

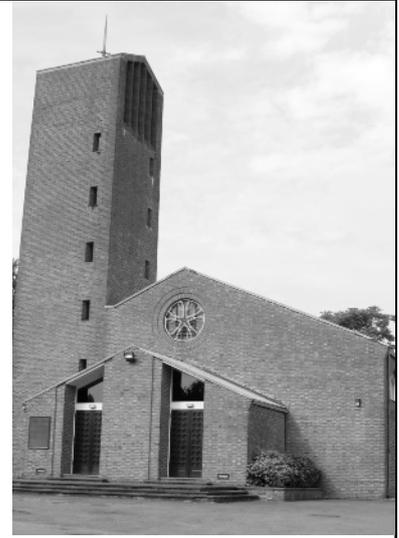
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

All Saints 1st November 2015 (p.186 of Mass book)

Extract from the Pastoral letter following the Synod on the Family

(Copies of the full pastoral letter are at the back of church)

In the Synod we talked of the family as 'a blessing for the Church': the place where we learn and share how to live by faith, where we teach and practice family prayer, and the place from which we reach out to others in their need.

All of this was summed up for me in a phrase: the family is the flesh of the Church. In every parish, I see in the families around me the very flesh of the Church, the life of Christ taking place before my eyes. It is they who so often show most clearly the work of the Beatitudes which we have heard in the Gospel reading today.

In our Synod discussion group we had shared together what we treasured most about our own family life. Doing this brought us together powerfully, even though we came from five different continents! The challenges faced by families today were in our own stories, too: poverty; an absence of faith; a reluctance to speak of faith at home; the drama of being refugees or migrants; the breakdown of a marriage in the pain of divorce and, of course, the fact of people entering a second civil marriage and finding there a new start, stability, and fruitful love.

Our main work in the Synod has been to fashion the right response of the Church to many of these situations. This must be a patient accompaniment, a readiness to listen, a gift of time and attention to one another. This is a pathway for us all to take, but especially us bishops and priests who are entrusted with the care of God's people

Our final document of the Synod, which we presented to Pope Francis for his consideration, speaks often of this 'pathway of accompaniment', of that 'reverential listening', which is the first act of mercy, of the work of 'discernment', of wanting to come close to the reality of so many lives in their difficulties and trials. During the Synod discussions, many wanted us to express, humbly, a word of regret and apology that this often has not been the path we have taken. I am glad to do so now.

continued on next page

The purpose of this focus of our pastoral work is very clear. It was beautifully expressed in the first reading at Mass last Sunday: 'They left in tears. But I will comfort them and lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water ... For I am a father to Israel and Ephraim is my son' (Jer. 31.9). To all who have left in tears I want to offer a hand of welcome, especially during this coming Year of Mercy. With time we hope to fashion a clear invitation for you to come to meet the Lord, to ponder His ways in your lives, to sense his mercy and his truth and to grow in strength as his baptised disciples in the family of the Church.

Today we honour all the saints. We see them gathered round the throne of God, praising God in joy and thanksgiving. We hear that in their trials and suffering they clung faithfully to Christ, so closely that 'they washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.' They teach us so much.

We all have our favourite or patron saint. Perhaps we were given his or her name at baptism or at confirmation. They have so much to teach us about how to accompany each other through the dilemmas of life and of how to come to a mature understanding of the demands of the Gospel in our lives as the one true path of life. Today we also honour all those who may not be canonized but are surely saints. For so many of these, family life, with all its joy and challenges, was their path to heaven. Think how many saints there may be in your family, still helping you by their example and intercession!

May all the saints encourage and strengthen us today. May we draw from this Synod of Bishops great encouragement for our own family life and for the life of the family of the Church, as we each reach out for the great mercy of God, a mercy that will never fail us once we come, with penitent hearts, seeking its healing and peace.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster

ALL SOULS DAY Masses are as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane on Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway on Sunday 8th November at 2pm. Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm on Sunday 22nd November.

