

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-second Sunday of the Year 2nd September page 126 of the Mass Book

How has your summer been? Do feel ready for another year? I began my holidays in Romania in Bacau visiting Fr. Marius Cojan who came to WGC last year. He made sure I had time to rest and planned a number of things to give me a taste of the Church in his country. As many of you know, my younger brother Francis had a massive heart attack that week; so I flew back to London to be with him and his wife. I really thought I might be coming back to a Funeral as he wasn't breathing for 12 minutes. An off-duty policeman gave him CPR and kept him going. An air-ambulance took him to hospital. Francis is now at home resting and recovering from all that took place. He is aware that so many of you here in Welwyn Garden City were praying for him and he is so grateful. After that I had some days of retreat, as planned, in Arundel with the Poor Clares. It truly was a time of refreshment and closeness to the Lord. Then off to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families - a wonderful experience with thousands from every nation gathered to reflect on Family Life with its challenges and joys. Now I have been back a week and am gradually getting back into the routine, catching up with messages and preparing for the next weeks and months.

I hope to be able to share with you some of the points from Dublin. There was also a presentation about young people and the forthcoming Synod of Bishops which will look at the place of young people in the Church and the world. The process of preparation and collaboration was also explained. It was fascinating! This too should, I think, be a priority for us here. Next weekend thousands will go to Liverpool from all over England and Wales for the Eucharistic Congress called *Adoremus*. The treasure of the Eucharist bequeathed to the Church by Christ defines who we are and supports us in all that we do. Our aspiration is to bring back to our parishes insights, teaching and ideas to strengthen our understanding. Please pray for all who will be attending.

May God bless your coming week. May you feel his love and share it with others!

Fr. Norbert

ADOREMUS The National Eucharistic Congress takes place in Liverpool this coming weekend. Fr. Norbert, Fr. Tom and ten parishioners will be travelling up there on Thursday night and returning on Sunday evening. Please keep them in your prayers. We are very grateful to Fr. Frank Leonard and Monsignor Harry Turner (retired PP of Harpenden) for covering all the Masses. On Monday Tuesday and Wednesday this week there will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after each morning Mass. If you are free why not come and add your prayerful presence? Let us pray that our appreciation of the Eucharist will deepen and spur us on to share with others this great Gift we have received.

SCHOOLS We wish all our children, staff and governors a wonderful start to the new School Year. May it be a time of blessing and enrich all with God's loving presence. A special word of welcome to Mr Richard Curry the new Head of Our Lady Primary School.

FINANCE COMMITTEES St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 11th September. Our Lady's Tuesday 23rd October. Holy Family 31st October.

CREATION DAY (on 1st September) will be marked here in Welwyn Garden City on Saturday 15th September with a film evening in the hall after Our Lady's 6pm Mass. More details next week!

MICHAEL MULRENNAN RIP Michael's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 19th September at 12.30pm. His body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Tuesday 18th.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Come to a meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Tuesday 18th September at 7.45pm to prepare for the coming year. It would be good for each parish group to send representatives to the meeting to share with others what the particular group does. The accounts of the three churches will be presented. Also, a strategy for parish activities whilst the Hall is being rebuilt will be discussed. There will be reports from Adoremus, the World Meeting of Families and thoughts about Prayer for Vocations. **YOUR PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL. PLEASE COME!**

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert urges parent/s to visit Secondary Schools with their child and to reflect on which school will help their child flourish. For those applying to Catholic Schools a Certificate of Catholicity is required which affirms that a child comes from a practising Catholic family, i.e. a family which attends Mass every week. Fr. Norbert will in due course publish dates to meet up with children and their parents/guardians to fill out the relevant forms. It is crucial to read a school's admissions policy to see if your child has a good chance of getting in.

RCIA Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or knowing more? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation when you were younger? Now's the time to think about the next steps! Pray. Talk to another Catholic. Come to Church and deepen your experience of being with others. The first session for our three parishes will be on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Enrolment of young people for Confirmation will be in Holy Family Church on Sunday 21st October at 7pm. Young people should be at least in Year 9 at school. Parents are asked to come to this meeting with their son or daughter.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Enrolment dates will be published soon. Watch this space.

