

# 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*

## ***Thirty-first Sunday of the Year 3rd November page 158 of Mass Book***

For those of you attending Saturday evening Mass, it will be the Mass of All Souls Day. For the Sunday Mass-goers, the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. As next week is Remembrance Sunday, I'll leave consideration of the dead until then.

Sunday's Gospel reading has Jesus' journey to Jerusalem interrupted in Jericho by a man up a tree! Zacchaeus is a senior tax-collector AND a wealthy man, St. Luke tells us. What inference do we draw from that?! Crucially Jesus notices him and asks him to invite him to his house. The encounter results in some very unhappy neighbours and righteous folk grumbling at the Lord's choice of host but leads to Zacchaeus being transformed and the poor and those cheated receiving lavish recompense. 'Today salvation has come to this house!' is what Jesus says in defence of Zacchaeus. God wants everyone to be saved! 'Even cheats?' we might find ourselves saying; in the Lord's day 'Even the poor?' was the question. Especially in St. Luke's Gospel do we find Jesus reaching out to all sorts and giving them a living experience of salvation which comes from God. In the Acts of the Apostles, which is St. Luke's continuation of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, we discover afresh this Good News of the Kingdom. It is also worth remembering that Jesus found - and finds - ways of challenging every kind of person too - including us! He is happy to give us time. What would it mean for you to say 'Salvation has come to my house'? For your home to be filled with the radiant presence of Christ? For those with whom you share your life to enjoy peace, forgiveness and nurture?

One of the things which strikes me about Zacchaeus is that he put himself in just the position where he could catch sight of Jesus and vice versa. In your own life, how do you make this possible? How do you communicate this to others? There are some who now read our newsletter online; others pop in for a copy from the back of the church. Do you know of someone who needs to know? Action is required!

Have a wonderful week. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND** The annual collection for this fund takes place next weekend. At present 80 priests of our Diocese are receiving support from the fund which covers their essential needs at a time when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Your gift could help ensure our sick and retired priests have the housing, care and support they need. Please take one of the special envelopes as you leave Mass and next weekend there will be a retiring collection in our churches. If you wish to donate online, the link is [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**CAFOD** Today at Holy Family's 9.30 Mass we welcome Tony Sheen from CAFOD who will be presenting awards to CAFOD volunteers from our three parishes who have given great service over many years. Congratulations!

**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 begins next Sunday (10th).

**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.

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?** Or are you an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger? Seven 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?

**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. There is no need to give any money.

**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.

**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.

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

**DEBORAH MARTIN RIP** Deborah's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Monday 11th November at 12.30pm.

**A DEMENTIA FRIENDS** information session will be held at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 21st November at 7.30 for 8pm. See notice at back of the church. If you would like to attend please let Anne Keller know on 07941321801 or Anne Horsman on 01438840566. Everyone welcome.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** is having a Speaker on Tuesday 12th November at 8.00pm. They are called the "Smile Train". It will be a very interesting evening regarding children that have a disfigurement. Please come and support Smile Train. We will be delighted to see you all. If you would like transport please ring Sally Rand 01707 884492

**TRANSPORT TO MASS** If you or someone you know needs a lift to Mass please contact Martin Moore on 07768 50660 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399 who will endeavour to arrange it.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING** This Thursday 10am. All welcome!

**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** To celebrate National Inter Faith Week you are all invited to a shared supper at the Focolare Centre at 7pm on Thursday 14 November. Please bring a dish to share, listing the ingredients.

**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.

**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) this 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.

**CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS!** Following the success of last year, the Diocese of Westminster Education Service is hosting another evening to engage with Catholic teachers and leaders currently working outside of Catholic education. This occasion is designed to inform, encourage and accompany those who are interested in working within our Catholic schools. The event will take place on Tuesday 18th November at 6.30 in Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN (near Victoria Station).

**MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 8th November at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**SIGNED MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm. We invite people coming to bring food to share. There will be a practice session for signers on Wednesday 20th November 7 - 8pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Anyone intending to come to the practice on the Wednesday should let Fr. Norbert know.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** The next one will be on Saturday 30th November at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'Get-together' in the sacristy. Please bring food to share. There will be bingo and an Advent Quiz!

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next First Friday early Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am on 6th December followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome. On All Saints Day there were over 50 people!

**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.

**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](http://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.

**OBERAMMERGAU** 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.

#### **MASS TIMES**

04 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Charles Borromeo
05 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12noon	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
07 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
08 Friday	9.30pm	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
<b>Thirty-second Sunday of the Year</b>				
09 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 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.**