

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*

Twenty-third Sunday of the Year 9th September page 129 of the Mass Book

‘Ephphatha! Be opened!’ is the command of Jesus to the deaf man with an impediment in his speech in today’s Gospel from St. Mark. Last weekend Jesus was surrounded by people who were testing him and had travelled from Jerusalem to do so. Now people bring the man in need to Jesus and after the miracle is worked their mouths open in praise and wonder. What a contrast between the two passages! The scribes and the Pharisees could only hear Jesus’ words in a particular way and see his actions as they wanted. In this passage today, the people are trusting in the possibilities the Lord brings and are not afraid to trumpet to others what Jesus has done - and done so well.

I invite you today to reflect on what you think Jesus can do for you and for people you know. Are you ready to bring them to Jesus in whatever way is open to you? Would you be willing to go to the highways and byways and ‘publish’ how he has helped you? (Not usually our way! Certainly worth considering!) Try to see things with eyes which look and really look; hear God’s voice and respond. Be open to an answer you might not be expecting and give glory to God. Perhaps you are tied up in some form by present situations, the past, what you have done or is being done to you? Christ is the one who can bring release and offers peace beyond measure.

This weekend many people will be gathering in Liverpool for the Eucharistic Congress. We will listen to teaching. We will learn more about the past, the present and look ahead to the future. We will walk in procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance and bear witness to our belief in Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist. We will come home...fired up?! A great event, such as will take place in Liverpool, will take time to unfold and bear fruit. My hope is that we as Church will deepen our understanding, love and reverence for the Eucharist and be spurred to reach out to so many with the power of this great Gift Christ left the Church. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

ADOREMUS The National Eucharistic Congress takes place in Liverpool this weekend. Fr. Norbert, Fr. Tom and ten parishioners are there. Please keep them in your prayers. We are very grateful to Fr. Frank Leonard and Monsignor Harry Turner (retired PP of Harpenden) for covering all the Masses.

FINANCE COMMITTEES St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 11th September. Our Lady's Tuesday 23rd October. Holy Family 31st October.

CREATION DAY To celebrate the Season of Creation on Saturday 15th September we'll be showing Leonardo DiCaprio's award winning documentary film 'Before the Flood' which looks at the environment, climate change and how we can build a sustainable and prosperous future. Starts at 7pm after evening Mass in the hall at Our Lady's. Refreshments provided

MICHAEL MULRENNAN RIP Michael's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 19th September at 12.30pm. His body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Tuesday 18th.

VINCENT LEONARD R.I.P. Vincent's Funeral Mass will be at 10.30am in St. Bonaventure's on Friday 21st September. There will be no 9.30am Mass on that day.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Come to a meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Tuesday 18th September at 7.45pm to prepare for the coming year. It would be good for each parish group to send representatives to the meeting to share with others what the particular group does. The accounts of the three churches will be presented. Also, a strategy for parish activities whilst the Hall is being rebuilt will be discussed. There will be reports from Adoremus, the World Meeting of Families and thoughts about Prayer for Vocations. Also, Fr. Norbert wants to hear your feelings about the possibility of our three parishes becoming one canonical parish, i.e. being one parish in Church Law. **YOUR PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE COME!**

EDUCATION SUNDAY Holy Family School will lead the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church next Sunday.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert urges parent/s to visit the Schools with their child and to reflect on which school will help their child flourish. For those applying to Catholic Schools a Certificate of Catholicity is required which affirms that a child comes from a practising Catholic family, i.e. a family which attends Mass every week. Fr. Norbert will in due course publish dates to meet up with children and their parents/guardians to fill out the relevant forms. It is crucial to read a school's admissions policy to see if your child has a good chance of getting in.

