

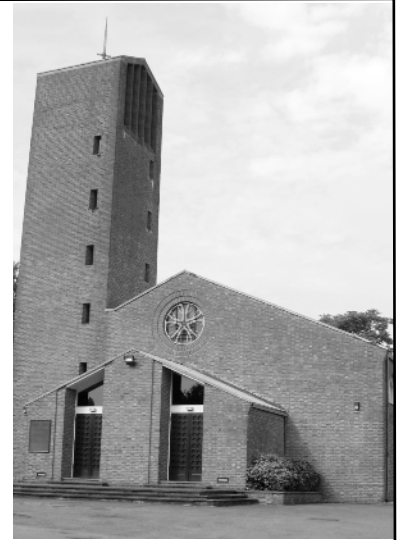
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year 23rd October 2016 p. 155 of book

Today we are immersed in the wonderful parable of the Pharisee and Publican/Tax-collector, which calls on us to think carefully about our attitude to prayer and our relationship to God. The Pharisee is a remarkable example of someone who does everything which is required of him by his religion. He is obviously proud of it and sadly looks down on his fellow worshipper in the Temple. To Jesus' audience it would have been unthinkable that such a paragon of virtue would not go home 'justified' - at rights with God. Similarly the Tax-collector embodies all that defines a renegade, supporting the foreign invaders, with the caricature of being a cheat. What leads him to the Temple to darken the doorway with his shadow? Why does he plead for mercy? Is he ready to change his life? He dares not look up to gaze at the wonder of being in God's House. HE is the one who goes home justified! And that is that, so far as Jesus is concerned! God's grace has triumphed and a human being is saved.

Where does this parable leave US today? It would be very easy - as with the parable of the Prodigal Son - to regard today's passage as a really good story...perhaps even to whisper to ourselves 'Thank goodness I'm not like the Pharisee'!! Am I more like the Tax-collector? Perhaps that comparison would not be as flattering! Firstly, God's grace - his Gift-in-Jesus - is available to everyone; the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus has a place for every single person. Then the question needs to be asked: 'Am I ready to accept the invitation and respond heart, mind and soul to what the Lord asks of me?' Prayer underpins our relationship with God; our actions reveal how much we love God and allow him to inspire us. We must be honest before God. And we must be humble enough to accept that we are not perfect yet. As the Year of Mercy nears its completion, let us reflect on how we can let that mercy into our lives, like the Tax-collector...and how we can let it out by being merciful to others.

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

PRAGUE This week Fr. Norbert will be in Prague in the Czech Republic with 31 others. You will be remembered in prayer at the statue of the Infant of Prague and the tomb of St. Norbert at Strahov.

YEAR OF MERCY Next 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY is on Tuesday 1st November. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. The Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed) is on Wednesday. The Church invites us to come and pray for our loved ones who have died and for all the dead. The Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets at the back of our churches for you to write the names of loved ones who have died. They will be placed near the altars of the churches and the dead will be prayed for throughout the month of November. No need to give any money.

PRAYER FOR THE DEAD In response to the Diocesan Proclaim initiative, the Parish Advisory Council has decided to support the bereaved by giving out candles to each household the weekend of 5th/6th November together with prayer cards so that we can join our prayers together as a community for the dead every day during the month of the Holy Souls.

CLOSING OF JUBILEE YEAR will be marked in Welwyn Garden City on Friday 18th November with Mass at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Mass with priests and people from the Stevenage Deanery attending. Afterwards there will be a reception in the hall at which we will celebrate Fr. Frank Leonard's 80th birthday. All welcome!

BEN ROBBINS RIP Ben's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 31st October at 2pm at Our Lady's Church.

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

EARLY MASS for the Year of Mercy on Friday 4th November at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. Those coming have asked if the Mass can continue beyond the Year of Mercy, so the next one will then be Friday 2nd December.

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.

CARITAS WESTMINSTER has sent the following note: 'As you are aware many unaccompanied children are being brought to the UK from Calais. Their reception is being coordinated by Citizens UK and all children are being received in Croydon and undergoing immigration interviews with the Home Office. In order to conduct the interviews children must have a responsible adult present who should have an enhanced DBS. There is a need for many volunteers who could act as responsible adults in the next couple of weeks. Citizens UK has approached Caritas to help support this task by getting their request out to our networks.' If any DBS checked volunteers in our parishes wish to volunteer, this is the link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGiQ2AEaut4kAt-tiHq6NDpVMdxerOUNWXYREONGdGBhZGg/viewform#responses>

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 Fireworks.

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.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Angela Edwards on 01707 690157 (evenings) or 07879610109 **OR** Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 - one off cleans, regular or weekly etc. also ironing.

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.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH FLOOR Our thanks to all who have helped with the cleaning of Holy Family Church after the laying of the new floor.

RCIA The next session will be on Monday 31st October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy. **The CAFOD** group will be running the charity car park at Oaklands college on Saturday 29th October. If you are going to be in town on that day please try to support us. Parking will be £1 per visit.

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.

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.

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

CAP (Christians against Poverty) MONEY TRAINING DAY Date: 26 November 2016
Times: 10am to 4.30pm Venue: Soul Survivor Watford, 5-7 Greycaine Rd, Watford WD24 7GP
Parking: There is street parking nearby the venue. Please note that you cannot park in any of the surrounding industrial car parks. The cost is £45 per volunteer and includes; the full day's training, a full course DVD, a Money Coach Guide, ten delegate workbooks, sample publicity materials, online resources and on-going support from the CAP Money team. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided throughout the day. **Please note that the booking deadline is Friday 11 November.** It is also important that each volunteer stays until the end of the training day, as failure to do this means that they will not be qualified to run the CAP Money Course. *If you are interested in registering, please contact Fr. Norbert.*

DON'T FORGET Next weekend the clocks go BACK one hour as British Summer Time draws to a close. you will have an extra hour Saturday night/Sunday morning!

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.

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 the 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.

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

MASS TIMES

24 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Ignatius of Antioch
25 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Luke
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
27 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
28 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Simon and Jude
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
29 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Blessed Martyrs

Thirty-first Sunday of the Year

29 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
30 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