

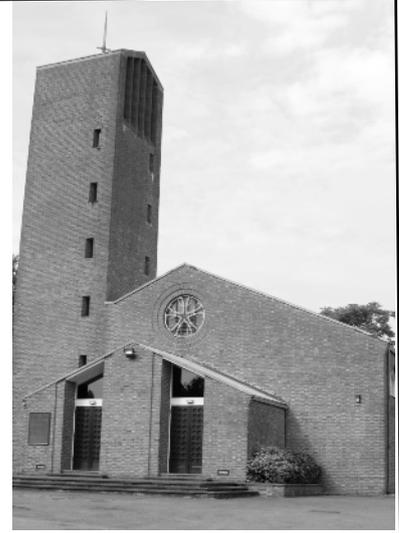
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

## ***Thirty-first Sunday of the Year 4th November page 152 of the Mass Book***

Today's Gospel from St. Mark is another encounter between Jesus and someone (from the crowd?) who is identified as a scribe, a person learned in Scripture and ready to ask Jesus a question. Do you remember where we were last week in this Gospel? Jesus had just left Jericho and he healed Bartimaeus, the blind man, who then followed Jesus on the road. Between then and this excerpt Jesus has entered Jerusalem, riding a donkey with the people crying out 'Hosanna!' Jesus proceeds to enter the Temple and cause havoc! Soon after we enter this scene.

Jesus is posed the tricky question of naming the first commandment. His answer is twofold with many layers of meaning! Priority has to be given to loving God *totally*, a God who is One. Secondly we must love our neighbour *as ourself*. Perhaps for St. Mark's audience, the listeners might have been accused of having three gods! This notion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit had not yet developed in the way we have now come to understand. So, being aware that Jesus had explicitly said there is One God, who deserves everything from us, would have given them something meaty to say to their protagonists. Love of neighbour is a crucial living out of our love of God. Jesus came to bring each of us love and to our neighbours. But do you love *yourself*? Nowadays with modern psychology we can say self-love does not have to be selfish or narcissistic, self-love can bring us a self-esteem and enable us to love ourselves as God loves us, recognising the gifts he has bestowed upon us. Centuries ago, what did Jesus mean by these words?

Soon Jesus will be tried and condemned to death. He will carry the Cross. After his body is buried news will come of 'Resurrection'. I think it is in his Passion that Jesus reveals the infinite power of Love: for God (the Father), for the whole of humanity (his neighbours), for himself in a totally sacrificial way where he not afraid to give everything for us out of obedience to the Father. Is this the kind of love we can live out fully? Are we not far from the Kingdom of Heaven? Did that scribe 'follow Jesus on the road' and witness the double command of love being put into action? That is the challenge we face in our own day as we reflect on true love. God bless your coming week. ***Fr. Norbert***

**MARY TEMPANY RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Friday 16th November at 11am.

**FRANK SCHOFIELD RIP** Frank's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 30th November at 2pm. His body will be received into the church on the Thursday at 3.30pm.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** will next meet on Tuesday 20th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's sacristy. The Liverpool 'Adoremus Group' will join them too. If anyone in the parishes has an item to be brought up, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped with last week's Special Needs Mass celebration afterwards. It was great! The next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 8th December at 6pm. We are also so grateful to those who prepare the early morning breakfast on the First Friday of the month. It definitely warms everyone up!

**RCIA** Next session Monday 12th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** The course begins with 6pm Mass at Holy Family Church next Sunday (11th) and the session will end at 8.45pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Enrolment for Our Lady's Church will be on Tuesday 27th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church (children do not have to attend); the sessions are on a Sunday morning starting in the new year. Parents at Our Lady's will be asked to purchase the First Confession Book at the meeting - price £5. Enrolment for Holy Family Church will be on Sunday 2nd December after 9.30 Mass. Holy Family's sessions begin in the new year and are usually after school midweek.

**GEN VERDE** is coming back to the UK! Gen Verde is an International Performing Arts Group of the Focolare Movement. Their music and choreographies are an expression of their own experiences of living the Gospel and working for peace. Since the 20 artists come from 14 different countries, their styles are very varied and their concerts are suitable for people of all ages (from 8 years old upwards). On Tuesday 13th November they will hold a Concert at 7.30pm at Christ Church Baptist, 20 Tewin Rd, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1BW. Tickets £7.00 each (Family concessions) available on the door (cash only) or contact: [cfu.responses@focolare.org.uk](mailto:cfu.responses@focolare.org.uk) or tel: Lucy 01727 765 262 (evenings) Further information can be found on the leaflets at the back of the church. Also, there will be an interactive weekend with Gen Verde: music, workshops, life & more! From Friday 16th (7pm) to Sunday 18th November. To book your place go to: <https://tinyurl.com/GenVerde18> Cost: £45 (unwaged), £55 (waged) Age: 15-23 years old. 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG Contact: Anja: 07779 161243 | Davide: 07922 232643

**SIGNED MASS** Please note that 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th November will be a signed Mass so please let any deaf or hard of hearing parishioners, family or friends know.