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE Many of you took home the pledge cards regarding the Planned Giving Drive we recently had in our three churches. We would ask that you return them as soon as possible. At all the Masses the weekend 7th/8th November members of the Finance Committees will be at the back of each church to receive the pledge cards and answer any questions. Thank you for your co-operation and great generosity.

RECEPTION CLASS AND NURSERY Fr. Norbert will make times available in December. Watch this space. Please note that there will now be a Certificate of Catholicity instituted by the Bishops of England and Wales. Basically a priest can only give a family a Certificate of Catholicity if the family attends Mass every week. So the responsibility is on each family to do all they can to live up to what has always been the Catholic Church's expectation that Catholics attend Mass every week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016 Our Lady's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.45pm in the church. Preparation will begin in January and takes place on a Sunday morning. Holy Family's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION The retiring collection today is for Sick and Retired Priests Fund which ensures elderly and infirm priests are not alone in their senior years after a lifetime of service.

SHOEBOXES (OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD) Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our party on Tuesday 3rd November from 3.45pm - 5.15pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (hot dogs, pizza provided). £2 to cover costs. All children (and parents) welcome.

WORLD YOUTH DAY brochures are at the back of church. There will be a meeting for anyone interested on Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. Pax Travel will give a presentation and young people from the parishes of the Deanery will be invited too. So let your friends know! Parents whose sons and daughters are at university, pass on this info to them too. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?!

PETER SHIELDS R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Peter Shields is at 11.15am in Holy Family Church on Friday 13th November. The body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Thursday 12th. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends.

LIKE TO SING? Then come to the choir practice on Thursday 12th November at 10.15am at St. Bonaventure's.

HCPT Dinner Dance Friday 4th December 7pm till 11pm at Club de Havilland, Hatfield. 2 course meal with live band, £25 a head. All money raised will be going to help children with special needs. To book your ticket please call Bev Kleiser on 07751410759.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD Group will be meeting on Tuesday 3rd Nov at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family. As always everyone is welcome, come for a cup of tea!

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE on Saturday next, 7th November, at 10am for ONE hour, the cleaning of the church and the maintenance of the grounds will take place. Refreshments available.

CYRIL CRAWLEY R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cyril Crawley who died this Friday morning. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends.

NATIONAL INTER FAITH WEEK 15 - 22 November Local events: Tuesday 17th November, Bring & Share Supper at the Focolare Centre 7pm, (please sign the list at the back of the church with your offering of food); Saturday 21st November, an evening of music and reflection at the Friends' Meeting House at 7.30pm and on Sunday 22nd November 10 - 5 a food bank collection at Morrisons, Panshanger. Please phone Valerie on 01707 324828 if you can offer an hour of your time to help with this.

CWL The Catholic Women's League is having a recruitment drive this weekend for more members and will be speaking at all Masses. There will be ladies at the back of church to give you more information. They meet every second Tuesday of the month after 7pm Mass (next meeting 10th November which this time will be for the deceased members of the Catholic Women's League).

CONFIRMATION The first session for our young people will be on Sunday 22nd November in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church at 7.15pm. Anyone who missed the enrolment meeting should contact Fr. Norbert.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

Fr. Martin 01707 327434

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:

www.stbonaventure.org.uk

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson
 01707 377442

YEAR OF MERCY Fr. John Hemer will be leading a day for the catechists of our Deanery on the Year of Mercy. It will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS) on Saturday 21st November 10am - 3pm. Fr. John has led the days for catechists for the last couple of years and has always given an inspiring presentation. For this reason, and with the importance of the Year of Mercy for everyone. Please bring food to share at lunchtime.

PILGRIMAGES Pax Travel is organising for us a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Prague next year 22nd - 26th October, 2016. Brochures will be available soon. There will be an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. There will be a meeting about the Holy Land trip on Tuesday 26th January, 2016 at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall.

CONFESSIONS

Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30am - 11am
Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30p

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	All Souls
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady	
03 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Martin de Porres
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Charles Borromeo
05 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
06 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year

07 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
08 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 you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463