

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*

Summer Newsletter 2018 to include 22nd, 29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th August

‘You must come away...and rest for a while.’ These are Jesus’ wonderful, reassuring words in today’s Gospel. So much has taken place while the disciples have been on their travels. Now is the time to be refreshed! That is how we all feel as a year draws to a close and there is a natural lull in activity. I hope that for each one of you there will be time and space, people and places to afford you all that you need to recharge your batteries before another year begins. I have almost completed ten years here in Welwyn Garden City. It is amazing to think that this journey has been unfolding for such a long period! Sadly we have lost many parishioners in death. Lots of new people have come to join us. We have all matured over the months! God has been with us every step of the way.

I would like to thank all who work tirelessly to keep everything going at St. Bonaventure’s, Our Lady’s and Holy Family. A special word of thanks to Fr. Tom and Kathryn Hubbard. I am so pleased that the Liturgy is vibrant and heavenly. So many, diverse people - adults and children - are involved. Gifts and talents are put at the service of others and new skills are discovered! Welwyn Garden City and the surrounding area is continuing to develop with new accommodation and fresh opportunities. Perhaps some of you reading this newsletter piece are brand new? Welcome! I hope you feel at home soon. Think about any areas of our life you would like to get involved in. There are always visitors, some from other parts of the country, others from abroad. Enjoy your stay. I trust the sun will continue to shine in August as well as it has in July!

Please pray for me as I take my time of rest during the holidays. I will make my retreat with the Poor Clares in Arundel. I am so blessed to be here among you as your Parish Priest. May God watch over each one of you and keep you secure in his loving hands.

Love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

SUMMER NEWSLETTER The next edition will be published the weekend 1st/2nd September.

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY This Solemnity on Wednesday 15th August is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday 14th at 7pm at Our Lady's. On the Wednesday 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

BANK HOLIDAY Mass on Monday 27th August at Our Lady's will be at 10am.

NEW PARISH CENTRE The Diocesan Financial Secretary, Paolo Camoletto, recently met with Fr. Norbert and the Chairs of the Finance Committees of our parishes. The Finance Board of the Diocese is asking for a financial plan to show how a loan would be paid off; this will be produced during the summer and be put to the Diocese. This means we cannot do anything at present in regard to the new Parish Centre. We will keep you informed and will have to make a decision about when the present Hall will officially close.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Come to a meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Tuesday 18th September at 7.45pm to prepare for the coming year. It would be good for each parish group to send representatives to the meeting to share with others what the particular group does. The accounts of the three churches will be presented. Also, a strategy for parish activities whilst the Hall is being rebuilt will be discussed. **YOUR PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE COME!**

AFRICAN MASS Our thanks to the African Community for all the hard work they put into planning and preparing the celebration on 8th July. The Mass was vibrant and the reception wonderful. Thank you!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FEAST Our thanks to all who helped with refreshments on 15th July to make St. Bonaventure's Feast Day a great occasion.

ADOREMUS There will be 12 representatives going to Liverpool for the Eucharistic Congress which takes place Friday 7th - Sunday 9th September. There will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday 3rd after 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's, on Tuesday 4th after St. Bonaventure's 9.30 Mass and Wednesday 5th after Holy Family's 9.30 Mass. Let us pray that our appreciation of the Eucharist will deepen and spur us on to share with others this great Gift we have received.

EDUCATION SUNDAY will be marked in Welwyn Garden City on Sunday 16th September.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert urges parent/s to visit Secondary Schools with their child and to reflect on which school will help their child flourish. For those applying to Catholic Schools a Certificate of Catholicity is required which affirms that a child comes from a practising Catholic family, i.e. a family which attends Mass every week. Fr. Norbert will in due course publish dates to meet up with children and their parents/guardians to fill out the relevant forms. It is crucial to read a school's admissions policy to see if your child has a good chance of getting in.

RCIA Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or knowing more? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation when you were younger? Now's the time to think about the next steps! Pray. Talk to another Catholic. Come to Church and deepen your experience of being with others. The first session for our three parishes will be on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

OTHER SACRAMENTS In September dates for enrolment for First Confession and First Communion and for Confirmation will be published. Watch this space.

