

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-fourth Sunday of the Year 11th September 2016 p. 136 of book

The Church presents us today with parables of JOY! A sheep goes missing and is found; a party follows. A lost coin is searched for and found; another celebration ensues. Finally, a father loses his son, waits patiently and lovingly for him; his return leads to his being restored to his former position in the house and a banquet is laid on. In all three parables Jesus is teasing his audience into a way of thinking which is extraordinary: God-in-Jesus has such a profound love of humanity that nothing will stop him searching for the lost person, from bringing him or her back safely AND jumping up and down for joy (figuratively speaking!) at having the individual back. Everyone is important to God and the gift of his Son is so that we might be put on the right path and supported in our journey towards heaven.

The 'tax-collectors and sinners' realised the importance of Jesus' message and they could experience it by being in his company; they flocked to him. They must have realised that they were like the Prodigal Son and were, I am sure, delighted to hear of God's joy at their return. The religious establishment could only hold on to the past histories of these people and certainly thought Jesus' behaviour was scandalous in being seen with the public sinners. The Lord, however, was afraid of no-one and nothing would stop him from carrying out his mission. Do you think that the image of the Older Son would have had an effect on the Pharisees and Scribes?

These parables, especially the Prodigal Son, are so well known that it is easy to forget that the Lord is speaking to each one of us personally today through them. Am I afraid to return to the Lord? Do I feel unworthy of a huge feast? Is resentment to the fore in my mind when I see someone else forgiven by God - perhaps someone who has hurt me? Have I got the patience of the Father and do I attempt to show unconditional love? Let us take time today to reflect and pray. Let us be open to God's joy and in turn hand it on to others! May God bless your coming week.

Fr. Norbert

FRANK TEMPANY RIP Frank's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Friday 16th September at 12.30pm.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's Church on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm the 90th Anniversary of the First Mass. The Mayor will be coming and so will Ursula Howard, the granddaughter of Ebenezer Howard. **YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!** Invite family and former parishioners too! If you can contribute savouries and/or desserts for the finger buffet, please let Cathy Staniforth know on 07525014859. There will be a music rehearsal in the church on Monday 12th at 7pm. All welcome. Altar servers should come at 6pm for a practice. (There's a list in the sacristy to sign up.)

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH Fr. Norbert invites parishioners to a meeting to plan for Holy Family Church's 50th Anniversary. It will be in the Parish Room on Thursday 15th September at 8pm (after the HF Finance Committee Meeting at 7pm). The Cardinal will be celebrating Mass on Sunday 7th May at 11am. What else would you like to happen?

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH FLOOR The new floor will be laid in October from Monday 3rd until Tuesday 18th. For that period there will not be a Sunday 9.30am Mass; the Sunday 6pm Mass will be at Our Lady's. Wednesday 9.30 Mass will be at Our Lady's and Thursday 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's. We are sorry for this disruption but the new floor should be splendid.

ALTAR SERVERS MASS The annual National Altar Servers Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th September 2pm for 2.30pm start. We will be going for this Mass and it would be great to have many of our servers. We will get the 1253 train from WGC Station. Every server must be accompanied by a supervising adult and purchase their train tickets. After the Mass we will return to WGC for something to eat which will be on the parishes! Please sign your names on the lists in the sacristies

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION At St. Bonaventure's preparation for the children happens on a Saturday morning once a month starting in September. At Holy Family and Our Lady's the children's classes will start in the new year. Parents sessions will also be in the new year. Enrolment meetings: Our Lady's - Tuesday 1st November at 8pm; Holy Family - Sunday 6th November after 9.30 Mass. Children should be at least in Year 3 at school. (If you missed the meeting at St. Bonaventure's last week, have a word with Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.)

CONFIRMATION Young people (at least in Year 9 at school) who wish to be confirmed should come with their parents to a meeting on Sunday 9th October at 7pm at Our Lady's Church. Preparation starts in November. **RCIA** If you are an adult who wish to join the Catholic Church or if you are a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation when younger and now feel ready to be confirmed, come to Our Lady's Sacristy on Monday 3rd October 7.30pm. There will be a chance to meet others and find out more about what is involved.

CAFOD Herts Constabulary Choir are giving a concert at St Bonaventure's on Monday 26th September at 8pm tickets £5 each. The event is part of St Bonaventure's 90th year celebrations all proceeds from the event will be going to CAFOD. Thank you to everyone who attended the BBQ and thank you to Sandy Bob and Linda for all their hard work. The event raised £460 and it was a truly pleasant afternoon and very well supported by the Catholic community in WGC.

SVP A big **THANK YOU** from the St Vincent de Paul Society for your very generous annual donation in June 2016, which amounted to just over £1200.00. Your donations benefit all those supported by the SVP in our parish, who are very grateful for the help and assistance they receive. Thank you again and God bless you. The SVP in Welwyn Garden City

PLEASE SUPPORT Tim Hogan (Flautist at HF) riding in the London to Brighton off road challenge in aid of the British Heart Foundation on Saturday 24th September. It is a challenging ride of 75 miles with 3 significant climbs(4000ft). Donations to: www.justgiving.com/RosieandTim-Welwyn or cash or cheques welcome. Thank you.

