

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year 11th October 2015 (p.143 of Mass book)***

‘Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ This is the question put to Jesus by the man who kneels before him. Jesus speaks of the commandments and the man can honestly say he has kept them. Jesus looks steadily at him and loves him. How absolutely amazing! Then the challenge is laid before him *to go, to sell* everything he owns, *to give* the money to the poor and *to follow* the Lord. Sadness - deep sadness - sets in and he leaves Jesus’ company.

Do *you* want to inherit eternal life? Is it easy to keep the commandments? What more does the Lord ask of you? Can you respond? These are the million-dollar questions which we, as followers of Jesus, have to ask ourselves every day. Are there things which weigh us down and prevent us from keeping our gaze fixed on the Lord? As we allow the Lord to look at us with love, are we afraid of where that will take us, in terms of the demands of the Gospel? The man was given an opportunity beyond measure to experience Life by following Jesus and he walked away. What about you? Are there times you can think back to in your own life when you let a key moment pass by and now regret not having seized it? Of course, the Lord is so patient and gives even more chances! But how many opportunities are we going to ignore before we stop and respond? What happened to that rich man after today’s passage? Ponder that this week.

Turning to the Year of Mercy, the Cardinal asked each deanery to come up with a plan of what it intends to do; he wanted the outline sent to him by the end of September. The priests of Stevenage Deanery met, approved a draft plan and asked that Our Lady’s Church be the one designated for the Deanery as having a Holy Door of Mercy as Our Lady’s is the largest church. The Cardinal wrote to me just before he went to Rome for the Synod on the Family, formally requesting that this be the case. So we have to work on a ‘Way of Mercy’ in the church; there must also be a Mission of Mercy. There will be many graces coming to us all in our three parishes in Welwyn Garden City! Please pray hard as plans unfold and opportunities come our way.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**PLANNED GIVING DRIVE** Please fill out your pledge card and return it as soon as possible to the Presbytery (office mailbox for St. B's) of your church in an envelope marked 'Planned Giving'. Many thanks for your co-operation and great generosity.

**PADUA PILGRIMAGE** If any parishioners would like petitions taken to St. Anthony's Shrine in Padua, please give them to Fr. Norbert by Sunday 18th October. The pilgrimage leaves on Sunday 25th and returns on Friday 30th.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Fr. Norbert will be available at Our Lady's Church for parents and children who will need a Priest's Reference for Secondary School Transfer. Monday 12th 5 - 7pm, Tuesday 13th, 5 - 7pm and Monday 19th October 5 - 7pm. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707322579) to arrange a 10-minute meeting. Please wait in the church for your turn and please bring completed forms with you. If your child was baptised in one of our three churches in WGC and you require a Baptismal certificate, contact Kathryn for this too.

**FUTURE PRIEST'S REFERENCES** The Bishops of England and Wales have had to respond to challenges against the way a Priest's Reference is given and have accordingly decided on a Certificate of Catholicity. This will come into operation for Reception and Nursery Admissions in January and March respectively. Basically a priest can only give a family a Certificate of Catholicity if the family attends Mass every week. So the responsibility is on each family to do all they can to live up to what has always been the Catholic Church's expectation that Catholics attend Mass every week. This Certificate of Catholicity will also be used for Secondary School transfer this time next year.

**RCIA** The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults started last Monday with 8 adults attending. There is still time for many more! If you are thinking about joining the Catholic Church or want as an adult to be confirmed, come to Our Lady's sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday entering from the car park. **CONFIRMATION** Young people who wish to be confirmed next year should come to an enrolment meeting with their parents in Holy Family Church on Sunday 18th October at 7pm. They should be at least in Year 9 at school. The course begins on Sunday 22nd November.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016** Our Lady's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.45pm in the church. Preparation will begin in January and takes place on a Sunday morning. Holy Family's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** on Sat. 17th October at 6pm at Our Lady's. There will be a final planning meeting this Sunday at Our Lady's after 11.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome for the Mass which will be followed by a reception with traditional Polish food, drink and entertainment.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SOCIETY?** If so, Friends of Welwyn Care Homes is hosting a Dementia Friends Information Evening on Thursday Oct 22nd at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway; 7.15 for 7.30. The speaker is Sue Harrison who has long experience of dementia care. This is an initiative of the Alzheimer's Society. Further information Anne Horsman; 01438 840566, [anne.horsman@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.horsman@btinternet.com); [Anne.Keller-anne.keller@ntlworld.com](mailto:Anne.Keller-anne.keller@ntlworld.com).

**MARY PRIDE R.I.P.** The Funeral Mass for Mary Pride is at St. Bonaventure's Church on Friday 16th October at 12.30pm.

**PRISONERS' SUNDAY** This is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners and their families. If you wish to support the work of 'Pact' - the Prison Advice and Care Trust - there are special envelopes at the back of the church.