SHARE THE JOURNEY - a campaign to raise awareness to the plight of refugees, by walking some miles bearing in mind their hazardous journeys. CAFOD's initial goal 24,000 miles, the distance around the world, has now been reached. There is a chance to add to that total, by joining the local parishioners in a 5 mile circular countryside walk starting at 13.45hrs from the Orange Tree Pub, Hitchin SG4 9DR on Monday 23rd July. Contact <ann.milner@cafod.org.uk>

PAT McCULLAGH RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 28th August. at 2pm.

The CAFOD group meets on Tuesday 24th July 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family.

STRAWBERRY TEA in Sandy's garden 401 Knightsfield on Sunday 29th July from 3pm. Diabetics and gluten-free catered for. All proceeds will go to CAFOD. Donations welcome.

CAFOD BBQ is on Sunday 2nd September from 1.30pm onwards at 401 Knightsfield. £9.50 for adults and £5 for under 7's. Vegetarian and gluten free options available. Wine and soft drinks included and will flow throughout the afternoon as usual.

SEMINARIAN Juan Jose Feria Toscano from the Diocese of Huelva in Spain has asked to come to Welwyn Garden City to share in the life of our parishes. He will arrive on Friday 24th August and leave on Thursday 6th September. If any parishioners would like to welcome him into their homes, please let Fr. Norbert know by email. Thank you.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS has been set for Saturday 22nd September at 6pm at Our Lady's.

CAMINO from Opporto to Santiago de Compostella Saturday 25th May - Sunday 2nd June 2019. Brochures with booking forms are at the back of our churches. If you would like one emailed to you, please contact Fr. Norbert on welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

In 2020 there will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May and the Passion Play in Oberammergau 9th - 11th September.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM See posters at the back of church.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship which runs the Food Bank on Cole Green Lane every Wednesday 9.00 - 11.00am is very grateful for all the donations made. Please ensure that tins and packets of food are in date and that egg cartons are for six eggs only. Donations of unused toiletries would also be most welcome. There are baskets at the back of each of our churches for this purpose.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE TASTER COURSE There is now a waiting list for the course in the autumn.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING and grounds maintenance takes place on Saturday 4th August at 10am. All welcome to help.

HCPT 2019 Each year Group 183 takes children with additional needs on a life changing pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes, but this can only happen with the help of volunteers. The Group is now 5 years old and has been extremely fortunate to have been welcomed into the WGC parishes with open arms. In order for us to continue with this great work we desperately need more helpers to join the group. We travel at Easter for a week, helpers will need to be able to attend training and safeguarding before the trip, as well as time getting to know their child before travel. They will also have to be able to pay for their own travel. If this is some thing you feel you may be able to do, please contact Emma at group183@hcpt.org.uk or phone on 07740858313

ME AND MY MUSIC Kay Mason, one of our parishioners, will be interviewed by Reverend Rob Marshall at St. John's Church, Digswell (off Knightsfield) on Wednesday 25th July at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments and good wine. A donation of £8 is asked. Kay will speak about 'Donate a Kidney to a Stranger'. To book a place contact 07766952113 or email stjohndigswell@gmail.com

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at 6.30 will be at St. Bonaventure's on 3rd August. Then 14th September due to the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will take place at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church on Friday 10th August and then on Friday 14th September.. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

AVIGNON Some places have become available on the Pilgrimage to Avignon (Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September). If you are interested, please contact Pax Travel directly on 020 7485 3003.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. 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

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

FR. MARK CONNOLLY CSSp (Holy Ghost/Spiritan Fathers) who was the first priestly vocation from Welwyn Garden City, will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee (50 years!) of Priesthood on Friday 21st September at 7pm at Our Lady's where he was ordained priest. Please keep the date free and watch this space!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made.

GARDENER AVAILABLE Call Daniel on 07751992492.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

MASS TIMES

Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	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

PLEASE NOTE 6.30am Mass on Friday 3rd August at St. Bonaventure.

Wednesday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses are as follows: **9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12noon Mass at St. Bonaventure 7pm Mass at Our Lady's**

CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**

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

CONFESSIONS

Holy Family: Thursday **10am**

St. Bonaventure: Saturday **10.30am -11am**

Our Lady's: Saturday **5pm -5.30pm.**