

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*

Twelfth Sunday of the Year 25th June 2017 p. 93 of Mass book

‘Do not be afraid of...’ These words are used twice by Jesus in Sunday’s Gospel passage. Later he says: ‘So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than...’ St. Matthew is obviously keen that his community in reflecting on their lives in Christ should keep remembering the hope and confidence which Jesus brings.

Since writing my last newsletter piece two weeks ago, we have had the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington. I lived not far from there for three years when I was Chaplain of St. Charles Sixth Form College near Ladbroke Grove. Many of the poorest in society, those who feel on the margins have suffered the loss of life, of loved ones, possessions, security. There are other residents of tower blocks who are now concerned for their future safety. Our emergency services have again given of themselves totally and selflessly. How should we speak to them? How would ‘Do not be afraid’ sound to them? It is possible that these words of Jesus could be taken the wrong way as just pious soundings. People have spoken about wanting action to be taken and this has been witnessed in amazing, practical ways: deep kindness, sacrificial generosity, loving hearts displaying real humanity. In such a situation, Christ is so close to the brokenhearted; Christ is still suffering; Christ is revealing God’s presence intimately close to people in need. That is why Jesus’ words ‘Do not be afraid’ are so powerful.

As you think about your own life, what brings you dread or worry? What takes away from your own peace of mind? Whether small or large, something others know about or a burden you carry secretly, remember Christ is near to you and that his love radiates your worth in God’s eyes.

Finally, I would like, together with my family, to thank you for the many ways you have given us support since the death of my Dad on 26th May and his Funeral on 14th June. Cards, prayers and kind words really do make a difference. Some of you were able to come to the Funeral Mass or the night before; for this we are grateful. A new chapter of life begins with the death of a second parent. However, the same words of Jesus apply - and the incredible strength he offers - as he says: ‘Do not be afraid’. Thank you so very much. May God bless you all.

With love, *Fr. Norbert*

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL This Thursday (29th June) is the Solemnity of these two great Apostles who died in Rome. In this country it is a Holy Day of Obligation when we are asked to come to Mass. The schedule of Masses will be as follows: 9.30am Holy Family, 12 noon St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Our Lady's.

FR. MARTIN has been appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Stoke Newington. He will take up his new appointment at the start of September. We wish him every blessing. The Diocese will be sending us Fr. Tom Montgomery as the new Assistant Priest to serve our three parishes based at Holy Family Church. Fr. Martin's Farewell Mass will take place at Our Lady's on Saturday 26th August at 6pm followed by a Get-together in the Hall. Please put this date in your diaries.

SEMINARIANS FROM SEVILLE The Rector of the Seminary in Seville (Spain) has asked us again to take two seminarians 6th - 26th July. They are Juan Guzman Ivanovich and Ruben Perez Navarro. In addition, Fr. Manolo Jimenez who is in charge of the Junior Seminary in Seville will come with two students 23rd - 31st July; they are Miguel Angel Prieto Cantero and Jose Maria Gomez de los Santos. Very exotic names...once they arrive we will know what to call them!

ME AND MY MUSIC at St John's Digswell (off Knightsfield) on Monday 10th July at 7.30pm. Fr. Norbert has been asked to reflect on his life and choose his 6 favourite pieces of music; he will be interviewed by the Vicar of St. John's, Fr Rob Marshall, about his life and work and why the chosen music means so much to him. There will be cheese and wine at the interval. The cost is £7 per ticket and all proceeds from the evening will be put to one side to assist those charities which St John's supports. To book: text your attendance and how many are coming to 07766 952113 - or email stjohndisgwell@gmail.com

RCIA For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will begin after the summer. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

DAVID BRADLEY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for David Bradley will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 27th June at 1pm,

BRIDGET (BRED) GODKIN R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Breda Godkin will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 28th June at 12.15pm.

