

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Twenty-third Sunday of the Year 8th September page 133 of Mass Book***

‘Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way, and he turned and spoke to them...’ These are the words from St. Luke in today’s Gospel passage. It seems to be St. Luke’s way of reminding us - the readers/listeners - that Jesus is still on the journey to Jerusalem. He is not travelling on his own; he not only has his followers and friends - there are so many others trying to come closer to him and enter his company. We are not told all their reasons for walking alongside him; these will unravel in due course. The Lord’s teaching today is to the point and challenging: Jesus must come first, discipleship includes the Cross, we have to plan, using our God-given abilities to make the path bear much fruit. These parables used by Christ tease our minds into considering what the cost of being Jesus’ follower is, whether it is worth it and can we live up to what is demanded. Remember he never asks us to do things unaided - the power and victory of the Cross he carried support us in our endeavours.

Today as we gather, there are new people in our midst. We welcome Fr. Tony Thomas who starts this weekend as Assistant Priest. We wish him much happiness in his ministry and look forward to getting to know him better. There are visitors with us and there are people who have just moved into the area. It is good to have you here! We think of Fr. Tom beginning his service of the people of South Harrow and Northolt and wish him well. Perhaps other parishioners have moved away and are embarking on new chapters in their lives. May the Lord’s grace and joy be with them. Some of you will remember the Foundation Stone of Our Lady’s Church being laid; next Sunday the Cardinal will be in our midst to mark this Anniversary. Everyone is welcome. Community life involves change, development, celebrations, the ordinary. We are all caught up with Christ in a journey to life, love and eternity. May our stopping off today help us on this path.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**FR. TONY WRITES:** I am delighted to have been appointed as assistant priest in Welwyn Garden City. This is my second post in the diocese having been ordained three years ago, in June 2016. When I look back on my journey to this point, I can reflect that God is full of surprises! I was not raised a Catholic and for much of my life God did not feature in my thinking at all. In my twenties and early thirties, I was almost entirely focused on my career in banking. It was only when I became good friends with a Catholic who was very committed to his faith that I began to realise that something was missing in my life. My friend seemed to have a sense of peace and purpose I lacked at that time. To cut a long story short, I began to attend Mass and then joined an RCIA course. I knew very soon that I wanted to enter the Church and – to my own surprise and also that of my family and friends! – I became a Catholic at Easter, 2003. The Eucharist was central to my new-found faith, and this led to an increasing sense that God was calling me to become a priest. I decided to leave my work and spent some time volunteering abroad and working in a parish in north London. These experiences confirmed my sense of vocation and I entered the seminary in 2011, to begin a five-year programme of studies. Priesthood is a wonderful way of life and I am excited to find out what God has planned for me here in Welwyn Garden City. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you over the coming months. **God bless, Fr. Tony.**

**FR. TOM WRITES:** Dear Friends, as I tackle my boxes, I just wanted to thank you all for your kind wishes and a wonderful farewell last Sunday evening. (I've been told by my new parish priest that the picture of the cake made by Sally Kee deserves to be sent in to The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice). Last weekend was a great reminder of the blessings that you have given me over the last two years, and I know that if you are even half as good to Fr Tony as you were to me, then he will be truly blessed. Please do keep me in your prayers as I will you. **Fr Tom**

**OUR LADY'S 60TH** The Foundation Stone of Our Lady's Church was laid on 30th September 1959. The Cardinal will celebrate Mass at Our Lady's next Sunday (15th) at 11.30am. Please let former parishioners know. Everyone is welcome. If anyone would like contribute 'finger-food' for the reception afterwards, please let Ann Chappell know (ahchappell@aol.com). Thank you.

**CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT** There will be a meeting for young people who wish to be confirmed next year (they must be at least in Year 9 at secondary school) on Sunday 6th October 7pm in Holy Family Church. Parents also are asked to come to the meeting. The meeting will last about an hour.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT** There will be meetings as follows: St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 5th October at 11am (1st session Saturday 19th October), Our Lady's on Tuesday 19th October at 7.45pm and Holy Family on Sunday 1st December after 9.30am Mass. Children for First Communion should be at least in Year 3 at Primary School.

