

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*

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year to include 16th, 23rd, 30th July p. 102, 105, 108

Today and for the next two weeks, our Gospel readings from St. Matthew will take the form of parables. Huge crowds are accompanying Jesus and so he has to speak to them from a boat while they gather on the seashore. The disciples then give the Lord a metaphorical(!) nudge and ask him: 'Why do you talk to *them* in parables?' It is not a straightforward answer which they get! However, what the Lord highlights is that the parables put people in touch with the 'kingdom of heaven'. What is so challenging about the Lord's words is that he speaks about mystery, looking without seeing, listening without hearing or understanding or perceiving. Jesus then addresses the disciples and remarks that their eyes *really* see and their ears *really* hear because of Jesus himself who embodies the Kingdom. In these coming weeks as you reflect on the parables of The Sower, The Wheat and the Weeds, The Pearl of Great Price and The Fishing Net, think about your own life, what you see and hear, what mystery the Lord is opening you up to and the happiness he shares.

This week is the last for our schools before the summer holidays. May God give our children and young people a safe and happy time. May our staff who work so hard be refreshed by these coming weeks. I hope governors too can rest from their labours! May parents and grandparents looking after the youngsters have energy and patience and be rewarded with successful ways of keeping the younger ones occupied! Many of our parishioners will be going away. I wish you every blessing on your summer break. Perhaps some of you might be moving on from Welwyn Garden City and starting a new chapter in your life elsewhere. May you feel the support of your new communities and experience a happiness beyond measure. Summer is the period when new people move into the area...you are most welcome in our three parishes! I hope you will feel at home in no time! I know we will have many visitors in our midst. Enjoy yourselves and have a wonderful sojourn here.

May God bless each one of you and all your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

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. 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. There are now envelopes at the back of our churches for contributions to a Farewell Gift for Fr. Martin. These can then be put in the main collection or handed to Fr. Norbert. Fr. Tom Montgomery the new Assistant Priest will move into Holy Family on Monday 4th September.

MARY CAIRNS RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 18th July at 10.15am. Her body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Monday.

THERESA JAMES RIP Theresa's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 18th July at 3pm.

ANNA BRIAR RIP Anna's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 25th July at 11.15am.

CHARLIE SMITH RIP Charlie's Funeral Service will be at Knebworth Crematorium on Tuesday 1st August at 2pm.

LAURA SHECK RIP Laura's Memorial Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 11th August - 11 o'clock for an 11.30 start.

SEMINARIANS FROM SEVILLE We welcome Juan Guzman Ivanovich and Ruben Perez Navarro who are with us until 26th July. Soon 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. If any of you would like to invite Juan and Ruben for a coffee and give them a chance to practise their English, please let Fr. Norbert know.

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.

GARDENER AVAILABLE Experienced gardener available to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting. Pruning shrubs and roses and weeding of flowerbeds. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

STRAWBERRY TEA The CAFOD group are holding a Strawberry Tea at 401 Knightsfield on Sunday 30th July at 3pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

OUR LADY'S There will be cleaning of the church and maintenance of the grounds starting at 10am for one hour on Saturday 5th August. As the summer holiday period starts this depletes the number of volunteers; new faces will, as always, be welcome. The activity concludes with coffee or tea and biscuits in the Sacristy at 11am.

400 CLUB Collection of members subscriptions will be after the Masses at Our Lady's on 5th and 6th August with the Draw during the Bingo interval at about 9.15 on Monday 8th August. We have available numbers and new members are always welcome. Just see the collector after Mass.

TRANSPORT TO MASS - following a successful pilot of the project, we are now looking to extend the service. If you know of anyone who would like a lift to Mass, please take them one of the pink forms from the back of the church and return it to the envelope marked "Transport to Mass". Also, if you are able to volunteer as a driver, then please complete a yellow form and place it in the same envelope. For any further information contact Joe Galloway on 01707 894207.

FIRST FRIDAY On Friday 4th August there will be the next 6.30 early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd September at 6pm Mass at Our Lady's with a gathering in the Hall afterwards. **POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** will be celebrated on Saturday 7th October at 6pm at Our Lady's.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Time is racing by and parents will be thinking about a secondary school for their children soon to be in Year 6. Fr. Norbert always suggests to parents to visit the different schools *with their children*. An open morning allows you to see the school in action and the way the pupils and staff are. Think about where your child will flourish, taking into account his/her gifts, travelling, friendship groups and what schools offer. Definitely read the admissions criteria and try to see whether or not your child has a good chance of getting in. Some Catholic schools will need a Certificate of Catholicity which implies weekly attendance at Mass. Fr. Norbert will be available in the autumn to sign these certificates. All Catholic schools will need a Baptismal Certificate, so now is a good time to request one if you have not got the original. If the Baptism was here in Welwyn Garden City, contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579); otherwise make sure you give yourself time to acquire one from the church of Baptism. Should you need any other help, speak to Fr. Norbert or ask at school.

HOLY FAMILY'S FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet in the Parish Room on Tuesday 1st August at 7pm.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Monday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Hall to look at the year ahead including the plans for the refurbishment of the Hall and a sharing of presentations of all the great work done by groups in our three churches. Please keep this date free and come.

ME AND MY MUSIC at St John's Digswell (Monk's Rise off Knightsfield) The next session will be on Wednesday 9th August at 7.30pm. The cost is £8 per ticket (including whisky, wine and pizza) 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 The speaker will be Sister Jean Lawson who has run the House of Prayer on the island of Iona in Scotland for the last 15 years.

BUILDING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY In case you missed the session on 13th July and are interested in finding out how to be a Dementia Friend, there is another session on Saturday 29th July, this time at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway 10.45 for 11am, finish around 12.00. Contact Anne Horsman 01438840566/anne.horsman@btinternet.com. Also see notice at the back of the church.

AFRICAN MASS A huge 'Thank you!' to the African Community for the wonderful way they led last Sunday's 11.30 Mass and offered a generous feast afterwards in the hall. It was great! The community also express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to: Fr Norbert - for celebrating the Mass, his support and his full participation at the reception. Ciaran Pugh for his help with the hymns and the PA system. Welwyn Garden City parishioners - who came in their numbers to support and participate in the Mass. Family and friends who joined us for the Mass celebration and the reception. May the good Lord bless all who contributed in various ways to make 2017 African Mass a memorable one.

The African parishioners are advised to remain after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's Church on Sunday, 23 July for a short meeting.

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

MASS TIMES (WEEKDAYS)

17 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
18 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Benedict
	10.15am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	3pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	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	St. Mary Magdalene
24 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
25 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. James
	11.15am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Joachim and Anne
27 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
28 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
29 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Martha
31 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Ignatius of Loyola
01 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Alphonsus Liguori
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
03 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
04 Friday	6.30am and 9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John Vianney
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
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