**AVIGNON REUNION** will take place in Our Lady's sacristy after 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th November. It will take the form of a bring and share.

**MASS FOR DECEASED DEANERY CLERGY** The annual Mass will this year be at St. Joseph's, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ on Tuesday 27th November at 11am. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be the Celebrant. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 - regular cleans, one off, ironing etc.

**EXPERIENCED GARDENER** available to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding of flower beds. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

**FRENCH TEACHER** Do you need a native French teacher? GCSE-AS/2-conversational. Please contact Sarah on 07986 700989

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CLEANING** This Thursday at 10am. All welcome. Refreshments provided.

**OUR LADY'S REPOSITORY** Christmas stock now in, large selection of cards and gifts. Open before and after most Masses.

**NOVEMBER** November Dead List There are sheets at the back of each church for you to write down the names of loved ones who have died. These will be near the altar during the month of November and will be remembered at Mass. No need to give any money. **Remembrance Day** The 11th November this year has great significance as we mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. As well as the Services in Howardsgate (at 10.45am) and Hatfield Hyde (at 3pm), there will be the ringing of church bells at 7.05pm (including St. Bonaventure's and Holy Family!) For this reason at the end of Holy Family's 6pm Mass there will be 15 minutes of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction leading into the ringing of the bells of Holy Family.

**SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS FUND** The annual collection takes place next Sunday. Special envelopes are available. Many of you already give so generously through Growing in Faith. Any extra funds would be much appreciated. Thank you.

**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.

**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!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Filled boxes should be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend soon as they are being collected in two weeks time. So far 24 out of at least 120 flat pack boxes have come in. Don't forget about them!

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY** Come and have fun at our party (for all children) on Tuesday from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Come dressed up if you like. Bring a small amount of food (pizza provided). Parents are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 4.45pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. £2 to cover costs.

**NATIONAL INTERFAITH WEEK 11-18 NOVEMBER** On Wednesday 14th November the local inter faith group warmly invites you to a shared supper at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 7pm - 9.30 pm. Please bring a dish of vegetarian food to share. Entertainment by Gen Verde.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 16th December, 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 2nd December from 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

**SVP REQUEST** A single mum needs dresses for a 7 year old girl and warm clothing for a boy up to 24months. Contact Janet on 326456.

**HOLY FAMILY** Church Cleaning will take place on Wednesday 14th November from 2pm onwards. Volunteers urgently needed please.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD** group will be holding an Advent Fayre on 25th November after the 9.30am Mass. We will have a fancy goods table with decorative filled teapots Christmas goodies, flavoured oils, greetings cards and a cake sale table. If anyone wants to donate any unwanted gifts previously received they will be very welcome. The Christmas raffle will begin on 28th November and be drawn on Sunday 23rd Dec after the 9.30am Mass.

**And** as we finalise our fundraising for 2018 we thank you for once again enabling us to reach and exceed our fundraising target of £3500 for 2018. We have now helped our Connect2 community in Sebeya to such a degree that they no longer require our support. From providing clean safe water contributing to the building of new schools and supporting income generating activities for families faced by climate change you our supporters in WGC have helped the community live with dignity and hope and have provided a great example of how the most needy can be helped to help themselves. Abba Solomon the Parish Priest in Sebeya writes: "May God bless you for your passion to be part of us and our lives. Thank you and bless you." Please remember to pray for the people of Sebeya for their continued growth.

**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 6J

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

**CONFESSIONS**

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

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

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

**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND MASS BUT CANNOT MANAGE THE JOURNEY?** We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399

**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. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

**MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 12th November soon after 7pm Mass ends (7.35pm) in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Year 2 will join the congregation at 9.30 Mass on Monday 12th November.

**CAMINO** We're now full! There's a waiting list!

**A REMINDER** that items for inclusion in the newsletter need to be in by Thursday evenings at the latest. Thank you.

**MASS TIMES**

05 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
06 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	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	Dedication of Lateran Basilica
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Leo

**Thirty-second Sunday of the Year**

<b>10 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>11 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	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**