

# 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-sixth Sunday of the Year 30th September page 138 of the Mass Book*

Today I complete ten years in Welwyn Garden City! It is the longest appointment I have had and it is such a privilege to be here as your Parish Priest, serving you and many others in the area. When I was asked to come to the Garden City, Bishop George Stack said there was no blueprint and that I would have to find a model of operating that would realise the vision of one Catholic Community with three churches. We are still here and the process continues! Sadly over these years many have died. Their loving service and generosity have built strong foundations for the future. So many sacrifices have been made in ensuring the vibrancy of the Catholic Church here: the financial giving, the offer of time and support, the attempt to think in new ways, the power of prayer underpinning everything. There have been a huge number of happy times and experiences, with laughter and the unexpected taking place. What I love is journeying with people and sharing their lives, discovering in myself new skills to meet the fresh challenges which crop up. I can't do it on my own and I am grateful to the priests and parishioners who have offered help and encouragement. A new phase has begun with people moving into the newly built properties and enriching the life of the Church.

The Scriptures offered today are interesting and thought-provoking. We have to think outside of the box, namely letting God be God. In the First Reading from Numbers, two men remain in the camp and are found to be prophesying. Joshua wants to put a stop to this but has to be put in his place by Moses who recognises that the Lord has given his Spirit to them. In the Gospel passage from St. Mark, Jesus says quite clearly to his disciple John: 'Anyone who is not against us is for us.' Christ continues by saying that his disciples should not let anyone or anything come between them and God. St. James is so harsh with his community in the Second Reading and does not mince his words about the rich who forget the poor and downtrodden. So we cannot be complacent. **THIS IS GOD'S WORK!** There is much to do so that the Gospel can be proclaimed more firmly and the Kingdom become a reality. Let all us aspire to work together and draw many more to Christ! Thank you. God bless you. Please pray for me.

*Fr. Norbert*

**CAFOD FAST DAY** This Friday is a Cafod Fast Day when we are asked to have a simple meal and save money to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world. We are reminded by Cafod that eating a simple meal isn't always easy but that it puts us in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who cannot make the choice themselves. Examples of how the money will be spent are as follows: £7 provides a spade and a pick axe to help a community maintain their borehole to get fresh water; £28 buys a goat giving a family milk to drink and sell; £98 trains ten families how to grow vegetables. There are special envelopes to GiftAid your contribution. As always THANK YOU for your generosity.

**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. It is crucial to read a school's admissions policy to see if your child has a good chance of getting in. Fr. Norbert will be available in October to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms: **Wednesday 10th 4.00 - 6.00pm, Monday 15th 4.00 - 6.30pm and Tuesday 23rd 4.00 - 6.30pm.** Please make an appointment with Kathryn Hubbard for a 10-minute slot. Parent/s and child should come to Our Lady's Church and wait to be called. In due course there will be the 'extra' form at the back of our churches which will need to be filled and brought to the meeting.

**RCIA** This Monday we start the RCIA, the process by which adults get to know more about the Catholic Church and then make a decision about joining the Church through Baptism (or Reception), Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Also, Catholic adults, who missed out on Confirmation when younger, can prepare for this Sacrament. It is a great journey as the group gets to know Christ better and deepens its appreciation of faith. Come to the first session on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. *No strings attached!!*

**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. The meeting will last one hour.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Enrolment for St. Bonaventure's First Confession and First Holy Communion will be in the Parish Hall of St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 13th October at 11am. The children's sessions are once a month on a Saturday and will begin the following Saturday (20th October). Enrolment for Our Lady's Church will be on Tuesday 27th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church (children do not have to attend); the sessions are on a Sunday morning starting in the new year. Enrolment for Holy Family Church will be on Sunday 2nd December after 9.30 Mass. Holy Family's sessions begin in the new year and are usually after school midweek.

**HCPT 2019** Group 183 desperately needs helpers for Easter Week (Monday 22nd - Saturday 27th April) to ensure that the children and young people who wish to go can do so. Helpers have to attend training and safeguarding before the trip, as well as have time getting to know their child before travel. They will also have to be able to pay for their own fare. If this is some thing you feel you may be able to do, please contact Emma at [group183@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group183@hcpt.org.uk) or phone on 07740858313. Emma needs to know by the end of October so that a decision can be made about whether or not the group can go next year.