BABYSITTING- I am a reliable and responsible pupil of the John Henry Newman School (previously Holy Family School) available for babysitting. I can provide my own transport and work weekday evenings and weekends. I love looking after children of all ages. Please feel free to contact me on 07580 757924. Ellen Day (Age 15) Reference available.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231. One off cleans, regular or weekly/fortnightly/monthly. Spring cleans. Ironing.

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

SINGING FOR PLEASURE are holding their Summer Concert at St John the Evangelist Church, Monks Rise on Saturday, July 1st at 7:30pm. Proceeds are going to Marie Curie with a retiring collection. For further information call: 01707 377543

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Today (Sunday) we have the last of our First Holy Communion celebrations. Congratulations to all the children and their families. A huge 'Thank you!' to our catechists who have offered so much support. Next Sunday (2nd) there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 3pm at Our Lady's when everyone can come together and give thanks for all the blessings received.

ST. BONAVENTURE will be 800 years old this year! We will mark this on the Feast of St. Bonaventure, Saturday 15th July, at the 10am Mass followed by cake and coffee/tea in the parish garden.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP on Saturday 1st July 10am until 3pm in Our Lady's Hall. This 'Day' will discuss mental health awareness in parishes, faith and mental health and how to support those with a mental health problem so that the parishes become even more welcoming and inclusive. Ben Bano who has championed 'Welcome me as I am' will lead prayer and give input. Sonia Clarke from MIND Mid-Herts will speak about local services. The Day is aimed at care-givers and key leaders in parish groups who would then be able to inform/train others. The outcomes/hopes are: A few parishioners trained with the mental health 'first aid' course, Carers Support Groups, to strengthen the 'ministry of welcome', displays in parishes for MIND services and signposting to find help for mental health support. For more information and to book a place visit www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/mentalhealth or email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH PRAYER SERVICE AND BARBECUE Sunday 16th July at 3pm. There will be a 30-minute Service with Benediction followed by a Parish Barbecue hosted by the Hedgehog.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND & WALES have organised a 'Mega Youth Poll'. In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call. If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you: what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. Please use this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll>. If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link. For queries about the Youth Poll please email: synod2018@cbcew.org.uk.

QUIZ NIGHT HCPT group 183 will be having a quiz night on Friday 30th June to help raise money for a child's place on next year's pilgrimage trip. Teams of up to 8 people and £5 per person. In Our Lady's church hall, starting at 8pm, prizes for the winning team as well as a raffle. To book your table please contact Barbara Moore on 07789 743703.

TRANSPORT TO MASS Following a good response we now have 25 volunteer drivers and have begun a pilot with several parishioners who would like a lift to Mass. These parishioners have welcomed the opportunity to attend Mass which allows them to continue to be included in our church community. In order to extend the service we would need some more drivers, so please volunteer and if you know of any other people who would like a lift then please complete one of the forms at the back of the church, or contact Joe Galloway on 01707 894207.

AFRICAN MASS Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's. There will be rhythm and exuberance at Mass with many languages, cultures and traditions. Afterwards there will be lunch in the hall for everyone with an African DJ. The African Community wants people from our three churches to come together and have a wonderful time. You are all invited!

The rehearsal is set for Sunday, 2nd July after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady. All African Parishioners, in particular, choristers and readers, are requested to remain in church after Mass for the rehearsal.

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

CARITAS VOLUNTEER SERVICE This Diocesan Agency is seeking to recruit volunteers to be involved in social action. For more information pick up one of the leaflets at the back of our churches or email Verity Sykes on caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS The Diocese is always looking for volunteers to take on the role of being a foundation governor in our Catholic schools. Indeed here in Welwyn Garden City we need more. If you are interested take one of the leaflets at the back of the church and let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am
	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. John Southworth
	1pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	David Bradley R.I.P.
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Irenaeus
	12.15pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	Breda Godkin R.I.P.
29 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Peter and Paul
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Dedication of the Cathedral

Thirteenth 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
	3pm	Thanksgiving 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.enh-tr@nhs.net