

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Thirty-second Sunday of the year 8th November 2015 (p.155 of Mass book)

In today's Gospel reading from St. Mark, we hear Jesus speaking about two different kinds of people: firstly, the scribes with their flowing robes and the rich who contribute to the Temple funds and, secondly, a poor widow who gives everything she has in the form of two small coins equivalent to a penny. What a contrast! About the former group, Jesus says: 'Beware!'; of the widow, the Lord notes that she has given everything. Jesus observes all that takes place and can see into people's hearts. He knows the others have given a great deal but he is inspired by the total trust and pure love of the humble widow.

The sacrifice of the widow is a perfect example to hold before ourselves today as we gather for Mass. Her giving points us to the perfect Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and his entrusting everything into the Father's hands for our salvation. This is at the heart of the Eucharist. As Jesus saw the woman's sacrificial offering, he would have reflected on what would be asked of him when seized in the Garden of Gethsemane. This passage comes shortly before the Passion of Christ. Jesus was able to recognise his Spirit at work in the poor widow. Perhaps we might consider ourselves and how we let the Lord's Spirit into our lives inspiring us to give totally of ourselves for others and for God.

Today on Remembrance Sunday we recall the huge sacrifice of so many who gave their lives for their country, for peace, justice and freedom. The years have rolled by since the First and Second World Wars. There have been so many other wars where sacrifice was necessary to protect the vulnerable and weak. We give thanks for the service offered. However, in doing so, we never want to lose sight of our desire for peace. We need to pray for the war dead that their souls may find rest. We should pray for all who still bear the scars of war and feel the pain of their loss. May the poor widow continue to be a model of how to live filled with the presence of Christ.

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

FR. NORBERT'S DAD is seriously ill in hospital after contracting an infection in his kidneys. Please keep Joe in your prayers.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION Thank you for your generous response to last weekend's second collection.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway this Sunday 8th November at 2pm. Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm on Sunday 22nd November.

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE Many of you took home the pledge cards regarding the Planned Giving Drive we recently had in our three churches. We would ask that you return them this weekend. At all Masses members of the Finance Committees will be at the back of each church to receive the pledge cards and answer any questions. Thank you for your co-operation and great generosity.

RECEPTION CLASS AND NURSERY Fr. Norbert will make times available in December. Watch this space. Please note that there will now be a Certificate of Catholicity instituted by the Bishops of England and Wales. Basically a priest can only give a family a Certificate of Catholicity if the family attends Mass every week. So the responsibility is on each family to do all they can to live up to what has always been the Catholic Church's expectation that Catholics attend Mass every week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016 Holy Family Church's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

SVP ANNUAL COLLECTION This will take place next Sunday after all Masses. Please give your support to the work of the SVP in Welwyn Garden City and surrounding villages, thank you. Please do read the leaflet that comes with this newsletter. Gift Aid envelopes will be available for you to use.

NATIONAL INTER FAITH WEEK 15 - 22 November Local events: Tuesday 17th November, Bring & Share Supper at the Focolare Centre 7pm, (please sign the list at the back of the church with your offering of food); Saturday 21st November, an evening of music and reflection at the Friends' Meeting House at 7.30pm and on Sunday 22nd November 10 - 5 a food bank collection at Morrisons, Panshanger. Please phone Valerie on 01707 324828 if you can offer an hour of your time to help with this.

BEREAVEMENT A new group called Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide will be launched on Tuesday 17th November and will meet in Old Hatfield. For more information, please call Sheila on 07902077751 or Email hatfieldSOBS@outlook.com.

DAY ON THE YEAR OF MERCY Fr. John Hemer will be leading a day for the catechists of our Deanery on the Year of Mercy. It will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS) on Saturday 21st November 10am - 3pm. Fr. John has led the days for catechists for the last couple of years and has always given an inspiring presentation. For this reason, and with the importance of the Year of Mercy for everyone, ALL parishioners are welcome to attend as well. Please bring food to share at lunchtime. If you have already decided to attend, please let Fr. Norbert know so that he has an idea of numbers.

***SHOEBOXES*(OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD)** Please bring your filled boxes to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready and by 22nd November at the very latest. 100 flat pack boxes were given out and so far we only have 9 sent back in!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We had a great party last Tuesday with about 50 children enjoying themselves. A big thank you to all the parents who came along to help.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 13th 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 29th November from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION St. Bonaventure's children meet again this Saturday when they learn about the Gift of Baptism. Children's Mass on Sunday.

LIKE TO SING? Then come to the choir practice on Thursday 12th November at 10.15am at St. Bonaventure's.

HCPT Dinner Dance Friday 4th December 7pm till 11pm at Club de Havilland, Hatfield. 2 course meal with live band, £25 a head. All money raised will be going to help children with special needs. To book your ticket please call Bev Kleiser on 07751410759.

PETER SHIELDS R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Peter Shields is at 11.15am in Holy Family Church on Friday 13th November. The body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Thursday 12th.

CYRIL CRAWLEY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Cyril Crawley R.I.P. will be on Monday 30th November at 12noon in Our Lady's Church, the body will be received into the church at 5.30pm on Sunday 29th.

CONFIRMATION The first session for our young people will be on Sunday 22nd November in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church at 7.15pm. Anyone who missed the enrolment meeting should contact Fr. Norbert.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH: Many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning, your help is much appreciated.

CWL meets again this Tuesday after the 7pm Mass (offered for deceased members). Anne Stapleton will talk about Climate Change at the meeting. Do come along.

JUSTICE AND PEACE As part of a group organised by the diocesan Justice & Peace Commission, on 24th of this month John Fogarty will be setting off on a Cycle ride, to Paris, carrying a petition for the delegates at the United Nations talks on the Climate (COP 21 talks), which begin on the 30th November. There will be two priests, including the Parish priest from Hitchin, CAFOD workers and supporters from around the country in the group and, if you would like to sponsor John please do so online (www.justgiving.com/John-Fogarty2/) or see him at Mass.

WORLD YOUTH DAY brochures are at the back of the church. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?!

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 St. Bonaventure's
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Fr. Martin 01707 327434
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
 welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

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

PILGRIMAGES Pax Travel is organising for us a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Prague next year 22nd - 26th October, 2016. Brochures will be available soon. There will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. There will be a meeting about the Holy Land trip on Tuesday 26th January, 2016 at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall.

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

MASS TIMES

09 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Dedication of Lateran Basilica
10 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Leo the Great
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Martin of Tours
12 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Josaphat
	4.30pm	Reception of body		
13 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	11.15am	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Thirty-Third 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



<p>CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463</p>
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