

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-eighth Sunday of the Year 15th October 2017 p. 140 of Mass book

The Bishops of England and Wales have decided to hold a Eucharistic Congress next year in Liverpool. It will be a significant moment in the life of the Church in this land as the last such Congress was in 1908! Delegates from these countries will gather for three days when there will be theological input, prayers, Mass and a huge procession on the final day. In the coming months the Bishops' Conference will send many publications for us to reflect on in our parishes, suggestions for deepening our understanding of the power of the Eucharist...and a lot more beside! The Congress will have the title *Adoremus!* - a Latin word which means 'Let us adore'. This is just a beginning as I write today, but let me know if you have any specific thoughts about the Bishops' intentions. Also, next year's Synod of Bishops in Rome in October which Pope Francis will convene will be looking at young people and vocation. It certainly looks as if we will have much to think about and do!

In today's Gospel parable, we hear about a feast, more specifically a wedding feast. So many have been invited and yet keep finding excuses not to attend - always good reasons! St. Matthew wants us to remember that the invitation to God's Kingdom has been issued to everyone and that the response should have a priority in our lives, demanding a particular way of living and a special mode of being. As we pause in our busy schedule to come to Mass, we are obviously showing that we want to put Christ first through this great Act of Worship which is the Eucharist. However, is there more Jesus is asking of us personally? Does his invitation include a few extras which we are not willing to notice or heed? NOW is the time to commit ourselves to action! The parables nudge us, tease us and challenge us to internalise the power of Christ's message. Can each one of us TODAY take on the full import of the Word of God and respond? Let's pray for this grace.

God bless you and have a good week. ***Fr. Norbert***

MEMORIAL SERVICE Saturday 4 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.

BEN GUDGEON RIP Ben's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 16th October at 11.30am.

ROBERT CLOUGH RIP Robert's Memorial Service will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 23rd October at 11am.

DAVINA KIRKPATRICK RIP Davina's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Monday 23rd October at 12.30pm.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION Sessions for the parents of the children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place early next year. Children for Confession and Holy Communion are in Year 3 or above. At Holy Family Church the classes are weekly usually on a Wednesday afternoon after school starting in January/February - the Enrolment Meeting will be in Holy Family Church after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 5th November. At Our Lady's Church the classes are on Sunday mornings before 11.30 Mass starting in January - the Enrolment Meeting will be on Tuesday 14th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. At St. Bonaventure's the children have classes once a month on Saturdays. (If you missed the enrolment meeting, please contact Kathryn Hubbard).

CONFIRMATION Young people from our three churches in Year 9 and above at school are invited to come with their parents to an Enrolment Meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation today (15th) at 7pm in Holy Family Church. The course begins in November.

MONTHLY ADORATION Some parishioners have offered to lead a monthly Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music and reflections. It will take place on the second Friday of the month at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass with a 7.45pm start. There will be Benediction to conclude. The name chosen for the hour is 'Restoration'. The first Restoration Holy Hour will be on Friday 10th November. Everyone is welcome.

POLISH THANKS We are very grateful to the Polish Community for leading us so prayerfully last Saturday at the Polish-English Mass. The hospitality afterwards was great. Thank you!

SCHOOLS Our thanks to Holy Family and Our Lady Schools for the wonderful ways in which they led the celebrations of Mass to mark Education Sunday on 17th September and 8th October.

CHILDREN'S MASS AND LITURGY In each of our churches there are dedicated adults who work hard to enrich our children week by week in a deeper understanding of the Scriptures as well as co-ordinating a monthly Children's Mass. Thank you for all you do.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Holy Family Wednesday 18th October at 7pm.

CALLING ANY SCOTS!!! Next month sees the feast of St Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. It would be good to mark the day with something after the morning Mass that day with a Scottish flavour. Are there any Scots who are willing to help organise a celebration? Please contact Fr Tom so we can start planning.

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the annual Deanery Mass at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 21st November at 11am followed by coffee/tea in the Parish Room. There will not be a 9.30am Mass that morning at St. Bonaventure's. Everyone is welcome!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place next year on Saturday 24th March (venue to be confirmed). Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

RCIA For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more. Perhaps you are an adult baptised as a child who have not been confirmed? We started last Monday. There were five adults. If anyone else is interested you would be most welcome. Come to Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 16th!

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents who need a Certificate of Catholicity, which implies weekly attendance at Mass, should contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment with Fr. Norbert who will be available to sign these certificates on Tuesday 17th October 4.30 - 6.30pm. Parents and children should come together and wait in Our Lady's Church. Fr. Norbert will call you when ready. There is an 'extra form' for parents to fill out before they come to give Fr. Norbert details of Baptism etc. Please make sure you collect one from the back of our churches.

SIGNED MASS in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 11th November at 6pm. If you know of anyone who is deaf, please inform them that the whole Mass (including hymns) will be signed that day.

HOLY LAND The pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Welwyn Garden City in November will include Christians from various Churches. The dates are Wednesday 22nd - Thursday 30th November and the price is £1149 for a person sharing a room. 37 have signed up and there are still some places. If interested please take a brochure (and booking form) from the back of the church.

AVIGNON 2018 Next year there will be a trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures should be available next weekend.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES) Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. Thanks.

USED STAMPS 'Thank you all for the generous donations of stamps regularly received from St. Bonaventure's. We appreciate the generous support of parishioners. Used stamps are a very good and painless way to help the missions. We prepare and sort the stamps and then sell them (by weight) to various stamp collectors. All the money we receive is then used for the missions and enormous amounts have been raised. Please keep up the good work!' *Fr. Kyran Murphy (Director) St. Patrick's Missionary Society*

INTER FAITH Part of the local inter faith group's function is to give people the opportunity to find out about other faiths. The next evening meeting will be on a little known religion, Zoroastrianism. It will take place on 24th October in the Community Meeting Room at Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Rd., Hatfield AL30 0DA at 7.15 - 9.30pm. All welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'curry night' in the Hall. All welcome!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our party on Tuesday 31st October from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (pizza provided). Parents are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 4.45pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. £2 to cover costs.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
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 Our Lady's Church
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Fr. Tom 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

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS We find that the Catholic papers at the back of our three churches are not being taken and very often many are left. If this continues to be the case, perhaps it might be better for individuals to take out subscriptions so that these papers are sent directly to your homes? *A decision needs to be made soon. Please let Fr. Norbert know what you think.*

BLESSING OF GRAVES Welwyn Cemetery - Sunday 5th November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery - Sunday 12th November at 2pm. Southway Cemetery - Sunday 19th November at 2pm.

CONCERT The WGC Male Choir will be having a concert in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 28th October after 6pm Mass.

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

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Margaret Mary
	11.30am	Funeral Service	St. Bonaventure	
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Ignatius of Antioch
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Luke
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Paul of the Cross
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year

21 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
22 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**