

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-ninth Sunday of the Year 20th October page 152 of Mass Book

‘..the need to pray continually and never lose heart.’ Today’s parable which follows addresses those who need encouragement in prayer. Why did St. Luke feel he had to recall this story from the Lord? What was going on in his community? Perhaps the people thought that the Kingdom should have come by now and wondered at the delay? Was persecution making life unbearable for them, making them despondent? How does this parable to speak to us as individuals in our particular circumstances?

Often we have found ourselves praying non-stop for someone else, for a special intention - in an unselfish way - and yet nothing has happened. I’m sure we have asked ourselves ‘Where is God?’ when we place in his hands the suffering and oppressed. It is hard. There is no answer. We feel it’s not fair. Jesus says to us: ‘Don’t stop! Persevere!’ Does that help? Maybe we should remember the many times in St. Luke where we see Jesus praying so intensely and none more so than in Gethsemane where the scene in this Gospel is of sweat pouring off his face like drops of blood. His words to his Father at that time are: ‘Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.’ Then he goes to his Passion. As we journey through the complications (and the joys) of life, we need to let Jesus accompany us just as we try so hard to walk with him. He wants us to draw strength from him and to realise we are not completely on our own. The challenge is, while not having the ability to understand everything completely in a divine way, to carry on patiently, lovingly and confidently. We will be vindicated by God is the message of the parable. Next weekend’s parable will further our grasp of how God regards prayer.

Have a good week. Pray for your personal needs. Let’s not forget our country at this crucial time in our history. Our world too matters to God; let us intercede for it.

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

MISSION APPEAL Fr. Frank Nolan has written to thank us for the warm welcome given last weekend and to say how much he enjoyed being in our parishes. The monies collected for the White Fathers will be sent to their headquarters in Ealing.

THANK YOU to all who have helped in various ways with hospitality: at last week's Special Needs Mass, at the early morning breakfast on the First Friday, and the regular teas and coffees held in our churches.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT Any young people (Year 9) who missed out on the enrolment meeting for Confirmation should speak to Fr. Norbert or Fr. Tony to get more details. The course will begin on Sunday 10th November.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT There will be meetings as follows: 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. Anyone who missed St. Bonaventure's enrolment meeting should contact Kathryn Hubbard as soon as possible.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? Or are you an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger? Five adults have come. There is still time to join. Why not come along on Monday at 7.30pm at Our Lady's in the sacristy?

ALL SAINTS DAY will be Friday 1st November. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. The Masses will be as follows: 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's (followed by breakfast in the hall!), 9.30am at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed) Masses will be at 10am at St. Bonaventure's and 6pm at Our Lady's.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST During November Masses will be celebrated for those who have died. If you wish to write down their names on one of the special sheets, please do so and return to church. The names will be left near the altar from All Souls Day during November. There is no need to give any money.

DEANERY MASS Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass with the deanery priests in Our Lady's on Tuesday 12th November at 11am for the deceased clergy of Stevenage Deanery. Everyone is welcome. *There will NOT be a 9.30 Mass that morning at St. Bonaventure's.*

PATRICIA BRADBURY RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Monday 28th October at 11am.

ROLAND BOYLAN RIP Roland's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Wednesday 30th October at 4.15pm.

FRANK McCULLOUGH RIP Frank's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 31st October at 2pm.

HCPT group 183 are starting planning for Easter 2020 pilgrimage. If you are interested in volunteering as a helper there will be a meeting this **Sunday 20th October at 5.30pm** in Our Lady's sacristy. The group is also looking for children or young adult with special-needs who will benefit from travelling with the group. Please email Emma Moore at group183@hcpt.org.uk

SCHOOL MASS Our thanks to Holy Family School for leading Mass last Sunday so beautifully and prayerfully.

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOXES) Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready, soon we hope!. If you cover your own box you need to cover box and lid separately.

REQUEST FROM THE CHILDREN OF OUR LADY SCHOOL The children of Our Lady School would be very grateful for donations of statues of Our Lady, crucifixes, rosaries or children's prayer books/religious books that they could use during class worship sessions and to go on their classroom RE tables. If you have any items that the children could use they can be dropped into the school at anytime, or left in any of the parishes for collection. Thank you for help.

INTER FAITH On Wednesday 30 October at 7 pm in the Focolare Centre you are all invited to a short AGM which will include a report on our year's activities. This will be followed by a finger food buffet and then a talk by Barney Leith who was awarded an OBE for his years of inter faith work including as an advisor to the government. His talk is entitled 'Why is it worth the effort?'

RECLAIM HALLOWEEN WITH NIGHT OF LIGHTS On Thursday 31st October between 9 and 10pm at Holy Family Church there will be an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by candlelight with gentle music and some prayers. The church will be open to the public, and any interested passers-by will also be invited to light a candle and say a prayer if they so wish. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

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

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEES Our Lady's on Tuesday 12th November at 7.45pm, St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 26th November at 10.15am and Holy Family's on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm.

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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY Come and have fun at our party (for all children) on Tuesday 5th November from 3.45pm - 5pm. Traditional games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Come dressed up (not compulsory). Bring a small amount of food (pizza provided). Parents are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 4.45pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. £2 to cover costs.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CAFOD COFFEE GROUP We are pleased to let you know that our Coffee Group has raised enough money to pay for a CAFOD Community Water supply - the money raised (£750) helps to provide the materials and know-how to build and maintain boreholes, hand pumps and water tanks, providing clean, safe water to a whole community. A big thank you to all who support coffee after our 10.30am Mass every week. We are in need of more helpers so if you would like to help with the coffee and teas after Sunday Mass please speak to Kathryn on 01707 322579 who will let you know what is involved.

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.**

You can read the newsletter on the Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

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!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP Every Tuesday in term time 3.45pm - 4.45pm in St. Bonaventure's hall,

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP meets every Wednesday at 10am in St. Bonaventure's. Come and get to know some other mums/carers etc. whilst the children play. Just turn up, no need to let anyone know.

SVP REQUEST A single mum needs day and night clothes for a 7-8 year old girl. Also bedding. Contact Janet on 01707 326456 if you can help. Thank you.

MASS TIMES

21 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
22 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
24 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
25 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

26 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
27 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.