**HCPT GROUP 183** is having a **CAKE SALE** at Herts County Hall on Tuesday 20th October. If you can bake a cake please contact Barbara Moore on 01707 333645.

**JUSTICE AND PEACE ANNUAL DAY** 17th October from 10.30am-4pm in North London - theme Laudato Si' and the Environment. Speakers will talk about climate change. Contact John Fogarty for more information [john.fogarty@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.fogarty@ntlworld.com) or 01707 327771.

**ROSARY** During October, the Rosary will be prayed every Sat. at 10am in Our Lady's chapel.

**BEREAVEMENT TEA** An afternoon tea will be held Friday, 23 October for those who have recently been bereaved or have experienced a loss. The tea will begin at 3pm and will be held at the home of one of our parishioners. If you would like to attend the tea, please contact Ann Chappell (01438 714 846) for further details and to arrange transportation, if necessary.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane on Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway on Sunday 8th November at 2pm. Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** We will again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world particularly migrants. As you go around the shops please buy some little gifts to put in these boxes (they don't need to be expensive) - there are leaflets at the back of each church advising you about what can or cannot be included. Filled boxes, knitted hats, scarves, gloves/mittens can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. We have some flat pack boxes for you to use if you don't have a box at home. Please take one if you can fill it.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD Group** will be holding a **cake sale** after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 18th October. They are also holding a Michaelmas Fayre on Sunday 1st Nov where you can buy homemade preserves, chutneys, homemade Christmas puddings, craft items, Christmas presents and Fairtrade goods. **CWL** Next Catholic Women's League meeting is on Tuesday October 13th after 7pm Mass. There will be a talk on the work of the HCPT Group 183 by Emma Moore. Parishioners are welcome to attend. Staff and residents at Hyde Valley House would like to say a big "Thank You" to parishioners who supported so generously their recent Macmillan Coffee morning. £183 was raised for Macmillan nurses on the day!!!

**LORETO** Parents from WGC with children attending Loreto school have expressed interest in a school bus service between WGC via Hatfield to St Albans during the school term. Please contact [pbspillane@outlook.com](mailto:pbspillane@outlook.com) if you are interested. The first step is to identify if there are sufficient numbers to take this further. Thank you.

**400 CLUB** September winners are: 1st prize: of £100, winning number 69. S Rand, 2nd prize: of £50, winning number 147. E Carr, 3rd prize: of £25, winning number 64. Mrs F McKenzie.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S COFFEE GROUP** The coffee group have over £200 in the kitty and have decided to use the money on CAFOD's World Gifts so are funding 1 cow, 1 donkey and 2 goats. If you can help with coffee you would be very welcome, phone Jenny on 01438 717798.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Years 3 and 4 will attend 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's Church on Monday 12th October and Years 5 and 6 on Monday 19th.

**EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS** A suggestion has been made of having an informal evening of carols in different languages in Our Lady's Hall. The date chosen is Saturday 12th December after 6pm Mass at around 7.15/7.30pm. If you are interested in taking part, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**PILGRIMAGES** Pax Travel is organising for us a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Prague next year 22nd - 26th October, 2016. Brochures will be available soon. There will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. There will be a meeting about the Holy Land trip on Tuesday 26th January, 2016 at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall.

**LIKE TO SING?** Then come to a choir practice this Tuesday at 11am in the hall at St. Bonaventure's.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234  
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's  
141 Woodhall Lane  
AL7 3TP

Website: [www.ourladays-parish.info](http://www.ourladays-parish.info)

Fr. Martin 01707 327434

Holy Family Church  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ  
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579  
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's  
81 Parkway AL8 6JF  
Website:

[www.stbonaventure.org.uk](http://www.stbonaventure.org.uk)

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE  
Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson  
01707 377442

**YEAR OF MERCY** Fr. John Hemer will be leading a day for the catechists of our Deanery on the Year of Mercy. It will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS) on Saturday 21st November 10am - 3pm. Fr. John has led the days for catechists for the last couple of years and has always given an inspiring presentation. For this reason, and with the importance of the Year of Mercy for everyone, ALL parishioners are welcome to attend as well. Please bring food to share at lunchtime.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** brochures should soon be ready. There will be a meeting for anyone interested on Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall, WGC. Pax Travel will give a presentation and young people from the parishes of the Deanery will be invited too. So, please let your friends know! Parents whose sons and daughters are at university, pass on this info to them too. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?

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

### MASS TIMES

12 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
13 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Edward the Confessor
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
15 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Teresa of Jesus
16 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	Mary Pride R.I.P.
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Ignatius of Antioch
<b>Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year</b>				
17 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 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 you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463