

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminarian: Samuel Ejerege Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard

Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year 19th October (p.143 of Mass book)

“Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.” These memorable words of Jesus come as a result of a plot between the Pharisees and Herodians to catch Jesus out. The religious elite comes together with those who support Herod, Rome’s puppet king - what a combination! As always Jesus is in the driving seat, asking for a coin and demanding to know whose head is on it. Perhaps this implies that Jesus himself carried no money...a sign of poverty? (or royalty in our own day!) Jesus then asks his antagonists whose head and name are on the coin; the response of “Caesar’s” leads to Jesus’ saying quoted above.

Many people assume that Jesus is teaching us to keep religion out of politics, that the sacred and the everyday are separate or even that there are some things in life only for God and others which are of the world. What do YOU think? Is there anything in your life that you feel does not belong to God? Maybe put another way: Is there an aspect of your life which you think God is not bothered about? Do you really believe that you are created in God’s image and likeness as we read in Scripture? If so, then everything about you speaks of God - both in him communicating himself to you and in you communicating him to others. At the Easter Vigil, as the Paschal Candle is being prepared, the priest says: “Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. *All time belongs to him* and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and for ever. Amen.” On such a solemn night and at the highpoint of all that we believe in, there is such a profound affirmation of what is God’s!

Next year on 7th May, we will be given the opportunity to vote in a General Election. There will be so much to think about and reflect on. I am sure you will receive a huge amount of literature through your letter box and have many callers at your front door canvassing. Our Bishops will give us pointers too based on our faith. Take time at this stage to consider what really matters. Start asking yourself the difficult questions which you in turn might put to the candidates! Pray that God’s Spirit will guide you. Remember the wider community and the whole world which will be affected by where you put your cross. We can and should make a difference. We must keep God at the heart of our own personal picture and allow him to underpin all that takes place. Let us invite Jesus to be in the driving seat! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is celebrated in every parish throughout the world and reminds us that we are all called to mission no matter who we are or where we live. *Missio* strives to help the Church in poor countries to reach out to the vulnerable and those in poverty so that they too can know the love and joy of Jesus. Let us remember today that Jesus wants us all to be missionaries so his love can reach everyone.

In our own parishes we support *Missio* (APF) through the Red Boxes. Across England and Wales over 200,000 homes have these. The four key values associated with *Missio*'s work are: **Love**: proclaiming and sharing the Gospel message of God's unconditional love for all; **Generosity**: responding generously to the needs of all, regardless of background or belief; **Mission**: offering every Christian the opportunity to be a missionary; **Respect**: spiritual and practical support for Catholic faith communities, enabling them to become self-sufficient and flourish.

If you do not have a Red Box and would like to have one in your home, please fill out the form at the back of our churches. Your generosity will make such a difference! Thank you.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY on Saturday 7th February in Our Lady's Hall. All couples getting married in WGC or elsewhere in 2015 and 2016 are invited to this day which will start with coffee at 10.30am and end with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. It is important that couples make contact with Fr. Norbert soon so that the paperwork and all the necessary preparations can be made, especially if you are marrying outside of WGC.

RCIA will begin on Monday 3rd November at 8pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church. Are you an adult who would like to join the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation as a teenage and now feel ready to make this commitment? Are you an adult who want to find out more about the Catholic Church with no strings attached? Do you know someone who would love to be invited to a meeting such as this? Put the date in your diary!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents who wish to enrol their children for First Confession and First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church are asked to come to a meeting in the church on Tuesday 4th November at 6pm. Those for Our Lady's Church are asked to come to a meeting in the church on Tuesday 4th November at 7.45pm. All the dates for parents' sessions and children's sessions as well as for the First Confessions and First Communion Masses will be given. Children do not need to attend.

CONFIRMATION There will be a meeting on Sunday 9th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church for young people of our three churches who wish to be confirmed in 2015. They should be in Year 9 or above at school. Parents are asked to come to this meeting.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Due to the change in the Priest's Reference Form at The John Henry Newman School, Fr. Norbert is offering extra dates and times for parents to arrange a meeting: Tuesday 21st October 3.30 - 6.00pm and Thursday 23rd October 5.00 - 6.30pm. Please book an appointment through Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579. The meetings will be at Our Lady's; please wait in the church. *It is still important that parent/s and child come.*

GROUP 183 HCPT 2015 PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES For information on how to be a volunteer helper for the group please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313 or email: group183@hcpt.org.uk.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT Week 3 Collectors please do the counting and record on the sheet. Thank you.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS available at the back of each church. Write down the names of loved ones who have died and they will be remembered at Mass during November. There is no need to give any money. Please return to the presbyteries for OL's and HF and the office for St. B's

GROWING IN FAITH The final total for our three Welwyn Garden City Parishes is £578,096. Fr. Norbert would like to thank you for your great generosity and all the support given by the volunteers in ensuring that we could respond to the Cardinal. At the back of our churches is the latest GiF newsletter. Please do take a copy.

BLESSING OF GRAVES The dates have been set for November: Old Welwyn Cemetery on Saturday 1st November at 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) on Saturday 8th November at 12 noon. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) on Sunday 9th November at 2pm.

INTERFAITH GROUP Evening meeting - Wednesday 22nd October 7.15 for 7.30pm at Backhouse Rooms, 116 Handside Lane, WGC AL8 6SZ. "Essence of Faith" 3 different Faiths talking about their beliefs and practices - Christian, Jewish, Baha'i. All are welcome.

CURRY NIGHT After the Special Needs Mass on Saturday 15th November at 6pm there will be a 'Curry Night' in the Hall. Anyone willing to make a dish, please let Fr. Norbert know. Obviously we will have some non-spicy food too!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOXES) Filled boxes can be brought into church as soon as they are ready. There are some covered boxes waiting to be filled in the hall at St. Bonaventure's, take one if you would like one that you don't need to cover!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our party on Tuesday 4th November from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (hot dogs and pizza provided). Parents (dressed for the occasion!) are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 5pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. £2 to cover costs.

ALL SAINTS DAY will be celebrated on Sunday 2nd November which means that All Souls Day will be transferred to Monday 3rd November. Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation it is an important day to come to Mass and pray for those who have died. On Monday 3rd Mass at 9.30am will be at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

REMEMBER Clocks go back one hour next weekend. Don't forget!

ST. ALBANS CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT 'Mystical Experiences' on 25th October at 7.30pm in St. Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans. The main work is Thomas Tallis 'Spem in Allium', a famous but rarely performed work due to the number of separate voice parts (40!). One of our parishioners is a member of this choir and has seen members of our parishes at some of the concerts.

Prayer to the Holy Family for the Synod

Jesus, Mary and Joseph in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website: www.ourladays-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Gerard 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 or 07790 135458
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

20 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
21 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
23 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
24 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
25 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

		Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	
25 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
26 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463