

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-sixth Sunday of the Year 29th September page 143 of Mass Book

Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes: In two weeks' time, Blessed John Henry Newman will be declared a saint of the Church. This is a joyful moment, indeed. The life of this great English figure of nineteenth-century Church life is held before us as a model to follow. It is good to remember that he lived in Ealing and is, therefore, a native of our Diocese, and was first taken to Mass as a young boy in Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick Street. Do try to follow the events that will take place in Rome on 13th October and the celebrations taking place here in our Diocese the following weekend. One of the most important aspects of his life is the long and difficult journey he made into the fullness of faith in the Catholic Church. It cost him dearly. Yet it is an essential part of his witness. His search for truth led him to examine in detail the foundations of the Catholic faith in the history of the Church. It also drove him to look closely at his own experiences, and feelings, sensing in them the call and promptings of God. He was utterly convinced that in all our experiences in this world, there is a sign, a shadow, an impression, like a fingerprint, of the presence of God. This conviction made him a wonderful witness to the nature, importance, and experience of the Catholic faith. October has been designated by Pope Francis as an 'Extraordinary Month of Mission'. Pope Francis invites us to renew our sense of mission, our task of bringing the Gospel to life so that others may see it and come to share its joy. He often reminds us that we are 'missionary disciples'. Through baptism we share in the task given by God the Father to His Son, Jesus, to bring His truth, love, compassion, and forgiveness into this world. There is a lovely saying: 'It is not that the Church of God has a mission, but that the mission of God has a Church!' We are that Church, and God gives us our mission. What does this mean? One response is in the Reading we have just heard from the First Letter of St Paul to his companion Timothy: try to live lives filled with faith, love, patience, and gentleness; fight the good fight; speak up for the truth in front of others. St Paul goes on to say that in fulfilling this duty we give honour to God, 'the blessed and only ruler of all' (1 Timothy 6:11-16). This is the pathway of the missionary disciple. Another response to the call of Pope Francis is that we become more aware of the potential we have for bringing the loveliness of our faith, and its joy and consolation, to the attention of others. Personal conversations, individual acts of kindness, having compassion for others in their trials, offering to pray for those in need, whoever they may be: all these are steps in our missionary activity. Included in this missionary activity is a readiness to support more formal or organised works of spreading the Gospel, at home or in other countries.

The Holy Father encourages this as well. Readiness to give a deliberate yet measured witness to our faith first requires us to be deeply rooted in faith. This we do through the rhythms of prayer and reflection in our lives, just as Cardinal Newman did in his. To help in this, the Bishops of England and Wales are launching a time of special focus on the role of the Holy Scriptures in our lives. This initiative has the title 'The God Who Speaks'. It runs from now until the end of 2020. In order to share the Good News of Jesus with others, we must be immersed in His Word, His Wisdom, and His Peace. This we do through praying over and pondering on the words of the Bible. In the coming months this venture will unfold in your parishes and, I know, will offer real help. Cardinal Newman faced difficult times and circumstances. So do we. At this moment, there is much unease in our society. We seem to have lost a sense of shared hope and vision around which to gather. Our present-day culture offers no reason or encouragement to offer forgiveness to those who have offended. A harshness of speech and a quickness of condemnation seem to be everywhere. This is the society in which we are to give our witness, and for which we readily offer our prayer. Let us never lose heart in doing so!

In the light of today's Gospel, we do well to remember another constant feature in the life of our new saint. From his earliest years as a young priest of the Church of England, and throughout his time as a Catholic priest, right up to his death at the age of 89, he was unwavering in his care for the poor. For this reason, thousands lined the streets of Birmingham to offer their love and respect to him as his hearse passed by. This care for those facing poverty must be a hallmark of our lives too. It is certainly one of the most eloquent and effective ways of witnessing to our faith that we can give in our society today!

May this rather special month of October 2019 be a blessed time of faith and peace for you.

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.

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. With the Year of the Word starting, Fr. Norbert would like parishioners to reflect on the following questions:

1. In what ways do we celebrate, live and share God's Word?
2. Where might there be gaps? Is anyone excluded?
3. What new ways and opportunities might be open to us?
4. What actions can we take to encourage our communities to become more familiar with the Bible? The other priority is in regard to the new builds in our area. Hundreds of new homes should result in new parishioners or people who are interested in joining. What can we do to welcome them and involve them in the life of the Catholic Church in our area?

YOUR voice is crucial! Come and share your thoughts and listen to the ideas of others.

CAFOD FAST DAY No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need to thrive. This Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to fast, pray and give, so we can extend the hand of friendship to the world's poorest people. Fabiano's village in rural Uganda has been devastated by drought. Every day, children would trek miles for water, risking their education – and safety. Donations from parishioners across England and Wales helped install a solar powered water pump in the village. Now Fabiano and his friends can collect water quickly and safely. On Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to eat a simple meal for lunch or dinner and give the money we save to help children like Fabiano. Please collect a Fast Day envelope from church this week. There will be a retiring collection next weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD GROUP meets on Tuesday at 2pm in Holy Family Parish Room.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLICITY Fr. Norbert will be available to sign these forms for Secondary School Transfer on Wednesday 16th October 5 - 7pm and Friday 18th October 7.45pm - 9.30pm 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.

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.

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.

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.

BERNARD CONNOLLY RIP Bernard's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Tuesday 15th October at 11.45am.

MARGARET TOASE RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 18th October at 12.30pm.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TOWER is finally going to have its overhaul! Scaffolding is go up and new tiling bricks are to 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!

CANONISATION OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN There will be prayers each day after morning Mass from Friday 4th until Saturday 12th October forming a novena of prayer for many blessings.

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.

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

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 Celebrant on 4th October.

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.

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

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP meets every
Wednesday at 10am in St. Bonaventure's.
ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP 3.45pm

RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS will be the weekend of 5th/6th October at all Masses.
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.

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 would be very pleased!

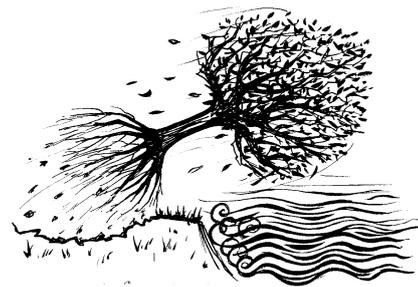
RESOLVE'S Night Shelter is in need of volunteers, maybe you can spare a few hours a week. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Sarah on 07305 838522

CHURCH CLEANING St. Bonaventure's on Thursday, Our Lady's on Saturday. Both 10am.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (Shoebboxes). We are again filling boxes for children in deprived areas of the world. Next weekend boxes and leaflets will be available for those who would like to participate.

MASS TIMES

30 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Jerome
	12.30pm	Funeral Service	Our Lady's	
01 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Therese of the Child Jesus
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Holy Guardian Angels
03 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
04 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis of Assisi
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year				
05 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 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.