

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*

Feast of Christ the King 25th November page 160 of the Mass Book

‘Who is this Jesus?’ is a question asked in the Scriptures and perhaps one we often reflect on ourselves. In our Gospel passage today, we move to St. John’s Gospel and witness the encounter between Jesus and Pontius Pilate. The latter embodies the political powers of this world; the former who is a King not of this world. The latter who is keen to save Jesus and yet falls a victim to the pressures of so many around him. Jesus regards himself solely as a witness, one who has a mission which he faithfully carries out and who is ready to use his voice to speak the truth; he wants humanity to listen to him.

Let us spend a moment considering when Jesus is referred to as king or his kingdom is mentioned in the Fourth Gospel. In John 1:43-51, Nathaniel is brought to Jesus by Philip. Jesus is able to tell Nathaniel what he was doing when Philip found him and Nathaniel cries out to Jesus: ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel’ which leads Jesus to say that Nathaniel will see the ‘angels of God ascending and descending’ above the Son of Man. In John 3:1-8, Nicodemus - a Pharisee and a leading Jew - comes to Jesus at night and hears Jesus saying to him ‘...unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God...unless a man is born through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God...’ Finally, when Jesus is lifted upon the Cross in 19:19, Pilate has a notice attached to the Cross ‘Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews’ (INRI). In John 6:15, after Jesus has fed the 5000, the people want to take Jesus by force and make him king - this kind of king they want to liberate them from (political) oppression. Jesus escapes into the hills and, I am sure, communes with his Father - his kingship is not of this kind.

So, who is this Jesus, especially in terms of kingship? He is our link with heaven. His kingdom is not one we would expect here on earth. He is a king nailed to the Cross who brings us salvation. Take time today on the Solemnity of Christ the King to think about your picture of Jesus, reflect on whether you need to modify/deepen your understanding, and pray that, through the gifts he offers you, you may be one with him in his kingdom eternally.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

SIGNING COURSE We are very grateful to Shell Roca, Director of the Diocesan Deaf Service, for running the signing course over the last couple of months. The Saturday evening signed Mass will reveal some of the fruits. Perhaps in the future Shell might be able to run a similar course for those who wish?

ADVENT Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent, a time of anticipation, prayer and preparation. On Mondays at Our Lady's, Thursdays at Holy Family and Fridays at St. Bonaventure's, there will be half an hour of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - a time of peace and refreshment. Don't forget the early morning Mass on Friday 7th and the Restoration Holy Hour on Friday 14th as other 'extras' in this holy (and very busy!) season. There are at the back of our churches booklets for adults and children and Advent calendars. Please take one (free of charge) and make good use of it!

FIRST FRIDAY The next First Friday early Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am on 7th December followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 14th December starting at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE This will be on Tuesday 18th December at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. Come and share in the wonderful gift of God's forgiving love celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of priests helping with Confessions.

ANNA (MAUREEN) JOHNSON RIP Maureen's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's this Wednesday (28th) at 1pm. (Please note the change of church.)

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.

SIMONE FRITH RIP Simone's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Wednesday 5th December at 12.30pm.

RCIA Next session Monday 26th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Course continues at Holy Family Church today (25th) at 7.15 -8.45pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Enrolment for Our Lady's Church will be this Tuesday (27th) 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 next Sunday (2nd December) after 9.30 Mass. Holy Family's sessions begin in the new year and will be after school on Wednesdays.

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.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY on Friday 30th November will be marked by Mass at St Bonaventure's at 9.30am and refreshments in the Hall afterwards. All welcome. If any Scots would like to help with the refreshments contact Fr Tom.

LOURDES 2019 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE – Next year's pilgrimage dates are Saturday 20th July – Friday 26th July. We are still waiting for the details of the cost to be sent out, but if you are interested in going then contact Fr Tom.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL The School will be having a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 15th December 11am - 2pm. Fr. Christmas will be there, and a magician; there will be stalls, food and a raffle. Why not come?

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE Parents applying to Catholic Primary Schools for entry into Nursery and Reception class will need this certificate. Parents are asked to contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to make a 5-minute appointment at Our Lady's Church with Fr. Norbert. At the back of our churches is an additional form which parents are asked to fill out beforehand and bring with them to the meeting together with their child. Please wait in the church and Fr. Norbert will call you. The dates are: Tuesday 4th December 4 - 5.30pm, Friday 14th December 4 - 5.30pm and Wednesday 19th December 3.30 - 5pm.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Today (25th) 2pm at Welwyn New Cemetery, just off Fulling Mill Lane.

CAROLS The Christian Churches will be singing carols in the Howard Centre (outside H&M) on Saturday 1st December 3 - 4pm. Come and lend your voice!

CAROL SERVICES Commonswood Primary School will have theirs in Our Lady's Church on Monday 17th December at 6pm. Our Lady School has theirs in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 19th December at 6pm and Holy Family School has theirs in Holy Family Church on Thursday 21st December at 6pm. The Christian Churches will have the annual Christmas Service outside the Howard Centre on Thursday 21st December at 6.30pm.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will be at Our Lady's on Saturday 8th December with Mass at 6pm and a gathering in the sacristy afterwards. All welcome.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's will take place at 10am this Saturday (1st December). Many hands will make such a difference. Also, Our Lady's outdoor crib will be put up. This requires a lot of muscle! If you are free to help on Saturday at 10am, please come. There will be refreshments afterwards for everyone!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES Last Monday the Shoeboxes were collected, 96 in total. Thank you to everyone.

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!

CHRISTMAS A CAPPELLA SINGING FREE TASTER SESSIONS Welwyn Harmony Ladies Chorus invites you to come and have fun singing Christmas songs a cappella in four-part harmony. Tuesday 27th November and 11th December from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Vineyard Barn, Digswell Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7PU. All ladies welcome! Contact: info@welwynharmony.co.uk for more details.

CAKE SALE The CWL are having a cake sale after Mass on the 2nd December. If you are able to contribute any homemade cakes for us to sell on the day please bring them along or ring Sally Rand on 01707 884492 who will be delighted to collect them.

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.

THE SALVATION ARMY is appealing for presents for children of all ages. Please take unwrapped new presents to the Salvation Charity Shop 18 Howardsgate. Please indicate that your donation is specifically for Christmas Present Appeal. Thank you.

A REMINDER that items for inclusion in the newsletter need to be in by Thursday evenings.

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.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY – Wednesday 5th December @ 12.30pm. Join us at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School for an afternoon of Festive Treats & Fun. To RSVP (or for more information) please contact Nicola Butler – 01727 860 079 or email butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk

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

MASS TIMES

26 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
27 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Presentation of Blessed Virgin
	1pm	Funeral Service	St Bonaventure	
29 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Cecilia
30 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Andrew
	2pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

First Sunday of Advent

01 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
02 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