**FR. MARK'S JUBILEE** A huge 'Thank you' to all who came to celebrate with Fr. Mark Connolly on 21st September the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood. We are very grateful to all who helped in any way and especially to Fr. Mark's family for the reception. Ad multos annos!

**POLISH-ENGLISH MASS** Our thanks to the Polish Community for leading last Saturday's Mass and for the food and drink afterwards in the hall. It was much appreciated!

**PRAYER SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** Saturday 3rd November 12.00 at St Bonaventure's. We 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 afterwards.

**MARY BOREHAM RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 4th October at 12.30pm. Her body will be received into the church on the Wednesday at 4.30pm.

**OUR LADY'S HALL** The Hall will close today (Sunday). All the groups which regularly use it have been notified. The Family Centre has played a huge part in the life of the Catholic Community and the Town. Many socialised there when they came to the Garden City. A large number met their spouses there and their children made lifelong friends in the Centre. For others it served as a venue for Wedding Receptions and Funeral Receptions. There have been dances, pantomimes, concerts and plays. A huge amount of charitable work and fundraising has taken place. Our thanks to Fr. Groarke for his vision all those years ago and to the priests and committee members who have given of themselves to serve the wider Community. In recent years there has been the Pomegranate Café and many social occasions flowing from the celebration of Mass. To mark the completion of this chapter, there will be a Get-together in the Lounge on Saturday 6th October after 6pm Mass. Please bring food to share. Those coming are invited to bring photos and mementoes and thus have a chance to catch up with others and give thanks to God for all the blessings received.

**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](mailto:welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk) 30 pilgrims have signed up already. Pax Travel can take up to 41 in all, so send in your booking forms soon!

**The CAFOD** group meets this Tuesday 7pm in Holy Family. All welcome.

**CAKE SALE** The CAFOD group are holding a cake sale at Holy Family after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 14th October. Please support our endeavours to enable the community of Sebeya in Ethiopia to live independently.

**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.

**AN OPEN DOOR TO SYRIA** 5th October (Friday) 8pm-9.30pm Focolare Centre for Unity.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES** Sat 20th October and Sat 8th December at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**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. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

**CALLING YOUNG ADULTS** Following on from the successful series of events in the lead up to the Synod on Youth in October, the first post-synod event with Cardinal Vincent reflecting on the Synod in Rome, will take place at Archbishop's House on Tuesday 30th October, 7 to 8.30pm. Free to attend for young adults aged 18-35. For bookings, email [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk) or visit [dowym.com](http://dowym.com). It would be brilliant to have young adults representing WGC at this meeting

**SEMINARIAN** Rémy Pignal from the Diocese of St. Denis (Paris, France) has asked to visit 22nd - 26th October; he will be ordained a deacon next year.

**DATES** Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong. in Cathedral. Keep the dates free!

**FIRST FRIDAY** This Friday (5th) is the First Friday of the month and so we will have Mass at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

**DEAF AWARENESS COURSE** Just to remind those who signed up that the first session is this Wednesday in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7pm.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GROUNDS** next Saturday at 10am. All welcome to help.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CLEANING** will take place on Thurs 11th October at 10am.

**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.

**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 6J

**Fr. Tom 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
Holy Family Church  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

### CONFESSIONS

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

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

**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 5th October.

**ALTAR SERVERS MASS** The National Altar Servers Mass will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 6th October at 2.30pm. Fr. Norbert invites the servers of our three parishes to this celebration. Servers will need to be accompanied by a parent. We will get 1252 train from Welwyn Garden City Station and come back around 5.30pm. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested and give him your details by Tuesday at the latest.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** 3.45 - 4.45pm in St. Bonaventure's hall. All are welcome to come, just turn up.

**MISSIO / APF Red Boxes** at Our Lady's. It is that time of year when we collect in the Red Boxes and bank your donations. If you are able to bring your box to church in the next couple of weeks we will empty it, bank the contributions, and then return the box to you as soon as possible. Thank you all again for your support and generosity.

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** The minutes are now available at the back of our churches as well as the financial accounts.

### MASS TIMES

01 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Thérèse
02 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Guardian Angels
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
04 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Francis of Assisi
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
05 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
			<b>Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year</b>	
06 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 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**