

# 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*

*Christ the King 26th November 2017 p. 158 of Mass book*

‘I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’ These are the challenging words of Jesus in today’s Gospel reading from St. Matthew as we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. What do you hear the Lord saying to you personally today? What will be your response this week? How do you hope to carry out his will and thus share in life eternal?

This parable challenges us to open our eyes - wide! This parable forces us to look - and really look! This parable is uncompromising and so many of us will feel we have fallen short of what the Lord asks! When I encounter someone in need, does this person become a problem or is it Christ I see? When I am in a difficult and desperate situation, am I aware that Christ is so close to me and waiting to be served? As I reach out to the person who comes my way seeking help, can I truly believe that the Kingdom of God is breaking in and that Christ reigns in me and in that individual? What a strange Kingdom! The Lord gives us this powerful, thought-provoking imagery as he gets ready for his own Passion, Death and Resurrection! As the Church’s Year draws to a close this last Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us pray that the effects of reflecting on St. Matthew’s Gospel this past year will stay with us, that we will remember that in Jesus God is with us!

I write these words just before setting off for the Holy Land, which is sometimes referred to as the ‘Fifth Gospel’! To be standing in places where Jesus was, to behold scenes he might have seen, to feel the influence of his presence in his homeland - these are some of our aspirations as we journey to the Terra Santa. The Gospel is a living experience of Good News which has been proclaimed; the Gospel is the proclamation of Good News which has been experienced! And whether we are walking in the Holy Land or you step on the pavements of Welwyn Garden City, the Lord definitely finds ways of sharing with us, and invigorating us with, the power of his message. Have a great week. We will pray for you every step of the way. Don’t forget us! God bless you. **Fr. Norbert**

**ADVENT** begins next Sunday 3rd December. 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 this Sunday, 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.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES** Last Tuesday the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes were collected, 155 in total, the best we have done so far. Thank you for your generous support - there will be many very happy children this Christmas.

**COMMISSIONING AND RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS** in our three churches will take place at all the Masses next weekend (2nd/3rd December); this involves Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musicians & Singers, Altar Servers, Catechists (including Children's Liturgy) and Welcomers.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people have their next session today (Sunday 26th) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church.

**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** Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 27th November.

**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. Please bring food to the hall before Mass. There will be bingo and a quiz - as always! All welcome.

**AVIGNON 2018** Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

**MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY** Our thanks to all who helped with the celebration of last week's Mass and the reception afterwards. The deanery lunch was excellent! Thank you to Year 6 of Holy Family School and their staff for the singing and serving at the altar.

**MID-HERTS CATENIANS** invite the altar servers of the three WGC parishes and the Holy Family Band to the pantomime in the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on 27th January at 12.30. All children must be accompanied at their own expense by a parent or adult known to both parents and child. If you would like to accept this offer please contact Bill Hayes, telephone 01707325772 email William.hayes2@ntlworld.com for St Bonaventure's and Our Lady's servers, or Michael Cole telephone 01438820531 or email michaelcole@hotmail.com for Holy Family. The cost of tickets payable by accompanying adults is £22.00 per ticket. Please contact Bill or Michael no later than 8th December.

**EILEEN FIRMINER RIP** Eileen's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 12th December at 12 noon.

**MARY McKAY RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday 15th December at 12.30pm.

**MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 8th December at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 17th 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 3rd December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there in the hall at St. Bonaventure's.

**HCPT GROUP 183** Christmas Fair Sunday 3rd December 12pm to 3pm at Our Lady's church hall. Come and join us for winter warmers, tombola and lots of children's games. Also a visit from Fr. Christmas. All money raised will go to HCPT Group 183. Bottles for the fair are still needed. If you are able to help please leave your bottle donation at the back of the church.

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

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ** in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

**ZUMBA** for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

**CHOIR (ST. BONAVENTURE'S)** There will be a Choir rehearsal to prepare for Advent on Friday 1st December at 11am. All welcome.

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 1st December followed by breakfast in the hall. All are welcome. We are very grateful to those who prepare the breakfast!

**SENIOR CITIZENS TEA PARTY** Nicholas Breakspear School students will be presenting an afternoon of Christmas songs, bingo, afternoon tea and a seasonal performance by their choir on Tuesday 12th December at 12.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Sharon Robson on 01727 860079 (ext. 224) or email [robsons@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:robsons@nbs.herts.sch.uk)

**OUR LADY'S** The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's Church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next Saturday 2nd December at **10am** for ONE hour. Refreshments will be available afterwards. All are welcome to come along, Can you help?

And also **OUR LADY'S CHURCH OUTDOOR CRIB** will be erected on Saturday 2nd December 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?

**INTER FAITH** On Monday 11th December from 7pm at the Quaker Meeting House in Handside Lane, the Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group will be hosting a Seasonal Evening for all faith communities. We will be sharing our favourite prayers followed by a selection of seasonal goodies to go with our tea and coffee. All welcome.

**CAKE SALE** after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 17th November organised by Isabel Coleman and her friends from Our Lady School. They are raising funds to help Isabel's 2year old cousin who is having treatment (in Great Ormond Street Hospital) for Neuroblastoma - a rare form of cancer. Money raised will go towards further treatment. Donations of cakes etc. would be very welcome. Call Isabel's mum on 07813304798 or email [juliemurphy704@gmail.com](mailto:juliemurphy704@gmail.com) if you can help or just bring a cake on 17th December. Thank you.

**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](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk)**

**CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS:** Friday 8 Dec, 7-9pm, Come and celebrate the Christmas season singing carols in The Cloisters (off Parkway) followed by refreshments and more carols at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Contributions of mince pies or soft drinks most welcome!

**RECEPTION CLASS AND NURSERY** Fr. Norbert will have dates for Reception and Nursery classes form signing in December so watch this space!

**DIOCESAN ANNUAL REPORT** and Accounts are available on [www.rcdow.org.uk/publications](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/publications) There is a hard copy of each at the back of the church.

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

**MASS TIMES**

27 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
28 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
29 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
30 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Andrew
01 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

**First Sunday of Advent**

<b>02 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>03 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	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](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net)