

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*

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, our King 20th November 2016 p. 167 of book

‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ These are the words of the thief dying alongside Jesus on Calvary. St. Luke is the only Evangelist who gives us this scene to reflect on as Jesus comes to the end of his life.

Jesus is a name which means ‘God saves’ and indeed his Death on the Cross is the source of salvation - a gift which brings forgiveness, offers healing and takes us into the eternity of heaven. This is such a personal encounter as a criminal calls on God’s Son by name. Next he uses the word ‘remember’ which implies being known and not forgotten. The Good Thief focuses completely on the power of God at work in Jesus who has done nothing wrong; the thief only wants to be remembered. At the end of our lives our prayer too is that the Lord will remember us and that the thought of us will bring us life beyond measure. Finally, ‘when you come into your kingdom’ concludes the prayer of this man. Where is the kingdom? What is it like? How long will it last for? Who will be there? At the heart of God’s kingdom is God eternally Three-in-One caught up in love. Wherever God is, there is the presence of his kingdom. The moment of bliss - heaven - lasts for eternity. God wants all people to be there with him for ever. The offer and invitation are very clear; the response is ours to make. And Jesus says to him: ‘Today you will be with me in paradise.’ What better answer could the Good Thief have hoped for? Our God is great!

So today the Church’s Year draws to a close and the Jubilee Year of Mercy is completed as Pope Francis closes the Door of St. Peter’s; it will be sealed up for the next Jubilee Year! On this Solemnity of Christ the King, let us take time to reflect on the prayer of the Good Thief. Let us pray with all our hearts that Jesus Christ will save us, remember us for eternity and bring us the life of paradise. May God bless you and continue to lavish many graces upon you as you prepare to enter a new year in the Church’s life.

Fr. Norbert

CLOSING OF JUBILEE YEAR Our thanks to all who helped with the celebration of Mass last Friday and with the Reception in the hall. This has been quite a year! Thank you to anyone and everyone who has contributed to the prayer and hospitality of the Jubilee.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL next meets on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. The group will reflect on the Open Parish Meeting held in September and on the fruits of the Jubilee Year as well as looking forward to 2017.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS Our Lady's - Friday 25th November at 7.45pm; St. Bonaventure's - Sunday 27th November at 9.30am. Holy Family - Thursday 8th December at 7pm.

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

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 3rd December at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'Curry Night' in the hall. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to bring a curry (or something less spicy!).

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you missed one of the enrolment meetings for Holy Family Church or Our Lady's Church please see Fr. Norbert.

CONFIRMATION The next session for our young people will be on Sunday 27th November at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church's Parish Room.

RCIA Next meeting on Monday 21st November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn (Southway) today (Sunday 20th) at 2pm. Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 27th November at 2pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. After the summer, please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

EARLY MASS The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on Friday 2nd December at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast

BAKE SALE A group of sixth form students from Loreto College will be holding a bake sale fundraising event at St Bonaventure's Church after the 10.30am Mass this Sunday. All proceeds raised will be donated to the Daylight Club, a charity which supports adults with physical disabilities taking them on day trips, holding workshops and community events.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Christmas Fair is on Friday 9th December from 3.30pm. All welcome.

HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE MASS The Giving Tree Mass this year will be on Sunday 11th December at 9.30am. During this Mass the children will be encouraged to think about children less fortunate than themselves. The idea is that every child who attends the Mass brings up a wrapped Christmas gift to be placed under a 'Giving Tree' during the Offertory. (Please label your gifts either Boy/Girl and include a suggested age range, e.g. under 5, 5 to 12 or teenager) These gifts will then be given to children in need in the local area. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please note: If you forget to bring your present to the morning Mass, please ensure it is at the church by evening Mass on that day so they can all be collected together. Thank you.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH OUTDOOR CRIB The outdoor crib will be erected on Saturday 26th November 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?

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES Boxes are being collected tomorrow (Monday 21st November). Boxes need to be in today. Thank you to all those who have supported this appeal.

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 27th November. 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 are available at the back of church, 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 are also available and free to those who will use them.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 18th 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 4th December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

HOLY FAMILY COFFEE MORNINGS Just a quick reminder about the charity coffee mornings after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family. Our aim is to provide a platform for parishioners old and new to socialise after Mass as a church community and also to raise money for various local charities. It would be lovely to see you there if you can spare the time. We could also do with some more volunteers to help. If you think you can spare approx 45mins after Mass once in a while please contact Sally Kee on 01707 261394/07870 402510 or Michael Cole on 01438 820531.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for the Elderly and Housebound There will be a bucket collection to raise money for our Christmas Hampers for the elderly and housebound on Sunday 27th November, the first Sunday of Advent. Hamper packing will take place in the Holy Family Church Parish Room on Fri 16th Dec at 7pm and delivery the following day 17th Dec (hampers to be collected at 10am.) If you would like to help with the hampers in any way perhaps by shaking a bucket on 27th Nov or by packing or delivering or if know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a hamper please contact Sally Kee 07870 402510, Caroline Sherar 07929 709901, Ann Power 07732 974780 or Joss Innocent Landers 07757 753426. Your response last year was amazing and we're hoping this year will be the same as the recipients are always truly delighted to receive their hamper but also to know that we as a parish are thinking of them at this sometimes lonely time of year.

CHRISTMAS FLORISTRY WORKSHOPS The Welwyn Florist is running a series of floristry workshops during November and December where you can learn how to make beautiful Christmas table decorations, door garlands and fireplace arrangements. Both daytime and evening workshops available for up to 6 attendees per session. For further details please contact welwynflorist@gmail.com or call Ann on 07732 974780.

HCPT Christmas Fair Saturday 26th November in Our Lady's hall 11am - 3pm. Come and join us for winter warmers, Tombola, children's activities including a visit from Fr Christmas and much more. Only 50p entry.

The Mid-Hertfordshire Branch of the Wives Fellowship has organised a Christmas Carol Service, 6 December at St Bonaventure's Church at 10.30am. It will last approximately one hour. You are welcome to attend.

MARIE SIMMONDS R.I.P. We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Marie who died last Tuesday. Funeral details are not yet available.

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 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

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

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

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 38 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

FATIMA 2017 Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel is offering us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. Brochures now at the back of our churches.

THE HCPT desperately need bottles for their Christmas Fair on the 26th November. If you are able to help please leave your donation at the back of the church in the HCPT box.

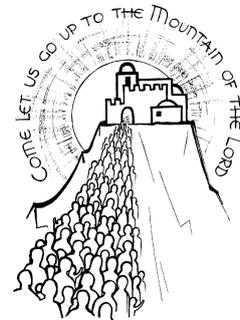
CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30am - 11am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

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

First Sunday of Advent

26 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
27 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