

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-fourth Sunday of the Year 16th September page 132 of the Mass Book

Last weekend in Liverpool, around 10,000 people gathered for the Eucharistic Congress. It was a powerful testimony to the vibrancy of the Catholic Church in the midst of much which has gone wrong in recent times. A moving 'moment' was the Blessed Sacrament Procession which Fr. Tom and I took part in by carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance on a plinth. The heavens opened and the rain came down. People, priests, bishops and the Cardinal got drenched! At the steps of Liverpool Cathedral the clouds parted, the sun shone and Cardinal Nichols gave the Benediction. What a contrast! There was such pride in being a Catholic that day and bearing witness to our belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Consecrated Host.

What does it mean for me to believe that Jesus is the Christ? What difference does it make for me to be a Christian? Can I be identified as a follower of Jesus? These are some interesting questions we might ask ourselves today as we ponder the Gospel reading from St. Mark.

Peter is inspired to declare that Jesus is the Christ. He has come to know him as God's Anointed One, called to carry out God's work. Jesus then explains that the Son of Man must suffer, be put to death and rise after three days. The very same Peter - the Rock - crumbles to smithereens because he cannot accept this crucial aspect of Jesus' identity as Christ and Son of Man! Jesus says to him: 'Get behind me, Satan!' The passage concludes with the Lord inviting everyone gathered to be ready to carry their crosses and follow him.

As St. Mark relates this account to his community, what was he saying to them? What is the message for us? Many scholars would say that St. Mark's Gospel was set in writing for the Christian Community in Rome where they faced huge persecution from the Emperor Nero. Their lives were at risk and so it was essential that they understood fully who Jesus Christ truly was and that their personal commitment to him would give mutual support to believers and prepare them for the possibility of death. When Christians were confronted with suffering, the fact that their Lord and Master suffered would have given them courage, hope and strength.

Look again at the questions above. Ask yourself what your honest answers might be. See if your relationship with Jesus can 'fire' you up to let others know about him! God bless all you do and support your witness to his Son Jesus. *Fr. Norbert*

MICHAEL MULRENNAN RIP Michael's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 19th September at 12.30pm. His body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Tuesday 18th.

VINCENT LEONARD R.I.P. Vincent's Funeral Mass will be at 10.30am in St. Bonaventure's on Friday 21st September. (There will be no 9.30am Mass on that day.) His body will be received into the church at 4pm on Thursday.

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. There will be reports from Adoremus, the World Meeting of Families and thoughts about Prayer for Vocations. Also, Fr. Norbert wants to hear your feelings about the possibility of our three parishes becoming one canonical parish, i.e. being one parish in Church Law. **YOUR PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE COME!**

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert urges parent/s to visit the 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.

CONFIRMATION Enrolment of young people for Confirmation will be in Holy Family Church on Sunday 21st October at 7pm. Young people should be at least in Year 9 at school. Parents are asked to come to this meeting with their son or daughter. The meeting will last one hour.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Enrolment for St. Bonaventure's First Confession and First Holy Communion will be in the Parish Hall of St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 13th October at 11am. The children's sessions will begin the following Saturday (20th October). Enrolment dates for Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church will be finalised soon.

MEMORIAL SERVICE Saturday 3rd 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. The Bereavement Group

The **CAFOD** group would like to thank everyone who supported the recent BBQ either by attending, donating or contributing in any way. We had a beautifully sunny day, lots of home made burgers, speciality sausages and much much more. The wine flowed throughout the afternoon and we thank all our guests who helped to make the afternoon such a success. A total of £469 has been collected.

FLOWERS FOR OUR LADY'S CHURCH The ladies who do the floral arrangements at Our Lady's Church need help. We are asking if any budding flower arranger or somebody who just love flowers would like to come and join us on a Saturday morning to make the church look beautiful. 10am for a couple of hours. Please contact Sally Rand 01707 884492.

COFFEE MORNING held in the Sacristy at Our Lady's Church every Thursday morning, 10.30 till 12.00. We are a group of ladies and would be delighted to see any newcomers for a sociable get together. If you would like to come and need more information please ring Anne Davidson, 01707 327569.

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. There will be canapes and drinks in the Peace Garden Room after the Mass. You are all invited.

AVIGNON A coach for Stansted has been booked leaving from Our Lady's Church car park at 5.45am on Sunday 23rd September and returning on Friday 28th. Please would pilgrims travelling on the coach give Fr. Norbert £20 per person in an envelope this week.

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 19 pilgrims have signed up already. Pax Travel can take up to 41 in all, so send in your booking forms soon!

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

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS Polish community would like to invite everyone for the Polish - English Mass on Saturday 22nd September at 6pm. After the Mass join us in the Church Hall for the reception where there will be delicious Polish food.

Zapraszamy wszystkich serdecznie na Polsko - Angielską mszę która odbędzie się 22 września o godzinie 18.00. Po mszy zapraszamy do kościelnej salki gdzie będzie można spróbować Polskiego jedzenia. Wszystkich chętnych do pomocy w przygotowaniu salki i jakiegoś poczęstunku prosimy o kontakt z Kasią po numerem 07834 383219 lub Moniką 07958775674.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Sunday 11th November at 1.30pm Hatfield Hyde. Sunday 18th November at 2pm Southway. Sunday 25th November 2pm at Welwyn New Cemetery.

AN OPEN DOOR TO SYRIA 5th October (Friday) 8pm-9.30pm Focolare Centre for Unity
As many of you know, in July I went to Syria to support the community there. Now I would love to share with you how it went. Do feel free to come along and discover the life of our friends now in this amazing country. Sylwia.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Saturday 20th October and Saturday 8th December at 6pm at Our Lady's Church.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 5th October.

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. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

SEMINARIANS Juan Guzmán, who came to Welwyn Garden City last year from the seminary in Seville, will be ordained a deacon on Saturday 22nd September in Seville Cathedral. Please keep him in your prayers. Rémy Pignal from the Diocese of St. Denis (Paris, France) has asked to visit 22nd - 26th October; he will be ordained a deacon next year.

HOT OFF THE PRESS! Following on from the successful series of events in the lead up to the Synod on Youth in October, the first post-synod event with Cardinal Vincent reflecting on the Synod in Rome, will take place at Archbishop's House on Tuesday 30th October, 7 to 8.30pm. Free to attend for young adults aged 18-35. For bookings, email youth@rcdow.org.uk or visit dowym.com. It would be brilliant to have young adults representing WGC at this meeting!

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.

DATES Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong. in Cathedral. Keep the dates free!

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

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

SVP REQUEST A single mum requires clothes for a girl (size 3-4yrs) and toys and books. Contact Janet 326456 or Desi (371399).

OUR LADY'S Thank you very much to the Monday Bingo Group for the donation of £300 towards the Benches Refurbishment Fund.

FINANCE COMMITTEES Our Lady's Tuesday 23rd October. Holy Family 31st October.

EDUCATION SUNDAY Holy Family School is leading the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church today. We welcome children and their families, staff and governors.

ALTAR SERVERS MASS The National Altar Servers Mass will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 6th October at 2.30pm. Fr. Norbert invites the servers of our three parishes to this celebration. Servers will need to be accompanied by a parent. We will get 12.52 train from Welwyn Garden City Station and come back around 5.30pm. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested and give him your details.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP 3.45 - 4.45pm in St. Bonaventure's hall.

MASS TIMES

17 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
18 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
19 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
20 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions
21 Friday	*10.30am*	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
			Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year	
22 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**