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

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING This Thursday at 10am. All are welcome to come and help.

EDUCATION SUNDAY will be marked in Welwyn Garden City on Sunday 16th September.

HCPT 2019 Each year Group 183 takes children with additional needs on a life changing pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes, but this can only happen with the help of volunteers. The Group is now 5 years old and has been extremely fortunate to have been welcomed into the WGC parishes with open arms. In order for us to continue with this great work we desperately need more helpers to join the group. We travel at Easter for a week, helpers will need to be able to attend training and safeguarding before the trip, as well as time getting to know their child before travel. They will also have to be able to pay for their own travel. If this is some thing you feel you may be able to do, please contact Emma at group183@hcpt.org.uk or phone on 07740858313

place contact 07766952113 or email stjohndigswell@gmail.com

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass at 6.30 will be at St. Bonaventure's on 14th September due to the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool this week. There will be breakfast after Mass in the hall. Everyone is welcome!

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will take place at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church on Friday 14th September.. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

AVIGNON Pilgrims who would like to travel to and from Stanstead by coach should let Fr. Norbert know in the next few days so a suitably sized vehicle can be booked.

CAMINO from Opporto to Santiago de Compostella Saturday 25th May - Sunday 2nd June 2019. Brochures with booking forms are at the back of our churches. If you would like one emailed to you, please contact Fr. Norbert on welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

In 2020 there will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May and the Passion Play in Oberammergau 9th - 11th September.

SEMINARIAN Juan Feria from the Diocese of Huelva in Spain is enjoying his time in WGC and appreciates the warmth of welcome he has received from us all. He will leave on Thursday 6th September. We wish him every blessing as he starts a new year at seminary.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Sunday 11th November at 1.30pm Hatfield Hyde. Sunday 18th November at 2pm Southway. Sunday 25th November 2pm at Welwyn New Cemetery.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS We welcome to Welwyn Garden City Major Diane Watson at the Salvation Army and Reverend Bruce Anderson at Ludwick Way Methodist Church. We wish them a fruitful ministry in our town.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship which runs the Food Bank on Cole Green Lane every Wednesday 9.00 - 11.00am is very grateful for all the donations made. Please ensure that tins and packets of food are in date and that egg cartons are for six eggs only. Donations of unused toiletries would also be most welcome. There are baskets at the back of each of our churches for this purpose.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. Thank you.

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 the celebrant on 14th September and 5th October.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS has been set for Saturday 22nd September at 6pm at Our Lady's.

PLEASE SPONSOR NEVILLE who is walking in the Isabel Hospice Bridges of London event on Sunday 23rd September to raise funds in memory of Deirdre his late wife. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Neville-Davis1>.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 11th September in St. Bonaventure's hall from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. More details next week.

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

CONFESSIONS

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

FR. MARK CONNOLLY CSSp (Holy Ghost/Spiritual Fathers) who was the first priestly vocation from Welwyn Garden City, will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee (50 years!) of Priesthood on Friday 21st September at 7pm at Our Lady's where he was ordained priest. Please keep the date free and watch this space!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made.

NEED a Mobile Hairdresser? Competitive rates offered. Contact Tracey on 07581212941. Jamie - decorator/maintenance man, same number.

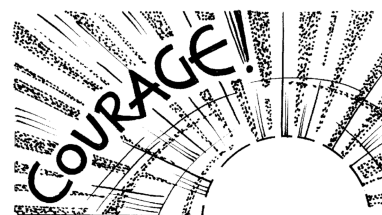
INTERFAITH on Thursday 13th September 7.15 to 9.30pm at the Focolare Centre, the interfaith Group has invited an eminent speaker, Barney Leith who was awarded an OBE for his many years working for interfaith relations. He will be speaking on the topic of 'Faith and Human Rights'.

MASS TIMES

03 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Gregory the Great
04 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Benedict
06 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
07 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Twenty-third Sunday of the Year

08 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
09 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 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**