RCIA Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or knowing more? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation when you were younger? Now's the time to think about the next steps! Pray. Talk to another Catholic. Come to Church and deepen your experience of being with others. The first session for our three parishes will be on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Enrolment of young people for Confirmation will be in Holy Family Church on Sunday 21st October at 7pm. Young people should be at least in Year 9 at school. Parents are asked to come to this meeting with their son or daughter. The meeting will last one hour.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Enrolment for St. Bonaventure's First Confession and First Holy Communion will be in the Parish Hall of St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 13th October at 11am. The children's sessions will begin the following Saturday (20th October). Enrolment dates for Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church will be finalised soon.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at 6.30 will be at St. Bonaventure's on 14th September (due to the Eucharistic Congress). There will be breakfast after Mass in the hall. Everyone is welcome!

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will take place at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church on Friday 14th September. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

HCPT 2019 Each year Group 183 takes children with additional needs on a life changing pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes, but this can only happen with the help of volunteers. The Group is now 5 years old and has been extremely fortunate to have been welcomed into the WGC parishes with open arms. In order for us to continue with this great work we desperately need more helpers to join the group. We travel at Easter for a week, helpers will need to be able to attend training and safeguarding before the trip, as well as time getting to know their child before travel. They will also have to be able to pay for their own travel. If this is some thing you feel you may be able to do, please contact Emma at group183@hcpt.org.uk or phone on 07740858313.

AVIGNON A coach for Stansted has been booked leaving from Our Lady's Church car park at 5.45am on Sunday 23rd September and returning on Friday 28th. Please would pilgrims travelling on the coach give Fr. Norbert £20 per person in an envelope this week.

CAMINO from Opporto to Santiago de Compostella 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 19 pilgrims have signed up already. Pax Travel can take up to 41 in all, so send in your booking forms soon!

In 2020 there will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May and the Passion Play in Oberammergau 9th - 11th September.

SEMINARIAN Juan Feria writes: 'It was a pleasure to get to know Welwyn Garden City and to share with the parishioners in so many ways. I thank God for this opportunity and I thank Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tom for their welcome. I will keep you in my prayers. Please pray for me! God bless you.' *Juan left on Thursday with many happy memories. We wish him well in his fourth year at seminary in Huelva, Spain.*

BLESSING OF GRAVES Sunday 11th November at 1.30pm Hatfield Hyde. Sunday 18th November at 2pm Southway. Sunday 25th November 2pm at Welwyn New Cemetery.

AN OPEN DOOR TO SYRIA 5th October (Friday) 8pm-9.30pm Focolare Centre for Unity
As many of you know, in July I went to Syria to support the community there. Now I would love to share with you how it went. Do feel free to come along and discover the life of our friends now in this amazing country. Sylwia.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Saturday 20th October and Saturday 8th December at 6pm at Our Lady's Church.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 14th September and 5th October.

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

PLEASE SPONSOR NEVILLE who is walking in the Isabel Hospice Bridges of London event on Sunday 23rd September to raise funds in memory of Deirdre his late wife. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Neville-Davis1>.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 11th September. Children from our three parishes are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up. Parents welcome. Next Children's Mass will be on Sunday 23rd September at 10.30am (a week later than usual).

THE CWL (Catholic Women's League) are back. Tuesday 11th September. Mass will be said for Bishop Peter Doyle, the CWL's Spiritual Leader at 7.00 for his Golden Jubilee. Followed by the usual meeting in the Family Centre. ALL are welcome.

THANK YOU to all who came and cleaned at St. Bonaventure's this week.

DATES Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong. in Cathedral. Keep the dates free!

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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 01707 327434
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 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.**

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!

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.

NEED a Mobile Hairdresser? Competitive rates offered. Contact Tracey on 07581212941. Jamie - decorator/maintenance man, same number.

INTERFAITH on Thursday 13th September 7.15 to 9.30pm at the Focolare Centre, the interfaith Group has invited an eminent speaker, Barney Leith who was awarded an OBE for his many years working for interfaith relations. He will be speaking on the topic of 'Faith and Human Rights'.

Also Sat. 22nd September in St. Francis a quiz evening run by Herts Welcomes Syrian Families. Book in advance (for catering purposes) to lucy@hwsf.org.uk. Teams of 4-8. Arabic food.

MASS TIMES

10 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
11 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	The Most Holy Name of Mary
13 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John Chrysostom
14 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Sorrows

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year

15 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
16 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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**