

# 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*

## *Sixteenth Sunday of the Year 21st July page 112 of the Mass Book*

“Martha, Martha...!” This is how we hear Jesus speaking to his host in today’s comical passage from St. Luke. The Lord stops off on his journey to be with two sisters, Martha and Mary; each serves Christ as she knows best. For Martha, her desperation to please the Lord results in her fretting, taking over and having a go at Jesus for her sister’s lack of help. Where is Mary? Sitting at Jesus’ feet listening! And Jesus tells Martha that “It is Mary who has chosen the better part.” How did that leave Martha feeling? What was Mary’s response? We will never know. However, the power of the scene is revealed in our lives as we try to heed the voice of Jesus.

I know that this passage can provoke individuals into taking sides - for Martha, for Mary; people can be left unhappy with the failure of Jesus to appreciate the hard work of Martha. Nevertheless, think back to last weekend’s passage from St. Luke: the lawyer was told by the Lord to “go and do the same yourself”, to be like the Good Samaritan in showing love to one’s neighbour. Here Martha is told to model her life on Mary by having an attentive ear and a posture open to him. We definitely need time to be intimately close to God’s Son, the Word. Stillness and silence which are so hard to come by in our time, can draw us into an experience of life filled with blessings. St. Luke does not share with us a word from Mary - she seems to be lost in contemplation!

As we enter the holiday season, what can we learn from these two sisters? Is there time each day to be close to the Lord in prayer, silence, the Mass or in creation? How does Jesus through his Spirit want to recharge your batteries? What are the jobs you have put off for a long time and now is the right moment to set to work and carry them out? There is so much love God is lavishing upon us - in and through his Son; there is a huge response in love we can make to God - through his Son.

God bless you! **Fr. Norbert**

**NEWSLETTER** Next week's newsletter will be for the whole summer period, so please make sure any items for the month of August are with Kathryn Hubbard by Thursday. After that 1st September will be the next newsletter.

**FR. TOM** Fr. Tom will be leaving Welwyn Garden City at the beginning of September to start as Assistant Priest at St. Bernard and St. Gabriel's Parish in Northolt and South Harrow. We wish Fr. Tom every blessing in his new posting. Fr. Tom would like us to have his 'Farewell' at his last Mass in the Garden City which will be the 6 o'clock Mass on Sunday 1st September at Holy Family Church. Please keep this free and come if you can. If you are able to bring finger food to share at the reception, please let Kathryn Hubbard know on 01707 322579. There are envelopes at the back of our churches for those who wish to contribute to a 'Farewell Gift'; these should be returned to Kathryn Hubbard at St. Bonaventure's.

The new Assistant Priest will be Fr. Tony Thomas who is currently at St. George's, Sudbury (Harrow). Fr. Tony's first weekend will be 7th/8th September.

**SEMINARIAN** This is Daniel's final week with us in Welwyn Garden City. He is certainly having a rich experience! May God bless him in his continuing formation to be a priest.

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's will have to remain closed while the new Parish Centre is being built. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused.

**MARRIAGE** Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert.

**AFRICAN MASS** Our thanks to the African community for the vibrancy of the celebration last Sunday and for their hospitality afterwards. The sun definitely did shine! The extra collection to support a charity in Africa raised just over £120 for which they are most grateful.

**FOUNDATION GOVERNORS** Both Holy Family and Our Lady's Primary Schools are in need of Foundation Governors. These are appointed by the Diocese and play a crucial role in the life of our schools. Please have a word with Fr. Norbert if you are interested.

**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. Please let former parishioners know. Everyone is welcome. If anyone would like to contribute 'finger-food' for the reception afterwards, please let Ann Chappell of the hospitality group know by 6th September (ahchappell@aol.com). Thank you.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP** This group is in desperate need of more people who would like to help with arranging the flowers. If you are interested or just want to know more then please phone Kathryn in the office on 01707 322579 or speak to her after Mass. You don't need to be an expert flower arranger! So far no volunteers.

**CAFOD STRAWBERRY TEA** The CAFOD group are holding a Strawberry Tea **today** Sunday 21st July in Sandy and Bob Leys Garden at 401 Knightsfield WGC from 3 pm. You will all be very welcome.

**MEDAL** Sophie Constable has been an altar server at Holy Family for 20 years. She will receive a special medal from the Guild of St. Stephen at 9.30 Mass on Sunday 8th September. There'll be a 'Get-together' afterwards.

**ASSISI 2020** Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will have Christians from WGC to mark the Centenary and will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. There will be limited places so if you are interested, please return your booking form to Pax Travel as soon as possible. If anyone needs an electronic version, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**OBERAMMAGAU** Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms should arrive any day and will be at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version.

**OUR COMMON HOME** Summer holidays are fast approaching. By various means of transport we will be enjoying the countryside as we pass by. Time to reflect, that only one part out of 32 of the world's surface, has topsoil to feed and sustain the whole world. It is possible, that due to intensive farming, reliant on chemical fertilisers, most of this topsoil will be gone within 100 years. "The answer lies in the... " Compost!

**INTER FAITH** On Tuesday 23 July at 7.15pm at the Focolare Centre the Inter Faith group will be presenting an evening on Biodiversity: What can we do to preserve it? This is very much in the spirit of Pope Francis and his worldwide work to address the Climate Crisis. All welcome.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** Masses in the autumn will be on 12th October and 30th November.

**OUR LADY'S REPOSITORY** New stock of Mass and General cards. Open before and after most Masses.

**MID HERTS SCOUTS** 2nd and 7th WGC Scout Group (meeting in the grounds of Our Lady's Primary School) are looking for adult helpers & leaders (uniformed & non uniformed) in a variety of roles in all age groups. All training provided, a great opportunity to give yourself and young people new skills and opportunities. Please contact Mark on 07783486229 or [Development@midhertsscouts.org.uk](mailto:Development@midhertsscouts.org.uk)

**THE MIXED GROUP** Sponsored Cycle Rally 12.45pm on Sunday 1st September - to and from Hertford. All proceeds from the event will go towards The Mixed Group's annual Christmas Day dinner for the elderly and lonely in the Welwyn Hatfield Borough. Posters at the back of church or contact Sean Cox on 01707 325278 or email [Sean@themixedgroup.org.uk](mailto:Sean@themixedgroup.org.uk).

**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.

**CAFOD** The CAFOD group at Holy Family are appealing for any unwanted gifts you might have for them to sell from their Table Top cupboard. All proceeds go to CAFOD.

**DANCE CLUB** Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) in the Woodhall Community Centre 2 - 4pm. Price for those who join in the tea dance £5. However, pensioners, those in wheelchairs or people on their own who would like to come for a cup of tea and a chat are welcome; no entry charge just price of a cup of tea.

**PLANTS** Digswell Community and Gardening Project have lots of plants for sale. Find a Bargain. Open every day 10.00-4.00pm. B197 Old Great North Road AL8 7SR.

### MASS TIMES

22 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Mary Magdalene
23 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Bridget of Sweden
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
25 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. James
26 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Joachim and Anne
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

### Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

27 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
28 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**