’s Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady’s on Wednesday 24th January at 11.30am.

ROSE ROBINSON R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Rose will be on Thursday 25th January at 3pm in Our Lady’s.

RICHARD BOND RIP Richard’s Funeral will be at Our Lady’s on Friday 26th January at 12 noon.

RAYMONDE RICHARDS R.I.P. The Funeral Service for Raymonde will be at Harwood Park on Tuesday 6th February at 12.30pm.

RCIA Next session for adults wanting to join the Catholic Church will be in Our Lady’s Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 15th January.

CONFIRMATION The next session for our young people will be on Sunday 21st January at 7.15pm in Holy Family’s Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS from our three churches will have their first meeting in Our Lady’s Church this Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm.

LOOKING AHEAD There will be an afternoon visit to St. Edmund’s College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm. There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake!

On Saturday 5th May there will be a day in Aylesford at The Friars where there is a Shrine of Our Lady.

A MOSLEM VIEW OF OUR LADY Mrs Farukh Sheikh, who had frequently spoken on inter-faith issues, will give her personal reflections on Our Lady at a meeting of the Newman Association at St Alban and St Stephen’s Church, Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RB at 10.30am on Saturday, 20 January. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to know more about this talk, please ring 01727 864 404

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING Cleaning will take place at Holy Family on Wednesday 17th January from 11am onwards. If anyone can spare any time to help out you will be very warmly welcomed.

CAFOD supporter evening The Holy Family CAFOD group are holding a supporters “Thank You” evening on Friday 26th Jan at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. A light supper will be provided. If you support CAFOD in any way or would like to know more about us please come along to our friendly get together.

OUR LADY’S REPOSITORY Half price sale of many Christmas items while stocks last. Open before and after most Masses.

CANDLEMAS Friday 2nd February is the 40th day after Christmas and is a day when candles are blessed in commemoration of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. There is Mass at 6.30am and 9.30am at St. Bonaventure's, and at Our Lady’s at 7pm.

AVIGNON 2018 Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. 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).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. 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.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on 2nd February at St. Bonaventure's. There will be breakfast in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY There will be one Service on Sunday 21st January at 4pm at Christchurch Baptist Church on Tewin Road AL7 1BW. The Bishop of Hertford, Michael Beasley, will be giving the address. We have our gaze fixed on 2020 when Welwyn Garden City will be 100 years old! Please put the date in your diaries.

FINANCE COMMITTEES St. Bonaventure's will meet on Tuesday 23rd January at 10.15am. Our Lady's on Tuesday 23rd at 7.45pm. Holy Family on Wednesday 7th February 7pm.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231, regular cleaning, fortnightly, monthly, spring cleans, ironing etc.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP There is no meeting this Tuesday but back to normal the following week: 3.45pm in the hall.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION GROUP We meet next Saturday 10.30am in the hall. Next Children's Mass is Sunday 21st at 10.30am.

THANK YOU to those who took down the outdoor crib at Our Lady's Church and to those who cleaned the church and maintained the grounds this weekend. Thank you to those at St. Bonaventure's who cleaned this week.

Fr. Tom would be very grateful for offers of help to take down the outdoor crib at Holy Family. Thank you.

POLITICS FOR UNITY making a world of difference. Come along to this event and support the initiative which promotes meaningful dialogue in public life. Saturday 20th January 4pm - 5pm in the Focolare Centre 69 Parkway. For more information contact Michal Siewniak michal.siewniak1@gmail.com or 07825021746.

HWSF There is an invitation to the University of Hertfordshire's Staff and Students Supporting Refugees group, which has its first meeting at 4.30 on Tuesday, January 16th in Room 235 on the De Havilland Campus, when they will be showing the film 'Calais, A case to Answer' - the theme of which will be obvious. There is plenty of parking on the De Havilland site at that time of day - pay and display. These meetings do not go on for more than an hour and a half. Please feel free to come along.

MOTHER AND TODDLER This friendly group meets every Wednesday in St. Bonaventure's hall from 10am. Come along with your little ones - lots of toys to play with and it is good opportunity for mums, grandparents, carers, to get to know one another.

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

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil
 Johnson 01707 377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

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

DID ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY GET A BIKE FOR CHRISTMAS? If so, do you have any spare bikes, in good condition, that you would like to give away? HWSF Cycles for Syrians scheme has outstanding requests for 9 men's bikes, 3 women's bikes and 16 bikes for children, ranging in age from 7-18. Can you help in any of these ways:-

- Donating a bike or bikes.
- Collecting/delivering bikes around part of the county - you specify the area.
- Checking/repairing bikes.
- Donating helmets, pumps, hi viz jackets or lights.

The Cycles for Syrians scheme has proved very helpful to our families, enabling children to get to school, adults to get to college and carry their shopping and for everyone to have some fun and exercise. For more details contact Vicky Woodcraft.
woodcraftvicky@gmail.com

MASS TIMES

15 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
16 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Anthony Abbot
18 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
19 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Wulstan
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Fabian or St. Sebastian

Third Sunday of the Year

20 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
21 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**