

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*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 24th November page 167

We come today to the last Sunday of November and the final Sunday of the Church's Year when we celebrate Christ the King. November certainly has been a month of remembering! Our Gospel passage today from St. Luke takes us to the Cross and the scene which unfolds as Jesus is executed. One of the thieves dying with Jesus taunts him and scornfully tells Christ to save himself and the two dying with him. The other pleads: 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom'. What a powerful, humble prayer which acknowledges faith in Jesus! The Lord's response: 'Today you will be with me in paradise' highlights his own faith in his Father who will raise him to glory when he pours out his life in his last breath and that this gift of eternal life will be shared with others. Jesus does indeed save the latter who is open to what Jesus can do for him. Can you recall the final words of Jesus in his encounter with Zacchaeus which we heard not so long ago? 'The Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost'. We can see and hear this in the Good Thief's conversation with Jesus!

So, as the Liturgical Year draws to a close, we are put in touch with Christ's Kingship: on the Cross, suffering intensely and saving the lost one who turns to him with trust. Next weekend, with the start of Advent, our Scriptures will move from St. Luke to St. Matthew - still 'Gospel' but with different perspectives and challenges. Each Evangelist held on tightly to the message of Good News proclaimed but found ways of sharing it with a fresh outlook for the communities they served and wrote for. In these important moments in our own country's history, let each of us pray that God's Kingdom may come with justice, peace, harmony and hope. Let us reflect on Scripture each day. Let us try to be instruments of the Reign of God so that those around us may have a taste of the love which Jesus Christ brings into our world.

Have a good week! ***Fr. Norbert***

ADVENT During the Season of Advent which begins next weekend there will be times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in each of our churches: Mondays at Our Lady's, Thursdays at Holy Family and Fridays at St. Bonaventure's all 10.00 -10.30am. The Service of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday 17th December at 8pm in Our Lady's.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT Holy Family next Sunday 1st December after 9.30am Mass. Children for First Communion should be at least in Year 3 at Primary School. Any parents who missed Our Lady's meeting last week should speak to Fr. Norbert.

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

CONFIRMATION The next session for our young people will be today (Sunday 24th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church. Next weekend the young people will be presented at Mass. Please keep them and their catechists in your prayers.

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 Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) today 24th) at 2pm.

ADVENT SCHOOL MASSES Our Lady School will have Mass on Monday 2nd December at 2.15pm and Holy Family School on Tuesday 3rd December at 2.15pm. Each Mass will be in the particular school.

DISCOVER THE BIBLE IN 2020 Have you ever wanted to learn more about the bible, but don't know where to start? To mark the Church's 'Year of the Word' we will be running the 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' study program, which presents the 'big picture' of the Bible from Adam and Eve to Jesus and the Church. The course will run on eight alternate Thursdays from 23rd January. This is a great chance to deepen your understanding of the Bible. Places will be limited, so please let Fr Tony know if you are interested.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH OUTDOOR CRIB - the outdoor crib will be erected on Saturday 30th November at 10am. We need plenty of help with this task, all are welcome. Hot refreshments will be served.

AFTERNOON TEA at Nicholas Breakspear School on Friday 6th December from 12.30pm for the 'more mature and respected members of the community'. The Sixth Form will prepare high tea and organise entertainment. If you would like to attend, please contact Marion King at the school on 01727 860079 or email kingm@nbs.herts.sch.uk The school needs to have responses in by Friday 29th.

PARTY The Monday afternoon Tea Dance Group at the Woodhall Community Centre will be having a dance party there on Monday 23rd December. The organisers are wondering if any elderly or lonely parishioners would like to come along and join them at the party. If you know of anyone how will be spending this Christmas on their own and think they would like to come along free, please ask them to pop in on any Monday afternoon and put down their names before 1st December on their Christmas list so they know how many to cater for.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert and the Sixth Form of Nicholas Breakspear will be walking from the school to join everyone for this Friday's Mass!

TRANSPORT TO MASS If you or someone you know needs a lift to Mass please contact Martin Moore on 07768 650660 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399 who will endeavour to arrange it. Lily Rand if you would like them collected. 01707 884492.

PARISH ARTWORK CALENDARS Luke has ordered more calendars after he sold all 50 on the first weekend! Thanks for your support. He will continue to sell these for £5 each to raise money for CAFOD. He will be at the back of church after the 9.30, 10.30, 11.30 & 6pm Sunday Masses.

PRIEST'S REFERENCES Parents seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for their child's entry to Reception Class or Nursery are invited to sign up for an appointment with Fr. Norbert in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 4th December 4 - 6pm or Monday 9th December 3.30 - 5.30pm. Please ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 or email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk to book a 5-minute appointment. Parents are asked to fill out a yellow 'Extra Form' available at the back of the churches, to bring their child and wait in the church to be called. Thank you.

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Admissions September 2020 We welcome applications to our School Reception class starting September 2020. This process is for children who were born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. The application process opened on Tuesday 5th November 2019. All application forms need to be completed and returned to the school office by 15th January 2020. All forms can be found on our website <https://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/admissions/> You must also apply online at Hertfordshire Admissions www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Tours of the school with the head teacher for prospective parents take place on Tuesday and Thursday from 10am, please contact the office to book a place.

MONDAY MASS Our Lady's Year 3 and Year 4 children will be joining us for 9.30am Mass on Monday.

SHOEBOXES The shoeboxes were collected last Thursday. There were exactly 100 of them so thank you to all those who gave their support to this charity.

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.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 13th December at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

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. The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Roger Trigg, has asked to come to the celebration!

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.

COME AND SING Come along and sing Christmas songs and carols *A Cappella* style with us! Every Tuesday from 3rd - 17th December 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Vineyard Barn, Digswell Rise AL8 7PU. For more info contact Julie 07941 610406 or info@welwynharmony.co.uk. **NATIVITY**

PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S As part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 15th December, there will be a Nativity Play. All children are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is **this Saturday 30th November** from 3pm - 4pm, on this day we give out parts. The next day (1st December) there will be a rehearsal from 2.30pm - 4pm. Further rehearsals are Tuesday 3rd 3.45-5pm, Sunday 8th 2.30pm - 4pm, Tuesday 10th 3.45pm - 5pm and finally the dress rehearsal on Saturday 14th from 3pm- 4pm. Hope to see you there.

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

ADVENT BOOKLETS and CALENDARS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN These are available this weekend. Please take one (free of charge) and make good use of it!

FREE COPIES OF THE UNIVERSE This copy includes a photo and article about the recent CAFOD presentation. Copies are available in each of our churches.

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

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!

MASS TIMES

25 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
29 Friday	9.30pm	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Andrew

First Sunday of Advent

30 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
01 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.