

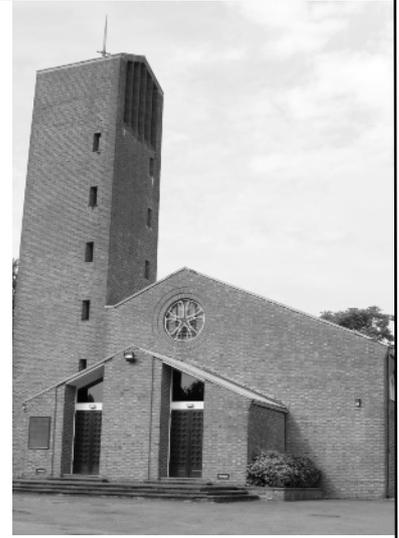
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year 16th October 2016 p. 152 of book

How persistent are you in prayer? What form does your prayer take? This week and next as we follow Jesus on the path to Jerusalem, he teaches us about prayer using two parables - both have comical elements and yet are serious in their encouragement to us. Firstly, a widow gives a judge such a hard time that she almost (verbally) bashes him black and blue! In the end he gives in to her and meets her demands. How much more compassionate and understanding is our God! He really does listen. Then next week, the Pharisee is so wrapped up in himself that his prayer is self-oriented and involves him despising the lowly Publican (tax collector). The latter prays humbly, acknowledging his need of God, and he is the one who goes home justified, that is, in the right relationship with God.

Prayer is our connection with God, lines of communication involving listening and talking, praising and interceding. Prayer can be silence in love and exuberant praise - even a 'Wow!' at the wonder of God's creation. Prayer is essential, both through the use of 'set' prayers and in speaking from the heart. Prayer can be a dangerous thing! This is because we never quite know how God will answer. Prayer demands patience and trust while we wait for God's response and faithfully accept the unfolding of his will. God has a sense of humour and never gives up on us. We need to be able to smile and persist in asking for what is really required. As we discover especially in St. Luke's Gospel, Jesus is prayer personified: he spends whole nights in prayer - in communion with his loving Father. Jesus' intensity of prayer in Gethsemane results in his sweat coming down like drops of blood. Can you imagine watching him lost in this prayer? I am sure there are times in our lives when we have prayed very hard with heart, mind and soul for a particular intention.

As we start another week, let us recommit ourselves to praying and never giving up. Let us allow our prayer to open us up to a vision of God and to the truth of who we are before God and who our neighbour is. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

YEAR OF MERCY Bishop John Wilson enjoyed his visit to Welwyn Garden City last Sunday. On Sunday 30th October Bishop Nicholas Hudson who serves the East London part of our Diocese as Auxiliary Bishop will be at 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH FLOOR The floor at Holy Family is now almost complete. The workers should be out by Tuesday. However, much dust has accumulated. This means that Wednesday and Thursday Masses this week will be in the Parish Room. Help will be needed with church cleaning this week. Please contact Sandy Leys on 01707 321157 if you can lend a hand. Thank you.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 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.

CONFIRMATION Any young people who missed last Sunday's enrolment meeting for Confirmation should see Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The first session is on Sunday 13th November at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church's Parish Room.

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 17th October 7.30pm. There are now 8 adults...still time for others to join!

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. Please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

LARRY BROPHY RIP Larry's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 2nd November at 12.30pm at Our Lady's Church.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CHILDREN'S LITURGY There is a meeting for all leaders and for anyone else who is interested in becoming a leader at 7pm on Wednesday 9th November in Holy Family Parish Room.

CAFOD You will be pleased to know that the Herts Constabulary Choir Concert held at St. St. Bonaventure's raised £340 for CAFOD. Thank you to all who gave their support.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES) Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. Contributions of items to go in the boxes are also welcome.

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.

OUR LADY'S REPOSITORY Christmas stock now in, and a large selection of general cards. Open before and after most Masses.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING held at Hyde Valley House. 'We would like to thank everyone who came along to the MacMillan Coffee Morning at Hyde Valley House on Friday 30th September. Many of the people who came along are members of Our Lady's, St Bonaventure's and Holy Family Church. Your support was much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you again at future events at Hyde Valley House.' From all at Hyde Valley House.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Any parents who missed the sessions for the signing of the Certificate of Catholicity should contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible.

OUR LADY'S RED BOXES 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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S RED BOXES the promoters will contact you or you can leave your boxes at the church. New box holders please make sure your name is written on the white label. Thank you for your support and generosity.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 38 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

FATIMA 2017 Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel is offering us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. Brochures now at the back of our churches.

YEAR OF MERCY WINDOWS Our thanks to all who have contributed to the new windows at Our Lady's. To date a total of **£15940.74** has been donated, this total includes anticipated Gift Aid of £1367.50. Thank you to the 400 Club and to the Monday Bingo Group for their respective donations of £100.00 each recently. The target figure is £18,000. Gift aid envelopes are at the back of Our Lady's.

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

or Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231.

CWL QUIZ EVENING Friday 21st October 7.30pm in the Parish Centre at Our Lady's.

CONCERT Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir are performing a concert in Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Church on Saturday 12th November at 7.45pm. They also have guest appearances by local soprano Lucy Black, and a guitar ensemble. Songs will be from classical to pop, spirituals, folk and songs from the shows. Tickets are £10 (under 16's free) which includes a free buffet and an opportunity to meet the choir and guests afterwards over a glass of wine. Tickets will be available on the door on the evening or from Hugh Smith (07785 220612; hugh.smith@ntlworld.com).

HEALTHY MOT ROAD SHOW Come along to the FREE healthy MOT Road Show on Wednesday 26th October in the Pomegranate Cafe, Woodhall Lane 10am - 3pm. Lots of interesting information and things to do. See poster at the back of church.

MIXED GROUP has been chosen as one of the three Waitrose Community Matters charities for October. If you and your friends are shopping in Waitrose WGC, please consider dropping your green tokens into The Mixed Group box. At the end of the month, Waitrose will divide £1,000 between the charities depending on how many tokens they have. This is a great way of helping us raise funds, and it won't cost you anything. There are still some tickets left for the Italian night on Friday 21st October, 7pm for 7.30pm in the Terranova restaurant, Stanborough Park. Tickets cost £25. The final fundraiser is a quiz night on Saturday 12th November in Douglas Tilbe House, 6.30pm for 7pm. Entry to the quiz per person is £10, which includes a hot supper.

THANK YOU to Luke and Elizabeth for the Mass offered in Medugorje for the parishioners of St. Bonaventure's.

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

BLESSING OF GRAVES 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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our
party on Tuesday 1st November from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fire-
works. Bring a small amount of food (pizza provided). Parents are welcome to stay but
those who don't must return by 4.45pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks.
£2 to cover costs.

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

MASS TIMES

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|--------------|--------|------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 17 Monday | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady's | St. Ignatius of Antioch |
| 18 Tuesday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | St. Luke |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 19 Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family | feria |
| 20 Thursday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family | feria |
| 21 Friday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 22 Saturday | 10am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria |

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

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|-------------|---------|------|-----------------|
| 22 Saturday | 6pm | Mass | Our Lady's |
| 23 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**