

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year 8th October 2017 p. 137 of Mass book

‘...the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.’ Another set of hard-hitting words from the mouth of Jesus which he directs at the chief priests and elders of the people at the end of today’s Gospel parable from St. Matthew. What do Jesus’ protagonists make of it all? These words are uttered in the Temple. Just imagine the scene. In the holiest place possible, the religious leaders are subjected to a barrage of challenges from the Lord!

When I reflect on parables, I often think about the kingdom being the ‘reign of God’ - God living and working within each one of us, transforming lives by the grace of his love, taking us to eternity. What does it mean to have it taken from someone? From the chief priests and elders? From me? From you? To me it sounds very destructive; however, it is a gift which is going to be entrusted to those who will produce fruit. The religious leaders of Jesus’ time have allowed their understanding and living out of God’s call to become an obstacle, preventing people from sharing in God’s gracious reign. The lowly people are too important to God and Jesus is making sure that they find a place in the kingdom.

Let us consider our own lives. Do we regard this kingdom as being a present, a gift? Has it become embedded in our lives? Is it affecting the way we live and love? Do those around us notice that there is a special quality to our faith such that there are fruits evident - signs that the kingdom is well and truly alive and flourishing? If we are honest with ourselves, should we admit times when we have become blocks to the Lord and become barriers to the kingdom’s growth? Now is the time to do something about it! Repentance takes humility and courage; repentance necessitates change. What a difference that can make to our own lives and to the joy of introducing people to God-in-Christ! Have a wonderful week. Feel the blessings Christ brings. Offer him to others!

Fr. Norbert

MEMORIAL SERVICE Saturday 4 November 12.00 at St Bonaventure's. We would like to invite you and your family and friends to join us for a short Service of Prayer to remember our loved ones who have died and comfort for all who mourn them. Tea/coffee and a chance to meet after the Service in the Parish Hall.

BEN GUDGEON RIP Ben's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 16th October at 11.30am.

CAFOD FAST DAY The theme this year has been taken from a prayer written by Blessed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, who was murdered while celebrating Mass because he supported the poorest of the poor. Reflect on his words: 'We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We nurture seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise...it may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.' Your donations from last Friday's fast will be collected this weekend as you leave Mass. If you are able to GiftAid your contribution that would be great. Thank you!

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION Sessions for the parents of the children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place early next year. Children for Confession and Holy Communion are in Year 3 or above. At Holy Family Church the classes are weekly usually on a Wednesday afternoon after school starting in January/February - the Enrolment Meeting will be in Holy Family Church after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 5th November. At Our Lady's Church the classes are on Sunday mornings before 11.30 Mass starting in January - the Enrolment Meeting will be on Tuesday 14th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. At St. Bonaventure's the children have classes once a month on Saturdays with the first class on 14th October. (If you missed the enrolment meeting, please contact Kathryn Hubbard).

CONFIRMATION Young people from our three churches in Year 9 and above at school are invited to come with their parents to an Enrolment Meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation next Sunday (15th) at 7pm in Holy Family Church. The course will begin November.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CAFOD group have raised enough money to fund a Medical Outreach Team. Professionals provide essential healthcare services to remote communities.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD group are running a Charity Car Park at Oaklands College on Saturday 14th October from 9.15 am. If you are going to the town centre on that day perhaps you will consider supporting our fundraising. Parking is £1 per visit. All proceeds to CAFOD.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Holy Family Wednesday 18th October at 7pm.

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. Parents welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who came and cleaned St. Bonaventure's and Our Lady's this week.

SVP REQUEST A single mum is in need of a microwave and a baby walker. If you can help please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

CWL This Tuesday the CWL are having a speaker, Anne Lawrence who used to be a policewoman. She has lots of stories to tell and amusing anecdotes. Please come and join us and "bring a friend" to make our evening a success. In the Family Centre of Our Lady's at 8pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place next year on Saturday 24th March (venue to be confirmed). Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

RCIA For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will be on Monday evenings starting on 9th October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Perhaps you are an adult baptised as a child who have not been confirmed? You are most welcome too! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested. Please tell family, neighbours and friends that we are making a start **AND INVITE THEM!!**

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents who need a Certificate of Catholicity, which implies weekly attendance at Mass, should contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment with Fr. Norbert who will be available to sign these certificates as follows: Monday 9th October 4.30 - 6.30pm and Tuesday 17th October 4.30 - 6.30pm. Parents and children should come together and wait in Our Lady's Church. Fr. Norbert will call you when ready. There is an 'extra form' for parents to fill out before they come to give Fr. Norbert details of Baptism etc. Please make sure you collect one from the back of our churches.

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. Thanks.

MOTHER AND TODDLER Meets every Wednesday 10am in St. Bonaventure's.

HCPT Group 183 are starting planning for Easter 2018 pilgrimage. If you are interested in volunteering as a helper there will be a meeting on Sunday 8th October at 6pm in Our Lady's sacristy. Also if you would like to nominate a child or young adult who will benefit from travelling with the group please email Emma Moore at group183@hcpt.org.uk

EXPERIENCED GARDENER AVAILABLE to maintain the beauty of you garden. Lawn edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding of flowerbeds. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

ART EXHIBITION at Mill Green Museum from 8th Oct- 5th Nov. Tues, Weds, Thurs 10-5, Sun 2-5. Work by Natasha Wilde (Deborah Kennedy).

The PEACE GARDEN team would like to thank the kind donors who have provided a wheelbarrow and a variety of plants for the garden. Please remember us if you are separating herbaceous plants this Autumn. Anne Stapleton 07932338813

USED STAMPS 'Thank you all for the generous donations of stamps regularly received from St. Bonaventure's. We appreciate the generous support of parishioners. Used stamps are a very good and painless way to help the missions. We prepare and sort the stamps and then sell them (by weight) to various stamp collectors. All the money we receive is then used for the missions and enormous amounts have been raised. Please keep up the good work!' *Fr. Kyran Murphy (Director)*

INTER FAITH Part of the local inter faith group's function is to give people the opportunity to find out about other faiths. The next evening meeting will be on a little known religion, Zoroastrianism. It will take place on 24th October in the Community Meeting Room at Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Rd., Hatfield AL30 0DA at 7.15 - 9.30pm. All welcome.

HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES Needed: two bikes suitable for 12 year old boys and one for a young adult male. If you can help contact woodcraftvicky@gmail.com, thank you.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Fr. Tom 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

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS We find that the Catholic papers at the back of our three churches are not being taken and very often many are left. If this continues to be the case, perhaps it might be better for individuals to take out subscriptions so that these papers are sent directly to your homes? Please let Fr. Norbert know what you think.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Welwyn Cemetery - Sunday 5th November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery - Sunday 12th November at 2pm. Southway Cemetery - Sunday 19th November at 2pm.

CONCERT The WGC Male Choir will be having a concert in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 28th October after 6pm Mass.

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

MASS TIMES

09 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Blessed John Henry Newman
10 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Paulinus
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
12 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Wilfrid
13 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Edward the confessor
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year

14 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
15 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.enh-tr@nhs.net**