

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*

Thirty-third Sunday of the year 15th November 2015 (p.157 of Mass book)

Today we hear from Jesus about a time of distress when the powers in heaven will be shaken. The Lord says that he, the Son of Man, will come with great power and glory. Christ is nearing his Passion and now he speaks to his disciples about the last things, preparing them for all that would happen to him. He uses the example of a fig tree in bud pointing to summer as a reminder to us to look for the signs of the times and be ready for heaven and earth to pass away. His encouragement to us is that his words will not pass away!

Usually November can be such a bleak month as we see the autumn give way to winter and we spend time contemplating our mortality evidenced through the dead of the two World Wars and subsequent wars as well as through our own loved ones who have died. This year we have been given the mildest November on record (so far!) with temperatures making us think of other climes. I am sure the weather will change with a vengeance but the signs are not quite as we expect at present! We are being kept on our toes!

Today is the last Sunday we shall hear from St. Mark's Gospel until 2017! (Next Sunday's passage is from St. John.) It is an opportunity to thank God for all we have learned from this Evangelist who teaches us that to be a disciple is to be with Jesus, that discipleship entails following the One who carried his Cross, suffered, died and rose; the link is essential. The symbol of St. Mark is the Lion. Those who have visited Venice know! The Lion will be less prominent in the Sunday readings for the next two years; however, the Lion will not be silenced. The message of the Evangelist resonates: Jesus is the Son of God who asks us to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation and accompanies his disciples in this task. Let us allow the Gospel to fire us up as we prepare for winter and, in turn, kindle God's love in others as they receive this Good News through us.

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

FR. NORBERT'S DAD has made great improvements and is out of danger. He will probably be in hospital for another week or two. Thank you for your prayers.

SVP ANNUAL COLLECTION Takes place this weekend after all Masses. Please give your support to the work of the SVP in Welwyn Garden City and surrounding villages, Thank you. Gift Aid envelopes are available for you to use.

NATIONAL INTER FAITH WEEK 15 - 22 November Local events: **Tuesday 17th November, Bring & Share Supper** at the Focolare Centre 7pm, (please sign the list at the back of the church with your offering of food); Saturday 21st November, an evening of music and reflection at the Friends' Meeting House at 7.30pm and on Sunday 22nd November 10 - 5 a food bank collection at Morrisons, Panshanger. Please phone Valerie on 01707 324828 if you can offer an hour of your time to help with this.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm on Sunday 22nd November.

RECEPTION CLASS AND NURSERY Fr. Norbert will make times available in December. Watch this space. Please note that there will now be a Certificate of Catholicity instituted by the Bishops of England and Wales. 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016 Holy Family Church'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.

BEREAVEMENT A new group called Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide will be launched on Tuesday 17th November and will meet in Old Hatfield. For more information, please call Sheila on 07902077751 or Email hatfieldSOBS@outlook.com.

DAY ON THE 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) next 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.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 28th November at 6pm at Our Lady's Church followed by a curry night. If any parishioners would like to help with the Mass using their different languages or cultures, contact Fr. Norbert. There will be a quiz in the hall as part of the evening. If any individuals or groups would like to offer entertainment, please let Fr. Norbert know. Also, if you are bringing a curry, it helps to have an idea of what will be on offer!

ST. ANDREW'S DAY will be on Monday 30th November. Mass will be at 9.30am in Our Lady's and will be followed by refreshments in the sacristy. If anyone would like to help please let Fr. Norbert or Ann Chappell (01438 714846) know.

***SHOEBOXES*(OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD)** Please bring your filled boxes to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as possible and by 22nd November at the very latest. Of the 100 flat pack boxes given out not many have been returned!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP This week we are going to McDonalds for Happy Meals. Meet in the hall at the usual time.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 13th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's children). Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 29th November from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

ADVENT begins on Sunday 29th November. There will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9.30am Mass on Mondays (except 30th), Thursdays and Fridays.

YEAR OF MERCY begins on Tuesday 8th December. There will soon be booklets available for every household giving reflections on the various themes of the year.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH The next planning meeting will be on Tuesday 24th November at 8pm in St. Bonaventure's Hall.

HCPT Dinner Dance Friday 4th December 7pm till 11pm at Club de Havilland, Hatfield. 2 course meal with live band, £25 a head. All money raised will be going to help children with special needs. To book your ticket please call Bev Kleiser on 07751410759.

CHRISTMAS FAIR Saturday 28th November in Our Lady's hall from 11am to 3pm. Come and join us for winter warmers, tombola, children's activities (including a visit from Fr. Christmas) and much more - only 50p entry. Hosted by HCPT group 183.

CYRIL CRAWLEY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Cyril Crawley R.I.P. will be on Monday 30th November at 12noon in Our Lady's Church, the body will be received into the church at 5.30pm on Sunday 29th.

CONFIRMATION The first session for our young people will be on Sunday 22nd November in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church at 7.15pm. Anyone who missed the enrolment meeting should contact Fr. Norbert.

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.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH OUTDOOR CRIB - the outdoor crib will be erected on **Saturday 28th November at 10am**. We need plenty of help with this task, all are invited to assist, especially the young and strong! Hot refreshments will be served. Will you help us?

ST. ALBANS CHAMBER CHOIR performs Bach's B Minor Mass at 7.30pm on 28th November in St. Saviour's Church, St. Albans AL1 4DF. For tickets phone 07570 454744 or email tickets@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk.

WORLD YOUTH DAY brochures are at the back of the church. 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?!

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Fr. Martin 01707 327434
Holy Family Church
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welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

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

JUSTICE AND PEACE As part of a group organised by the diocesan Justice & Peace Commission, on 24th of this month John Fogarty will be setting off on a Cycle ride, to Paris, carrying a petition for the delegates at the United Nations talks on the Climate (COP 21 talks), which begin on the 30th November. There will be two priests, including the Parish priest from Hitchin, CAFOD workers and supporters from around the country in the group and, if you would like to sponsor John please do so online (www.justgiving.com/John-Fogarty2/) or see him at Mass.

CONFESSIONS

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

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	St. Edmund of Abingdon
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Hilda
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Feria
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Presentation of the BVM
			Christ the King	
21 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 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