

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*

Eleventh Sunday of the Year 17th June 2018 page 95 of the Mass

Last week I mentioned that Welwyn Hatfield Council had given planning permission for the demolition of Our Lady's Hall/Family Centre and the building of a new Parish Centre for our three churches. Quite a number of years ago, before the Growing in Faith Project was launched in Welwyn Garden City, time was spent reviewing the state of the present hall, the ways it functions and the possibility of a new centre to serve the whole of our community. Together with the three chairs of our Finance Committees, I met with the Financial Secretary of the Diocese and the Diocesan Surveyor and we were encouraged to proceed. There have been open Parish Meetings to look at the plans and the various options, an architect was chosen. NOW it is the next important step! I have to write to the Trustees of the Diocese formally to request that we go ahead and to seek a loan which will support the whole project. I have to describe (again) the process and show that we would be able to pay off a loan. My application to the Trustees must be in by 24th June for a 26th June meeting. Otherwise the next meeting will be in September - time which would be lost. My hope is that we could demolish in October and have the new Centre ready by November 2019.

The cost of the new Parish Centre will be roughly £750,000. The money coming back to us from Growing in Faith will be approximately £242,581. This latter projected sum will your generous contributions from five years of giving which will conclude next year. This means that we will need a loan of about £500,000; hopefully we can pay it off over 10 years. I have met again with the three chairs of our Finance Committees and they agree with me that the best way of raising the funds will be through money which is pledged. WGC has pledged £543,442 to GiF over five years, thus supporting Diocesan Charities. Some of you may want to stop for all sorts of reasons; some may be happy to continue your generous giving and thus support the new Parish Centre; there are still others who perhaps might like to help with this project. Growing in Faith will have a clear end. A new system of giving would have to be formalised. There may be some of you would like to make one-off donations and leave it at that. With Growing in Faith - and offertory collections in general - I do not know what people generously give and I have never made it my business to find out. Obviously, if individuals would like to commit themselves to a large donation, it would help me to know at an early stage so that the scope of the loan would be more realistic - less in effect!

Personally I don't like talking about money a lot of the time - the proclaiming of the Gospel is my passion! However, if this project can be completed with the loan paid off, this will relieve the pressure/worry and be a worthy gathering place for so many: parishioners, local groups and be a source of outreach to those in need. It will be a great legacy for you - our people - as this Garden City enters its Centenary Year in 2020. God bless you and have a wonderful week. *Fr. Norbert*

FATHERS DAY To all fathers and dads we wish you a happy day. God bless you!

DAY FOR LIFE 2018 This year's focus will be on human trafficking. There are special information/prayer cards at the back of our churches. Please take one. Many of you already contribute generously through the Growing in Faith scheme towards Bakhita House which provides a place of safety here in our Diocese for those 'rescued'. However, if anyone would like to find out more visit www.santamartagroup.com or to make a donation visit www.dayforlife.org/donate

THANK YOU Fr. Norbert is most grateful to all who came last Monday to celebrate with him his 30th Anniversary of Priesthood. He would also like to thank those who helped with coffee and cake. Although not everyone could be there, he certainly felt the power of your prayers and appreciates the cards and gifts.

JANET SEELEY RIP There will be a Memorial Mass and Celebration for Mrs Seeley, Deputy Head of Our Lady School, on Friday 22nd June at 12 noon (until 1.45pm). Parishioners, parents, former staff and governors are all welcome. If you are able to stay afterwards, please bring a picnic.

SAM TOBIN RIP Sam's Funeral will be on Monday 25th June at 11.30am at St. Bonaventure's.

VIRGINIA REES RIP Virginia's Memorial Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 27th June at 11am. (Her family will have the Funeral Service at the Crematorium beforehand.)
Please note that there will not be a 9.30 Mass that morning at Holy Family Church.

PHILOMENA FLANAGAN RIP Philomena's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Monday 9th July at 12.30pm.

OUR LADY'S NURSERY still has some places available for September. If you are interested please contact the school 01707 324408.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship which runs the Food Bank on Cole Green Lane every Wednesday 9.00 - 11.00am is very grateful for all the donations made. Please ensure that tins and packets of food are in date and that egg cartons are for six eggs only. Donations of unused toiletries would also be most welcome. There are baskets at the back of each of our churches for this purpose.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE TASTER COURSE Shell Roca who is Director of the Diocesan Deaf Service is offering a six-week course at Our Lady's in the autumn. There will be Deaf awareness, tips for communicating with the Deaf and hard of hearing, finger-spelling, basic sign language, i.e. every day greetings, Liturgical sign language, Hail Mary, Our Father and the Mass responses. The dates are on Wednesdays 7.00 - 8.00pm (in the sacristy): 3rd, 10th & 17th October and 7th, 14th & 21st November. The cost of the course will be £30 to cover the materials etc. There are booking forms available at the back of our churches. Please fill one in and return directly to Shell.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL will be meeting next on Wednesday 27th June at 7.30pm. If you would like any matters raised, please let Fr. Norbert know.

