

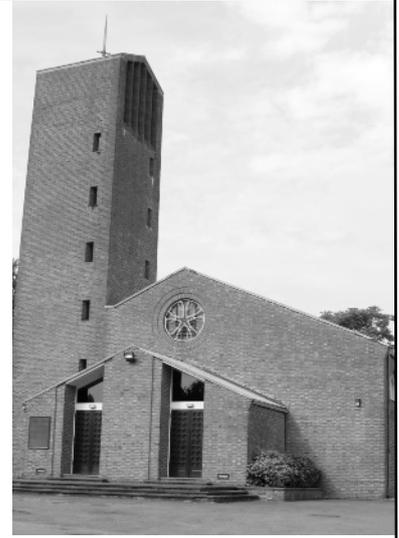
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year 25th September 2016 p. 143 of book

The parables continue with today's instalment from St. Luke as Jesus tells the story of The Rich Man and Lazarus. Further challenge from the Lord... more to think about on our part! So often good fortune and riches in general were regarded in Jesus' time as blessings from God. So, the Rich Man is regarded as receiving his reward here and now; Lazarus must have done wrong and so he is in a pitiable state.

The frightening thing for many in Jesus' audience must have been the reversal which comes about at death. How can it be that this Rich Man is now suffering and Lazarus is in bliss with Abraham? Even more interesting is the plea by the Rich Man to return to his brothers to put them on the right track and the reply that they should read the Scriptures and discover therein the counsel as to how to behave. As with so many of the parables we are left without the fairy tale answer '...and they all lived happily ever after.'! We have to reflect on what our response should be.

What do YOU think? Are riches a sign of blessing from God? As you ponder on your own circumstances, do you feel God has let you down? Or do you rejoice that all is going well? The Rich Man seemed to be totally unaware of the presence of Lazarus at his gate. Are there people close to you in dire need whom you fail to support? Do you take time to read the Scriptures both of the New and Old Testaments and take to heart the message of the prophets or of Jesus himself? There is no easy answer and we can find ourselves slipping into a mentality of being closed to others and basking in our own good fortune however little or big that might be.

Let each of us remember that God wants everyone to be with him eternally. God has never stopped trying to find ways of opening people up to the grace which brings eternal life. But if hearts, minds and souls are closed or stony, there is very little which can be done from a human point of view to change the situation. 'All things are possible for God!' This was the message from the Angel to Our Lady at the Annunciation. God's gift of his Son Jesus is the ultimate sign which can overcome any and every barrier. Let us ask him to help us!

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

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.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION At St. Bonaventure's preparation for the children happens on a Saturday morning once a month. 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, 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.

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. There will be an enactment of the martyrdom of St. Alban with massive puppets, music and prayer. Everyone is welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 1st October at 6pm at Our Lady's. Please bring food to share. There will be drinks, music and bingo.

CAFOD Herts Constabulary Choir are giving a concert at St Bonaventure's this 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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES) We will again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world particularly migrants and refugees. 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 - please read carefully. 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.

MOTHER AND TODDLER at St. Bonaventure's. This informal and friendly group meets every Wednesday from 10am. Come and let your baby or toddler play whilst you enjoy the company of other mums, grandparents or carers. All are welcome from our three parishes and from the local community, no need to let anyone know you are coming - just turn up.

BISHOPS' VISITS Two other Auxiliary Bishops of our Diocese will be coming to preach on Mercy at Our Lady's: Bishop John Wilson on Sunday 9th October at 11.30am and Bishop Nicholas Hudson on Sunday 30th October at 11.30am.

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

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 an 'extra' form for WGC parishes for parents to fill out for him. These can be collected from him *before or after Mass*. 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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP 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. This week we are going to McDonalds!

MISSIO/APF Red Boxes at Our Lady's. It is that time of year when we collect in the Red Boxes and bank your donations. If you are able to bring your box to church in the next couple of weeks we will empty it, bank the contributions, and then return the box to you as soon as possible. Thank you all again for your support and generosity.

HCPT group 183 are starting preparations for next Easter's 2017 pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you are interested in becoming a helper, there will be a meeting on 2nd October at 6pm in Our Lady's sacristy. For more information please contact Emma on 07740858313.

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE the independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, will be holding an Open Morning for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18) on Saturday 8th October 2016 from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Means-tested bursaries are available for Catholic boys entering Year 3 and Year 7. Applications for September 2017 must be made by the end of October 2016. For further information, please contact Mrs Cathy Lovett, Admissions Officer. Email address: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org. Direct line: 01727 892012.

OUR LADY'S The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's Church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next Saturday 1st October at 10am for ONE hour. There will be refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to come along. Can you help?

OPEN PARISH MEETING was attended by many parishioners from our three churches. The minutes will be produced and made available soon. Copies of the finances of our three churches are available at the back of the churches. Thank you to all who came and contributed to the discussions.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 35 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

WALSINGHAM There are special envelopes at the back of our churches for any parishioners who would like to contribute to work which is being carried out in Walsingham to upgrade its facilities and rebuild the Shrine. Envelopes can be put in the collection or sent directly.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Angela Edwards on 01707 690157 (evenings) or 07879610109.

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 6JF

Fr. Martin 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

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. After the summer, please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

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.

FATIMA 2017 Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel could offer us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. If you are interested, please let Fr. Norbert know so that brochures etc could be produced.

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

MASS TIMES

26 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
27 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Vincent de Paul
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
29 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Michael, Gabriel, Raphael
30 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Jerome
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year

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 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