

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*

Sixth Sunday of the Year 17th February page 139 of the Mass Book

REFLECTION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

from Fr. Ashley Beck, lecturer at St. Mary's University, Twickenham.

Today, on Racial Justice Sunday, we are invited to root our prayer and practical work for racial justice in our response to how God speaks to us in the scriptures at Mass this weekend. The focus of the Sunday this year is the exploitation of workers – both migrant workers in general and particularly victims of trafficking and slavery. For over a hundred and twenty years the Catholic Church has championed the rights of workers because of what we believe about the dignity of every person created in God's image and the nature of human work itself, as being part of how God wants us to fulfil his will for us in our lives. Moreover the rise of populist nationalism – in this country, the rest of Europe and throughout the world – has led to an increase in racial discrimination and hatred which Christians need to discern and denounce.

The prophet Jeremiah in our first reading this Sunday (17: 5-8) is facing in his society a level of moral chaos and political disintegration which perhaps we can recognise. But his call to the people and their rulers is to trust in God and not in 'man' - human institutions, especially the power of the State, which has always claimed so much power over people's lives. For Christians trusting in God rests on the resurrection of Christ from the dead, the belief which defines us as a community, which St Paul reflects about in our second reading from 1 Corinthians (15:12, 16-20). Those who oppress others in the world put before people false heroes and role models based on power and violence: by contrast our God is one who was crucified as a common criminal and who came back to life through God's power.

Luke's version of Jesus' Beatitudes (6:17, 20-26) unambiguously shows God as being on the side of the poor in history. The poor who suffer now will be vindicated by God. Moreover in Luke's version Jesus who tells the poor that they are blessed and happy also tells the rich that the tables will be turned and that they will be punished: perhaps this is why Luke's version of the Beatitudes is less well known than Matthew's. All of us are challenged today to put the poor first, especially migrants and others who are victims of labour exploitation.

HALF-TERM For all involved in Education, we wish you a refreshing half-term break.

ASH WEDNESDAY this year will be 6th March.

DAVID FOX RIP David's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 27th February at 12.30pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere this year or in 2020 should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019. This 'Day' gives couples a chance to step back from the usual organisation of the Wedding Day and to focus on themselves and their relationship. They have the serious, privileged experience of getting ready for a lifetime of Marriage as well as the fun and enrichment of being with other couples in the same boat.

SIGNED MASS Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service of the Diocese will be coming to help with the signing of Mass on Saturday 30th March at 6pm at Our Lady's. There will be two 'practice' sessions to prepare on Tuesdays 19th and 26th March at 7.45pm for an hour in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. Those who took part in the Deaf Awareness Course should let Fr. Norbert know if they can come. Others too may come to these sessions but the maximum number for a fruitful session would be 16 people.

NEW PARISH CENTRE The Trustees of the Diocese have given the go-ahead for the building of the new Parish Centre to serve our three parishes and have approved a loan of £350k over 12 years at 1.9%. We will be receiving £252k from your generous giving through Growing in Faith (GiF). Soon Fr. Norbert will be forming a Fundraising Committee to raise monies to pay off the loan. We found through GiF that pledged giving really does realise funds in a substantial way and also make the possibility of paying off the loan realistic. GiF for WGC will conclude this summer. Some of you may wish to stop your giving; others continue in a fresh way. Perhaps some were not involved before or are new to the parish. Please do think about it. The Architects have put the project out to tender and soon there will be a tender meeting to choose a contractor. It is possible that demolition might start by Easter! This would mean the new Parish Centre being ready in Welwyn Garden City's Centenary Year. In regard to the possibility of the three parishes becoming one 'canonical parish', conversations have begun and there will be time and opportunities for information to be shared with the pros and cons to be outlined. There will be consultation and a chance for opinions to be expressed.

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th June at 3pm for couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to receive an invitation from Cardinal Vincent Nichols to this Mass please give your names, full postal address, email/phone number and date of Wedding to Fr. Norbert by 23rd March. Many couples from our parishes have gone up to Westminster for this event and have found it very uplifting.

RCIA Next session on Monday 25th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Sunday 10th March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Next parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm.

VACANCY FOR CARETAKER/SITE MANAGER at Our Lady School, hours are negotiable. If interested contact the school office for more information on 01707 324408.

NURSERY REFERENCES Many parents came to Fr. Norbert before Christmas to get the Certificate of Catholicity forms signed. Fr. Norbert will be available on Monday 11th March at Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to make a 5-minute appointment. At the back of our churches is the 'extra' form (gold or yellow) which should be filled in and brought to the appointment. Fr. Norbert would like to meet the child as well as parent/s.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Holy Family's Finance Committee will meet in the Parish Room on Tuesday 12th March at 8pm.

CANTERBURY OUTING 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. Flyers including booking forms are at the back of the churches and must be filled in and returned well in advance. It should be a brilliant day. Forms and money have already started coming in! Don't miss out.

OUR LADY'S 60TH The Foundation Stone of Our Lady's Church was laid on 30th September 1959. The Cardinal has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 15th September at 11.30am. A date for your diaries!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Saturday 16th March 6pm and Saturday 11th May at 6pm. Watch this space!

AFRICAN MASS The celebration for 2019 will be on Sunday 14th July at 11.30am

FILIPINO MASS Saturday 6th July at 6pm has been chosen for this celebration. Keep the date free!.

2020 Don't forget that the Centenary of Welwyn Garden City will be celebrated in 2020. Hence the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May. Also, the Passion Play in Oberammergau only happens every 10 years and so we have booked the 9th - 11th September for a trip. We're waiting for the brochures.

MOTHER AND TODDLER This friendly group meets every Wednesday from 10am in the parish hall at St. Bonaventure's. Lots of toys to play with, mums, grandparents etc. to chat to. A good opportunity to get to know other families. This is open to all who would like to come.

THANK YOU Big thanks to all who helped with church cleaning at Holy Family this week and a very warm welcome to our 2 new recruits.

REGIONAL CAFOD MEETING Saturday 23rd February, 11:30 - 4pm, Holy Family Parish Room, Welwyn Garden City. You are invited to join with CAFOD volunteers and supporters from across Herts to learn about the different kinds of activities undertaken on behalf of CAFOD in other parishes. A chance to swap ideas with CAFOD supporters from those parishes and learn more about CAFOD's projects abroad from a CAFOD representative. We'll have a shared lunch (please bring a food contribution) and so we know how many to expect, register with Ann at ann.milner@cafod.org.uk. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet CAFOD people without having to go to London! *Come and support this great event!*

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231, regular cleaning, fortnightly, monthly, spring cleans, ironing etc.

SCHOOL VISITS Swallow Dell Primary School's Year 2 children will visit Our Lady's on Friday 1st March in the morning. A Year 9 class from Stanborough Secondary School will come to Our Lady's on Thursday 14th March in the morning.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

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

DO YOU KNOW anyone who would like to attend Mass but cannot manage the journey? We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399.

CLIMATE CHANGE Wednesday 20th February 7.30pm -9.30pm at Fleetville Community Centre, Royal Road, St. Albans (opp Morrison's) . John Fogarty can offer a lift to anyone wanting to go. 01707 327771. Also phone John if you wish to know more about it.

LIVE SIMPLY Reducing how much meat and dairy is in your diet is the easiest and most effective way to help our planet. If you missed out on trying vegan for January you can still sign up to find out more about it, hear from others who've tried it, or sample some delicious recipes. Go to www.Veganuary.com to get involved.

MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
21 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Peter Damian
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Chair of St. Peter
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Polycarp

Seventh Sunday of the Year

23 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
24 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**