Preparation for children at St. Bonaventure's is monthly on a Saturday morning, at Our Lady's after Christmas before 11.30 Mass on Sundays and at Holy Family after Christmas mid-week after school. There will also be joint parents' meetings on Wednesday evenings after Christmas.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICITY** Fr. Norbert will sign these forms in October. In a few weeks' time dates will be available for appointments to be made.

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?** Have you got lots of questions? Does now seem like the right time? Is someone close to you encouraging you to take the first step? Why not come on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm to Our Lady's Sacristy. The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a wonderful way of preparing, reflecting and meeting others in the same boat, supported by great catechists! Also, if you are an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger, the RCIA is the best way of preparing to be confirmed. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

**MEDAL** Congratulations to Sophie Constable who has been an altar server at Holy Family for 20 years. Today she receives a special medal from the Guild of St. Stephen.

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

**MARY GOSLIN RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 23rd September at 9.30am.

**ELIZABETH MARSHALL RIP** Elizabeth's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 12noon on Monday 23rd September.

**RODNEY BRYCE RIP** Rodney's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Monday 30th September at 12.30pm.

**SCHOOL MASSES** First Masses of the Year: Our Lady School Tuesday 10th September at 2.15pm. Holy Family School Wednesday 11th September at 2.15pm. Holy Family School will be leading Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church on Sunday 13th October at 9.30am.

**REMY PIGNALL** from the Diocese of St. Denis, Paris, who has visited us in WGC many times, will be ordained deacon on Saturday 21st September. Please keep him in your prayers.

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** on Wednesday 2nd October at 7.30pm at Holy Family. Representatives of the various groups in our parishes are invited to give short reports, the finances of the three churches will be published. It will be an opportunity to plan for the coming year, so the presence of as many parishioners as possible will be crucial. Please come!

**RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS** will be the weekend of 5th/6th October at all Masses. In preparation for this there will be an Evening of Reflection on Wednesday 18th September 7.30 - 9pm for all Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musicians and Singers, Welcomers, Adult Servers and Catechists. This will be in Our Lady's Church.

**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.

**OBERRAMMERGAU** Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version. Europe was affected by a terrible plague at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1633 the people of the village of Oberammergau in Germany prayed and promised that if the plague left their village, a play commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ would be performed every ten years. Their prayers were answered and the first Passion Play was performed in 1634.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 10th November at 1.30pm, Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) Sunday 17th November 2pm and Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) Sunday 24th November at 2pm.

**SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED** 2nd November at 12noon at St. Bonaventure's.

**MARRIAGE** Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 27th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

**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.

**SIGNED MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm. There will be a practice session for signers on Wednesday 20th November 7 - 8pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**The CWL** meet again on the 10th September at 8.00pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. All are welcome.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD** group wishes to pass on their thanks to Sandy, Bob and Angus Leys for their wonderful hospitality on Sunday. It was fantastic afternoon and huge thanks to you our generous supporters, we raised £550 from the BBQ and raffle.

**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. Tony 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**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 10th September at 10.15am.

**ST ALBANS** Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert is celebrant on 4th October.

**TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE** The organiser is Martin Moore, telephone number 07768650660. Desi Russell is a backup 07956097705.

**HOLY HOUR** The next Restoration Holy Hour at Our Lady's will be on Friday 13th September at 7.30pm. There will be Scripture, prayer, music and silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's will be on 4th October at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** Meets again on Wednesday at 10am in St. Bonaventure's hall. Why not come along. A good opportunity for your children to play together and for mums etc. to get to know one another.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Meets again this Tuesday 10th September at 3.45pm in the parish hall.

### MASS TIMES

09 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
10 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
12 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
13 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John Chrysostom
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year

14 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
15 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.**