

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*

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year 27th October page 155 of Mass Book

Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes re: SAFEGUARDING IN THE CHURCH TODAY

In the last twenty years or so, the evil of the sexual abuse of children in the Catholic Church has been laid bare. This abuse is both deeply damaging to all those who have been its victims and a scandal against the faith we strive to proclaim.

From 28 October to 8 November, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, established by the Government, will turn its attention to the present situation in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. As you may know, it has already investigated and reported on the Archdiocese of Birmingham and on the English Benedictine abbeys of Downside and Ampleforth. A further report concerning Ealing Abbey will be published imminently. These reports have made clear the extent of failures in the Church and, more importantly, the lasting damage to all those who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

On 6 November, I will give oral evidence to the Inquiry. I will do so as President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. I write these words now in order to provide some context within which you can follow these proceedings and whatever publicity may follow.

In the first place, appearing before the Inquiry will enable me to offer again an unreserved apology to all who have suffered in the context of the Catholic Church and to express my profound regret at all that has taken place. It will also enable me to offer assurance of our willingness to learn further lessons about how to improve and strengthen our response to those who have suffered and our work of safeguarding.

In the context of our willingness to learn from the rigour of this scrutiny, I am also able to present an account of our current work in safeguarding and the improvements which we are undertaking at this time.

Since the independent Report of Lord Nolan in 2001, we have endeavoured to build a culture of safeguarding within our parishes and religious communities. In our parishes there are Parish Safeguarding Representatives; in this diocese, as in every diocese, there is a Safeguarding Coordinator and a Diocesan Safeguarding Commission, composed of experts in the main disciplines needed for effective safeguarding. This Commission takes the lead in handling every allegation of abuse, whether from the distant past or the present day. In doing so they follow nationally agreed protocols, including the swift reporting of allegations to the statutory authorities.

There are also protocols to be followed if allegations of abusive behaviour or gross negligence are made against a bishop or leader of a religious congregation. We have an established National Catholic Safeguarding Commission with a strong majority membership of experts, who are independent of the authority structures of the Catholic Church. Much has been achieved. Much is to be learned.

I will also be able to give evidence about more recent steps we have taken, including my participation in the meeting in February in Rome which brought together the President of every Bishops' Conference around the world to study closely aspects of the Protection of Minors in the Church. In written evidence to IICSA I have also offered evidence about the role of the Survivors Advisory Panel which the NCSC has established so that the voice of survivors can have a significant role in shaping our understanding and responses to abuse. I have also written about the three day meeting which the Bishops of England and Wales held with survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the spring. During that meeting we listened, learned and developed together an understanding of the deep and lasting damage that has been done. I have given, below, a link to a statement I made shortly after that meeting. I have also been able to put before the Inquiry the steps we have taken to establish a system of audit of the work of every Diocesan Safeguarding Office and the fact that our National Catholic Safeguarding Commission has itself initiated an independent review of all our work and structures.

The Independent Inquiry will scrutinise all these matters. It will, in due course, make recommendations covering many, if not all, aspects of safeguarding in the Catholic Church. I am sure that this scrutiny will be wide-ranging, and will include comment on the consistency with which our procedures are followed, the effectiveness of our record keeping, the quality of training we offer, the relationship between religious orders and dioceses and many other matters besides. All of this will take place in the context of our record of failures as well as our achievements. All of this will, quite properly, give importance to the voice and experience of survivors.

I hope these few comments help you to understand what will happen in these coming weeks.

All this makes perfectly clear that, as a Church, we share in the sinfulness of humanity. This we know. Yet we also know that Christ came to bear the weight of that sinfulness on the cross. He alone can redeem us from it. He does so by his suffering, death and resurrection. Only by being close to him can his healing become a reality. With prayer and penance, this time can become, even if only slowly and painfully, a deep purification for our community. Then we may be more faithful to the great gift of faith we have received and more credible witnesses to the mercy and healing it can bring. Please keep in your prayers all who are involved in this period of the Inquiry. More importantly, remember in prayer those who carry the heavy burden of childhood abuse everyday of their lives.

Useful links:

Westminster Safeguarding Office - <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/Catholic>

Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) - <https://www.csas.uk.net/>

National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) - <http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Cardinal's statement of 21 June 2019 - <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinals-statement-following-iicsa-report-into-archdiocese-of-birmingham/>

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.

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

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

ROSARIO TORRISI RIP Rosario's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 5th November at 12 noon.

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.

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 7pm 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING will take place this Wednesday after 9.30am Mass.
Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee first!

OUR LADY'S CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE takes place this Saturday at 10am. Refreshments served after all the hard work.

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

28 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	SS Simon and Jude
	11am	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
29 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Blessed Martyrs
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
31 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	2pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
01 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	All Saints
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	All Souls

Thirty-first Sunday of the Year

02 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 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.