

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*

Fifth Sunday of the Year 4th February 2018 page 134 of the Mass Book

What sort of week have you had? Were there high points, disappointments, things going just right, matters which got complicated? Who were the people you met? Did you rest at all? Was there time to pray? Questions! In our Gospel passage from St. Mark, a day in Jesus' life draws to a close and we discover so much activity, people in search of him, his prayer interrupted by his disciples, more to be done! The lovely thing about Jesus, which we are called to imitate, is an ability to know how to spend the right length of time with people, with words and actions which let each one feel they are special to the Lord and that he encounters them in a personal way. Jesus find space in the midst of a busy day to spend in prayer. Let's take a few moments to reflect on what St. Mark is trying to teach us right at the start of his Gospel putting us in touch with God's Son and the presence of the Kingdom.

Firstly, Jesus is at home in many places: he leaves the synagogue, where people gather to read from the Bible and have it explained. He goes to the house of Simon Peter; he is happy to be there. Remember it was not much earlier that Jesus called the first sets of disciples, taking them away from their livelihood and asking them to embark on something totally novel. What did Simon's wife make of it? Hers is a silent, hidden presence in the Gospels. However, the mother-in-law is the one to feel the power of Jesus' healing hand and she cannot help but look after the Lord and his new group of followers. I'm sure Simon's wife must have been delighted! Then we have so many crowding around the door of the house. It must have been quite a sight! These people were suffering in so many ways. Jesus showed them compassion-in-action by healing them. Perhaps some of the witnesses must have worried that they might catch something or wondered whether they were safe with the 'possessed' around? Finally, I try to ponder what Jesus at prayer must have been like: words, posture, the look on his face. He certainly wanted to pray - and early in the morning was the right time!

As we start another week, let us try to radiate Christ's love upon people, places and situations. May personal prayer fire us up with the ability to get it just right!

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

ASH WEDNESDAY this year coincides with Valentine's Day - 14th February! It also falls in the half-term holiday. Mass with the imposition of ashes will be at 9.30 at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. This is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. If you have any old palms, please bring them to church and they will be burned to make the ashes.

RAYMONDE RICHARDS RIP Raymonde's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Tuesday 6th February at 12.30pm.

PAT DESMOND RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will be on Friday 9th February at 10am at Our Lady's.

RICHARD MORRISSEY RIP Richard's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 19th February at 12.30pm.

ADRIAN HARRIS RIP Adrian's Funeral Service will be at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 21st February at 1pm.

MACIEJ GRABOWSKI R.I.P. There will be a Memorial Mass for Maciej next Saturday 10th February 1pm at Our Lady's.

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY on Saturday 19th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Over the years many of you have attended this wonderful celebration; now is the opportunity for others!

RCIA Next session for adults wanting to join the Catholic Church will be in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 5th February. The catechumens and candidates for the Sacraments at Easter will be presented next Sunday at 11.30 Mass where they will sign a scroll to be taken to Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th at the Rite of Election where they will formally be welcomed by the Cardinal. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 9th February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DEMENTIA An information session on dementia will be held in Anson Court, Shackleton Way (Panshanger) on Thursday 15th February at 3.30pm. This is for 1 hour 15 minutes only. Full details and contact on poster at back of the Church.

LENTEN LUNCHESES The Lenten Lunches start again on Saturday 17th February, at 12.00 in the Family Centre. Soup and a Roll, Tea and Cake. Very reasonably priced and a very sociable occasion. Please come and bring a friend. If you need a lift please ring Anne Davidson, 01707 327569

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.

NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for entry to nursery in our Catholic schools. On Tuesday 20th February and Monday 5th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church.. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 5-minute appointment with Fr. Norbert on one of those days. There are at the back of our churches pink 'extra forms' which should be brought filled in to the meeting. Please wait in Our Lady's Church to be called. Fr. Norbert would like to meet the children as well as their parents.

HCPT GROUP 183 Thank you for your generous response last weekend. There will be a Beetle Drive on Saturday 17th Feb in Our Lady's Church Hall from 2:30pm till 5pm . Fun and laughter for all ages costs are £1 a child £2 an adult or a family ticket for £5. Drinks and home made cakes will be available . Please come along and have fun while supporting a good cause. No ticket required just pay on the door Any queries contact Bev Kleiser on 01707 390065

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. 15 have signed up already. Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

FINANCE COMMITTEE Holy Family on Wednesday 7th February 7pm.

ACCOMMODATION A mother and her daughter are looking for accommodation. If you can help, please contact Fr. Norbert.

THANK YOU to those who helped clean at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday and to those at Our Lady's who cleaned the church and maintained the grounds on Saturday.

INTER FAITH Inter Faith Dialogue: past, present and future Tuesday 20 February at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 7pm for 7.15. The Catholic Church was instrumental in encouraging inter faith dialogue during Vatican 2, and it has progressed during the intervening years. Relationships between people of different faiths is perhaps more important now than ever before. You are all welcome to come along and find out more.

OUR LADY'S MINISTERS' ROTA The new rota from February to April 2018 for Welcomers, Readers and Holy Communion Ministers is now available for collection at the back of the church. A copy will also be available on the website:www.wgc-catholics.org.uk.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Saturday 24th Feb at 6pm and Saturday 28th April at 6pm.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY After 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th March there will be a 'Get-together' in the hall. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to help and have any ideas about the entertainment!

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be on Saturday 23rd June at 12 noon at Our Lady's

FILIPINO MASS will be on Saturday 23rd June at 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS will be on Sunday 8th July at 11.30am.

The AFRICAN COMMUNITY will be meeting on Sunday, 11 February after 11.30a.m. Mass at Our Lady. The meeting will be held at Our Lady's Hall and all African parishioners are requested to attend.

The CAFOD group will meet at Holy Family on Tues 6th Feb at 2pm in the parish room. All are welcome .

ST. ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
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 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>
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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).

CONFIRMATION Our young people have their next session today (4th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS from our three churches will have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm.

MASS TIMES

05 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Agatha
06 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Paul Miki and companions
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
08 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
09 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	10am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Scholastica
	1pm	Memorial Mass for Maciej Grabowski		

Sixth Sunday of the Year

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