

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*

Thirty-third Sunday of the Year 19th November 2017 p. 155 of Mass book

We are nearly at the end of the Church's Year and on the verge of a new one! As we approach the concluding sections of St. Matthew's Gospel, we are given today a parable of trust: God's trust in us by entrusting us with so much - in and through our Christian faith - and our trust in God by making good use of his gift to us. The sad case of the last servant in the parable, who was afraid of his master and not prepared to take a risk with the huge sum of money, shows a mean-spirited attitude towards a God of tender love and compassion. This story highlights the fact that God's desire is for us to experience life through the Gospel and share its blessings with others so that it continues to blossom and flourish in our own day. If this 'Good News' is buried within us as a private matter or is put on hold with the 'pause' button, its effect is stifled. In St. Matthew's Gospel, we have had impressed on us the fact that, in Jesus, God is with us. This should leave us with a joy so infectious that others can sense our faith from the way we live and cope with the challenges of life.

On Wednesday 37 of us will be setting off for the Holy Land. We will start in Jerusalem and then go up to Galilee. At every step, we will be praying for you; please remember us and ask God to watch over us so that we will be safe. My hope is that many blessings will come to our town through this ecumenical pilgrimage, that when we return, the bonds of love, prayer and fellowship will radiate out to others. A Bible is so important on a pilgrimage like this: reading Scripture in a place associated with the Lord brings the text to life and keeps you focused on what really matters. Walking, talking, eating and drinking, praying and moments of worship, silent contemplation as well as celebrating Mass will hold us together in a powerful way and bring joy and energy. It is not possible to follow the events of Jesus' life in the right order; so we will be with him in Gethsemane on Thursday before we go to Bethlehem on Friday! However, I am sure we'll get our heads round that. May God bless you all. Shalom! **Fr. Norbert**

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR Pope Francis asks us today to reflect on the words: 'Blessed are the open hands that embrace the poor...they are the hands that bring hope.' We are so grateful to the many groups and individuals who serve the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Thank you for all you do!

COMMISSIONING AND RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS in our three churches will take place at all the Masses the weekend of 2nd/3rd December as the new Church's Year begins with the Season of Advent. So this involves Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musicians & Singers, Altar Servers, Catechists (including Children's Liturgy) and Welcomers.

CONFIRMATION Young people have their first session today (Sunday 19th) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church.

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 Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 20th November.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'curry night' in the Hall. All welcome!

AVIGNON 2018 Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets at the back of our churches on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. These will be kept close to the altar and the names remembered at Masses throughout November. There is no need to give any money.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Southway Cemetery - today (Sunday 19th) at 2pm.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the annual Deanery Mass at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 21st at 11am followed by coffee/tea in the Parish Room. There will not be a 9.30am Mass that morning. Everyone is welcome!

CAFOD will be having a Mass of Remembrance on Wednesday 22nd November at 11am at Christ the King Church, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood N14 4HE. You are invited to join in commemorating all those who have touched our lives and made the world a better place.

EILEEN FIRMINER RIP Eileen's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 12th December at 12 noon.

MARY McKAY RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday 15th December at 12.30pm.

MONTHLY ADORATION Our thanks to Chris, Sonia and friends for leading the 'Restoration' Holy Hour a week ago. The next one will be on Friday 8th December at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

FIRST FRIDAY The next 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 1st December followed by breakfast in the hall. All are welcome. We are very grateful to those who prepare the breakfast!

SENIOR CITIZENS TEA PARTY Nicholas Breakspear School students will be presenting an afternoon of Christmas songs, bingo, afternoon tea and a seasonal performance by their choir on Tuesday 12th December at 12.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Sharon Robson on 01727 860079 (ext. 224) or email robsons@nbs.herts.sch.uk

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES Filled boxes need to be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend by this Sunday at the very latest (they are being collected on 21st). We have just over 100 boxes returned so far.

NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 17th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 3rd December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there in the hall at St. Bonaventure's.

HCPT GROUP 183 Christmas Fair Sunday 3rd December 12pm to 3pm at Our Lady's church hall. Come and join us for winter warmers, tombola and lots of children's games. Also a visit from Fr. Christmas. All money raised will go to HCPT Group 183. Bottles for the fair are still needed. If you are able to help please leave your bottle donation at the back of the church.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY on Thursday 30th November will be marked by Mass at Holy Family at 9.30am and refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. All welcome.

RECEPTION CLASS AND NURSERY Fr. Norbert will have dates for Reception and Nursery classes form signing in December so watch this space!

ADVENT begins on Sunday 3rd December. There will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9.30am Mass on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

ADVENT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN will be available at the back of church next Sunday, they are free so please take one if you will use it. There are also calendars to take home.

WALK WITH ME books for adults will also be available and free to those who will use them.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL REPORT and Accounts are available on www.rcdow.org.uk/publications There is a hard copy of each at the back of the church.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

ZUMBA for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

GET IN THE PICTURE For the second year running, the Christian Churches of WGC have been offered a shop in the Howard's Centre, to use for a 'Get in the picture' event. Between the hours of **10am - 4pm on Saturday 9th December** we'll be inviting shoppers to come and be part of a live nativity, to have their photo taken, and then printed on the spot. Last year we were a powerful presence in the shopping centre, and had some great conversations about Christmas. We need about 8-10 volunteers per hour to either welcome, help with dressing or the technology, or to simply come and chat with guests. Please email simon@christchurchwgc.org.uk or ring Christchurch office (01707 335161) to sign up for an hour or two.

CHOIR (ST. BONAVENTURE'S) There will be a Choir rehearsal to prepare for Advent on Friday 1st December at 11am. All welcome.

ADVENT FESTIVE FAYRE at Holy Family Church in aid of CAFOD after 9.30am Mass today. Come and buy a homemade Christmas Cake and other Christmas goodies. Do come and support this hardworking team of CAFOD volunteers.

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

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings
 should be made with Phil Johnson 01707
 377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

OUR LADY'S CHURCH OUTDOOR CRIB The outdoor crib will be erected on Saturday 2nd December at 10am. We need plenty of help with this task, all are invited to assist, especially the young and strong! Hot refreshments will be served. Will you help us?

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS: Friday 8 Dec, 7-9pm, Come and celebrate the Christmas season singing carols in The Cloisters (off Parkway) followed by refreshments and more carols at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Contributions of mince pies or soft drinks most welcome!

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

MASS TIMES

20 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
21 Tuesday	11am	Mass	Holy Family	Presentation of the BVM
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Cecilia
23 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
24 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Catherine of Alexandria

Christ the King

25 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
26 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**