THANK YOU to the Monday Bingo Group for their very generous donation of £200 towards the Our Lady's Church funds. It is very much appreciated and will go towards the cost of the benches' refurbishment.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church or contact Kay on 01707 335633.

AN EVENT FOR REFUGEE WEEK Organised by Herts Welcomes Syrian Families in collaboration with St Albans Folk Music and St Albans Amnesty International Group. **8pm Thursday June 21st**, Trinity United Reform Church, 1 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RD. Featuring... Songs from Na mara, Talks by historians Kate Morris and Ken Griffin, Stories from Syrian refugees now settled in Hertfordshire, Arabic food prepared by local Syrian families. Free Admission with Retiring Collection

EXAMINATIONS Many of you are taking examinations at this time. Be assured that you will be remembered in prayer at Mass. May God's Spirit guide you and help you to do your very best!

SCHOOL VISITS Swallow Dell Year 6 classes will come on Monday 18th June in the morning and two classes from Southfield Special School in Hatfield on 18th in the afternoon.

HOLY DAY This month we will be having a Holy Day of Obligation on Friday 29th June - the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul. Masses will be at 9.30am (please note at Holy Family Church), 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

TASTES AND COLOURS OF SYRIA You are invited to a fund-raising event for the Focolare Community in Syria - an evening with a taste of Syrian food and a quiz. Moris and Reem Abd, a Syrian family living in Welwyn Garden City - will lead us on a very special journey. Friday, 6th July 2018 at 7.30pm Focolare Centre. (Suggested contribution £10)

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

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be on Saturday 23rd June at 12 noon at Our Lady's. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) here in our town is organising the celebration. In this Sacrament the priest lays his hands on the head of the sick or infirm person and then anoints the forehead and the palms of the hands with the Oil of the Sick. This is such a powerful Sacrament, giving strength, peace and healing! When celebrated in the midst of the community at Mass it affords us all the opportunity to support the sick by our loving, prayerful presence. If you would like to come and need a lift contact Janet on 01707 326456. Afterwards there will be a get-together in the hall with refreshments. All are welcome.

FILIPINO MASS will be on Saturday 23rd June at 6pm. Our Filipino Community will be singing in Tagalog and English at Mass. Afterwards there will be food and cultural delights in the hall. All welcome.

AFRICAN MASS will be on Sunday 8th July at 11.30am. The parishioners of various African countries will lead Mass and have a party afterwards in the hall with food and dance. All welcome.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS has been set for Saturday 22nd September at 6pm at Our Lady's.

CAMINO from Opporto to Santiago de Compostela Saturday 25th May - Sunday 2nd June 2019. Brochures with booking forms are at the back of our churches. If you would like one emailed to you, please contact Fr. Norbert on welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made.

FIRST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING MASS for the children of our three parishes who have made their First Holy Communion this year will be on Sunday 24th June at 3pm in Our Lady's followed by a party in the hall.

DEMENTIA UK. Welwyn Festival 2018 presents Hannah Lang (flute) and Peter Hewitt (piano) in a recital of music by *JS Bach-Beethoven-Poulenc and Fantasy On Themes From Carmen* to raise money for Dementia UK. To be held at St Mary's Church Welwyn AL6 9LX from 3:00pm on Sunday 24 June. Tickets £10 or £5 for under 18s available at Hills in Welwyn High Street or at the door or contact Claire Smith on 07973 868742.

INTER FAITH PLAY This Sunday 17th June The Khayaal Theatre Company will be presenting storytelling entitled 'Tales of Wisdom' at the Focolare Centre at 3pm. Suitable for ages 4 - 94 and the whole family/ Tea and cakes will be served after the performance, tickets £5 for adults and £2 for children, available from Valerie Skottowe after Mass or phone 324828 or from Marite Min and other members of the inter faith group.

GARDENER AVAILABLE to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

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

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

GARDEN RETREAT in the beautiful grounds of Rosary Priory and the Niland Centre with Sr Laurentia Carroll OP & Sr Anne Walsh OP on Tuesday, 10th July from 10.00 am - 3.30 pm. We hunger for beauty. Nourish your soul and your senses. Please bring a packed lunch (tea/coffee provided) & rain gear (precaution). Suggested donation £14. Registrations welcome at nilandcentre@gmail.com or 020 8950 4000. Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE.

FR. MARK CONNOLLY CSSp (Holy Ghost/Spiritan Fathers) who was the first priestly vocation from Welwyn Garden City, will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee (50 years!) of Priesthood on Friday 21st September at 7pm at Our Lady's where he was ordained priest. Please keep the date free and watch this space!

MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Alban
21 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Aloysius Gonzaga
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS John Fisher and Thomas More
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12noon	Mass with Anointing of the Sick	Our Lady's	
Twelfth Sunday of the Year				
23 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	3pm	Mass of Thanksgiving	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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**