

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-fifth Sunday of the Year 22nd September page 140 of Mass Book

Money! Do you have enough or too much? Are you careful with what you have or are you ready to gamble it away or share it with others? This week and next St. Luke presents us with parables about the use of money. Remember Jesus is still on the way to Jerusalem accompanied by hordes of people. Something must have made him stop to speak in this way. We are not told the reason but surely it must have had to do with the attitude of people around him?

In the first parable which we hear this Sunday, we are made aware of a steward who is about to lose his job and takes it upon himself to make friends with his master's debtors. This is a really complicated parable which appears to condone dishonesty; I would imagine that when first told, the Lord was challenging people to make a decision for the Kingdom, to use their wherewithal and resourcefulness in order to enter the Kingdom of God. St. Luke then gathers many sayings of Jesus about money and lays them before us! We have to listen hard!

Next Sunday if we haven't got the message, we are challenged further by the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. The latter is totally oblivious to the suffering of the poor, destitute man at his gate and lives in splendour, wining and dining. Death is the leveller and the Rich Man finds himself suffering while Lazarus is comforted in the bosom of Abraham. It's too late for the Rich Man who then pleads for his brothers to be saved; he is reminded that they have Moses and the prophets to read. This parable puts us on the spot: do we open our eyes to the person in need? What is our lifestyle like? Do we pay heed to the Scriptures?

In the coming weeks, let us focus on Christ and the Kingdom he proclaims and embodies. Let us learn from him to open our hearts to those around us in need. Let us use our money and possessions wisely. He wants us to live for ever with him! What do we truly desire and what changes should we make to help ourselves on the journey?

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

OUR LADY'S 60TH A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's celebration. It was wonderful! The Mass and the party afterwards raised our hearts to heaven.

THANK YOU In the last weeks we have had Fr. Tom's Farewell and Sophie Constable's Server's Award. We are so grateful to all who have helped with music, food and hospitality. The warm welcome radiates the power of community. So thank you!

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TOWER is finally going to have its overhaul! Soon scaffolding will go up and new tiling bricks be put in place. We have had to wait for the work to begin and the project will take time. However, when completed it will have been worth it!

NEW PARISH CENTRE The Cardinal's Growing in Faith Campaign has come to an end in Welwyn Garden City. Over the last 5 years, many parishioners have generated around £550k of which £252k has come back to our parishes for the joint project of the building of the new Parish Centre for our churches. Fr. Norbert understands that letters are being sent out personally from the Diocese to thank individuals for their generosity. Also, an invitation to continue contributing towards the Building Fund for the new WGC Parish Centre may be included; this will help pay off the remaining debt which will be incurred. In due course, we will be offering other parishioners who were not part of the Growing in Faith campaign or perhaps are new to our parishes the opportunity of supporting the completion of the Centre. In the meantime if you know of any benefactors who might like to make a sizeable donation, please send them in our direction!

CANONISATION OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN This will take place in Rome on Sunday 13th October. Young adults are invited to join the Diocesan Youth Ministry Group going. For more information visit dowym.com/events

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Mrs Katie Linnane, Head Teacher at Holy Family School writes: "Dear Parishioners, Following the recent OFSTED inspection (July 2019), The Holy Family School are pleased to let you know that the school continues to be good. There are many positives highlighted in the inspection report, most notably that the children at our school are happy and feel well cared for. The full report is available to view on the OFSTED website or via the school website. I would like to thank the staff and governors of our school whose hard work, love and dedication ensure our children receive the best possible education not only during inspection, but all year round. God bless."

MAYOR'S CIVIC SERVICE When the Mayor, Councillor Roger Trigg, came to Our Lady's last Sunday, he asked Fr. Norbert to let the parishioners of our three churches know that they are most welcome at the Civic Service at St. Mary's, Welwyn at 3pm on Sunday 13th October.

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 November 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 on Wednesdays after school. There will also be joint parents' meetings on Wednesday evenings after Christmas.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICITY Fr. Norbert will be available to sign these forms on Tuesday 8th October 4 - 6pm and Wednesday 16th October 5 - 7pm in Our Lady's Church. Please phone Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to make a ten-minute appointment with Fr. Norbert. Parent/s and child are expected. Please collect the 'Extra Form' from the back of our churches and bring it filled in to the meeting. Thank you.

REQUEST A single mum requires clothes for a boy (size 3-4). Phone Janet on 326456.

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.

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.

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 Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 23rd September at 12noon.

RODDY BRYCE RIP Roddy's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Monday 30th September at 12.30pm.

CATHERINE COULSON RIP The Funeral Mass for Catherine will be at Our Lady's on Monday 7th October at 1pm.

JOHN FLAVELL RIP John's Funeral Service will be at Holy Family Church on Friday 11th October at 10am.

CHRIS DOOCEY RIP The Funeral Mass for Chris will be at Our Lady's on Friday 11th October at 12.30pm.

MARGARET TOASE RIP No details yet available for Margaret's Funeral.

BERNARD CONNOLLY R.I.P. No details yet available for Ray's Funeral.

FOCOLARE international News Sunday 29th September 3-4pm: feeling depressed by the news? Cheer up, come to the Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG to see some short films of good news from our Focolare friends around the world.

TO CELEBRATE St Francis of Assisi's feast day and the 'Season of Creation' there will be a Special Mass including reflections and music on Friday 4th October 7-8pm at Our Lady's Church with refreshments in the Sacristy afterwards. Come and join us in celebrating our beautiful earth, nature and biodiversity and talk about how we can work together to protect it for future generations over tea and cake.

SCHOOL MASS Holy Family School will be leading Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church on Sunday 13th October at 9.30am.

ORDINATIONS Remy Pignall from the Diocese of St. Denis, Paris, who has visited us in WGC many times, was ordained deacon on Saturday 21st in Paris. Fran Lopez, Fran Trigo and Ruben Perez from Seville who have come to WGC will be ordained deacons in Seville Cathedral on Saturday 28th September. Please keep them in your prayers.

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 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

MISSIO / APF Red Boxes at Our Lady's and St. Bonaventure's. 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. Some St. Bonaventure's parishioners will have their boxes collected personally. Thank you all again for your support and generosity.

RESOLVE'S Night Shelter is in need of volunteers, maybe you can spare a few hours a week. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Sarah on 07305 838522

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

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.

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. Our thanks to all who were able to come last Wednesday to the Evening of Reflection.

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.

HOLY HOUR The next Restoration Holy Hour at Our Lady's will be on Friday 11th October at 7.30pm. There will be Scripture, prayer, music and silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP This Tuesday we go to McDonalds for tea!

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP meets every Wednesday at 10am in St. Bonaventure's.

MASS TIMES

23 Monday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's
	12noon	Funeral Service	St. Bonaventure's
24 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady of Walsingham
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
25 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family feria
26 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family feria
27 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure St. Vincent de Paul
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
28 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure St. Matthew

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year

28 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
29 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.