INTERFAITH Monday 12th September at 7.15pm at the Focolare Centre, a presentation from young members of the Islamic Unity Society - 'Young Muslims in Britain today'.

EDUCATION SUNDAY Today we welcome children and parents, staff and governors from Holy Family School to 9.30 Mass and from Our Lady School to 11.30 Mass. The children will lead the celebration to mark Education Sunday.

ST. ALBANS Bishop John Sherrington will be preaching at an Ecumenical Evensong at St. Alban's Abbey Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 4pm for this Year of Mercy. Bishop John would like all the schools of Hertfordshire to lead a procession from Verulamium Park at 2.30pm which will enter the Abbey and prepare for Evensong. Watch this space!

RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS will take place next weekend at all the Masses in our three parishes. So if you are Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers, Altar Servers or involved in Music and Singing, you will be recommissioned next weekend.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert writes: It is important for parents to go to school open days/evenings with their children in September/October and see the options. Read the admissions criteria carefully to ensure you have a good chance of getting into the school if it is oversubscribed. Get hold of your child's Baptismal Certificate in good time. Think about the environment in which your child will flourish. In terms of the Certificate of Catholicity, the form will be given by the schools and will have to be signed by Fr. Norbert. The Certificate of Catholicity is a statement that the child comes from a practising Catholic family which means there is attendance at Mass every week. To facilitate this, Fr. Norbert will give out from next weekend an 'extra' form for WGC parishes for parents to fill out for him. Meetings will be as follows: Tuesday 4th October 4 - 6pm, Monday 10th October 4 - 7pm, Friday 14th October 4 - 6pm. when parent/s and child will come to meet with Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book a 10-minute appointment. The same process will apply for entrance to Reception Class and then Nursery later on in the year.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY for our Deanery will be on Saturday 24th September in Our Lady's Hall starting with Coffee at 10am and ending at 3pm. There will be Mass at 12noon with the Renewal of Marriage Vows. The Day will build on last year's WGC Parishes' Day and will be led by Edmund Adamus and his team.

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Monday 19th September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. You are all invited. The architect Colin Smart from Kyle Smart Associates appointed as architects for the project of the new Parish Centre for our three churches will give an update on all the work which has been going on. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. Chris Fanning, the Diocesan Surveyor, will come to explain the works necessary for Holy Family Church's tower. The Parish Finance Committees will present accounts for the three churches. The Parish Advisory Council will share thoughts about the month of November and we will hear about World Youth Day. Please come and hear what is planned AND make your contribution to the life of our parishes!

LAUDATO SI AND CARE FOR CREATION Autumn series of events on local and global effects of climate change, Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si' and practical ways you can get involved. Range of exhibitors and talks with addresses from CAFOD, Justice and Peace and Caritas. Sponsored by Justice and Peace Westminster, Caritas Westminster and CAFOD. First venue is Hitchin - Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew 24 Sept, 10am-1pm. John F. can give you a lift.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again this Tuesday 12th September. Children from our three parishes are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up. Parents welcome.

PEACE WALK The Quakers in Welwyn Garden City and local organisations would like to invite you to a PEACE WALK on Saturday, 24th September at 2pm. The walk will start at CAMPUS WEST (Library entrance) and progress in silence along Parkway finishing up at the Welwyn Garden City Quaker Meeting House for some refreshments, music and readings. Bring a candle, but no banners allowed. See poster at back of church.

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

Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

Website for our 3 parishes

www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

PRAGUE & HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGES 32 people are signed up for Prague in 22nd - 26th October (There are just a few places left) and 25 so far for the Holy Land Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (Still room for more next year!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES on Saturday 1st October at 6pm at Our Lady's (hopefully followed by a Barn Dance) and Saturday 3rd December at 6pm followed by a Curry Night.

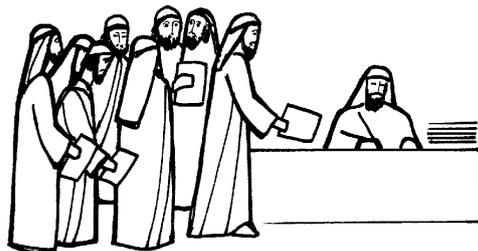
POLISH/ENGLISH MASS on Saturday 15th October 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a Get-together in the Hall.

BLESSING OF GRAVES (For those of you who want the dates for your diaries!) Hatfield Hyde (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Sunday 20th November at 2pm. Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 27th November at 2pm.

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

MASS TIMES

12 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
13 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John Chrysostom
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
	7pm	90th anniversary Mass	St. Bonaventure	
15 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Our Lady of Sorrows
16 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Cornelius and Cyprian
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
		Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year		
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 and need a Catholic Chaplain contact Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net