

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Second Sunday of the Year 19th January page 125 of Mass book

On Friday evening I went to the launch of the Centenary Year of Welwyn Garden City. It was freezing...winter setting in! There was a Festival of Light to break into the darkness of the night sky. Children carried lanterns, speeches were made and music played. The most important thing was that people of all ages and backgrounds were together celebrating. It is just the start of the Centenary and much more will follow. It is so appropriate that we chose to have our Centenary Service this Sunday following on from the launch in Howardsgate. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity started on 18th January and will conclude on 25th with the celebration of the Conversion of St. Paul. The Quaker movement initiated this Garden City. The vision was of offering the very best to people so that they could find a home and better living conditions mixing town and country - as the new signs say! There will be many events but if you can support the Service today (Sunday) that would add such a prayerful act of thanksgiving to all that takes place.

Christmas probably seems a long time ago! How were the celebrations for you? What stood out as awe-inspiring? What was complicated or unexpected? It was wonderful to share the gift of Christmas with so many at all the Masses across our three churches. There was a powerful sense of God's presence and a great response from people to come and celebrate the Lord's Birth. This Child has grown up and there is so much more he wants to share with us! In our Gospel reading today from St. John, we are presented with the picture of John the Baptist pointing to the Lord and bearing witness to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, to the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. How do you need Jesus in your life? How can you too bear witness to him? Perhaps in 2020, the Lord is asking each of us in a fresh way to make him known as well as come closer to him.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

CENTENARY SERVICE The Churches in Welwyn Garden City will be having a Service to mark the town's Centenary this afternoon (Sunday 19th) at 4 o'clock. It will be at St. John's Church, Monks Rise AL8 7NX. (Parking available in Monks Walk School) Afterwards there will be tea and cake. The WGC Brass Band will play. The Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, the Leader of the Council and councillors as well as heads of our local schools. Fr. Norbert will be giving the reflection and he needs your support! So please come and give thanks to God for 100 years of the Garden City. Everyone is welcome!

GABRIELLE TUCKER RIP Gabrielle's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Friday 24th January at 2pm.

MARY TIMPSON RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 30th January at 9.30am. *There will still be a 9.30 Mass at Holy Family that day.*

DAVID CLARK RIP David's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 3rd February at 9.30am.

SUSAN JOHNSON RIP Susan's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Monday 3rd February at 12 noon.

KEITH TIPPING RIP Keith's Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 6th February at 9.30am at Holy Family. *There will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions that morning.*

MARY O'NEILL RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 12th February at 12.30pm.

RCIA for those preparing to join the Catholic Church at Easter starts up again on Monday 20th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The young people's next session will be on Sunday 26th January at 7.15pm at Holy Family.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The first meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will be on Wednesday 29th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. Valentine's day is fast approaching and then it will be Leap Year Day on 29th February! The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

BUILDING WORKS The new Parish Centre is progressing and should be ready June/July depending on the severity of the winter. There has been a delay at Holy Family with the Tower but we have been assured that things will get moving soon.

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 celebrant on 21st February and 27th March.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at 6.30 at St. Bonaventure's will be on 7th February followed by breakfast in the hall.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 14th February at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome. Please note that in 2020 Friday 10th April will be Good Friday and Friday 8th May will be a Public Holiday; so on those Fridays there will not be the scheduled 'Restoration Holy Hours'.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Monday 27th January 9.30am Hawthorne Theatre, Campus West - a presentation by our local Secondary Schools followed by the Civic Memorial Day Ceremony, Campus West outdoor arena 11am.

ASSISI 2020 Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. There will be limited places so if you are interested, please return your booking form to Pax Travel as soon as possible. If anyone needs an electronic version, please let Fr. Norbert know.

OBERAMMERGAU Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version. Europe was affected by a terrible plague at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1633 the people of the village of Oberammergau in Germany prayed and promised that if the plague left their village, a play commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ would be performed every ten years. Their prayers were answered and the first Passion Play was performed in 1634.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL The minutes of last Wednesday's meeting are available at the back of the church.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING will take place on Wednesday 22nd January when tea/coffee has ended after the 9.30am Mass.

Holy Family CAFOD group are inviting all our supporters to a Thank You evening on 24th January from 7pm. Drinks and a light buffet will be provided.

HOLY FAMILY lost property – could we ask parishioners to check at the back of the church for any lost property. It is our intention to take all the unclaimed lost property at the back of the church to a charity shop at the end of February. If you have lost small articles of clothing gloves glasses umbrellas etc in the last 12 months it is worth checking the lost property.

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES An Iranian couple and their young son have been offered a house and they are in need of furniture, if you can help please contact Vicky Woodcraft: woodcraftvicky@gmail.com.

LOVE TO SING? Welwyn Harmony Chorus welcomes you to come and join in a taster course. A local friendly ladies singing group looking to share the fun of singing together in close harmony. No experience required and no need to read music. Every Tuesday until 4th February 7.30pm - 9.15pm at the Vineyard Barn, Digswell Rise. For more information email: info@welwynharmony.co.uk, but just feel free to turn up, you will be very welcome.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 21st January 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along?

MOTHER AND TODDLER Come and give this small friendly group a try - every Wednesday from 10am - 11.30am in St Bonaventure's Parish Hall.

BIBLE STUDY 2020 for those who have signed up begins this Thursday in Holy Family Parish Room.

TRANSPORT TO MASS contact Martin Moore on 07768 650660 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399 who will endeavour to arrange a lift for you.

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Our Lady's Church
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St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tony 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

You can read the newsletter on the Website
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

PEACE SUNDAY Today is 53rd WORLD DAY OF PEACE. In his message for this day the Pope speaks of Peace as "A Journey of Hope" that we must take even when obstacles seem insurmountable. The goal in our lives is our Hope for Peace which should be lived out in DIALOGUE rather than anger, SEEKING RECONCILIATION when hurt has been caused and ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION to guard the earth's resources. Prayer cards are available at the back of the Church.

DATES FOR 2020 Special Needs Masses will be at 6pm on Saturdays 7th March and 2nd May. Signed Masses on Saturdays 14th March and 25th July. Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 16th May. Polish-English Mass Saturday 6th June at 6pm. Filipino Mass on Saturday 4th July at 6pm. African Mass Sunday 12th July at 11.30am.

MASS TIMES

20 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
21 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	S. Bonaventure	St. Agnes
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
23 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
24 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis de Sales
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Conversion of St. Paul

Third Sunday of the Year

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 **Chaplaincy** Office Tel: **01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935.