

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*

Second Sunday of the Year 15th January 2017 p. 125 of book

The newsletter is back in action! I hope your Christmas and the bringing in of the New Year went well. With Christmas falling on a Sunday, didn't it create a very different experience? Now 2017 is well underway with its opportunities and challenges, with resolutions being kept (?!), perhaps with apprehension as our world moves into a new era with the USA's new President taking up the reins and 'Brexit' still unfolding.

'I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.' These are the words of the Lord spoken to the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading. Perhaps we might reflect on them this Sunday at the start of a new calendar year? Firstly, it is God's work which will turn us into lights. What does it mean for YOU to be a light? Where does the Lord want you to shine? At work, in school, at home or in the community? Are you being made into a blinding spotlight, a flickering flame or a raging fire? Obviously, to be the correct source of light for a particular situation is essential; so there is nothing wrong in being a small torch. How is he transforming you? The Lord speaks of his 'salvation'; this is one of those technical words we use which has many layers of means. At face value, this word infers being saved - saved from who or what? When Jesus saves people he brings healing into their lives so that deep down they may experience his peace and a harmony of love. The Lord wants the salvation to reach to the ends of the earth. It is fascinating that here in our town and wider area, we have peoples from so many different parts of the world with various cultures, languages and traditions. How can ALL OF US harness what we have here in such a way that there is a dynamic force extending back across the face of the earth? May our working together and our much respect and appreciation be a beacon! Let us ask God to bless us personally so that we may radiate his presence in our daily lives too.

Fr. Norbert

PEACE SUNDAY Catholics across England and Wales are taking up the challenge that Pope Francis issued in his World Peace message: "Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace". The theme for 2017 is 'Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace'; it is the first time that nonviolence has been explored as a force more powerful in seeking peace, recognising that it is not merely a tactic but a way of life. In his letter to parishes for Peace Sunday, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool and President of Pax Christi said: "The message of Pope Francis offers a timely opportunity for our parishes to explore the Catholic tradition of nonviolence which goes back to Jesus, and to develop ways to make Gospel nonviolence better known." Pax Christi sees Peace Sunday as the start of a year-long process of reflection and study of the message and all that it has to offer our world community in better responding to injustice and violence.

JULIAN OF NORWICH - MEDITATION at St. John's Church, Monks Rise AL8 7NF on Saturday 28th January 6.30 - 7.45pm. Julian of Norwich was a woman of her time, the 14th Century, a woman who had received 16 Divine Revelations when she was about 30 years old. She spent the rest of her life, locked away in a cell - at her own choosing - reflecting on all that God had revealed to her. The Meditation being presented at St John's is an adapted version of her reflections in original music and dance, backed up by artistic interpretations and narration. Free entry...All welcome.

BENCHES at Our Lady's are going to have an overhaul. The kneelers will be taken away on Monday 23rd January (we're not sure when they are coming back!) and the broken benches repaired.

MONDAY 9.30 MASSES Our Lady School will be coming to the 9.30 morning Masses at Our Lady's Church: Year 4 on 16th, Year 6 on 23rd and Year 5 on 30th.

CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS will be celebrating 25 years of being a Bishop. There will be Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 23rd January at 5.30pm. All welcome.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY will be on Friday 27th January and will be commemorated at a Service in Parkway WGC at 11am followed by tea and coffee in the Synagogue near the Barn Theatre. All welcome.

CANDLEMAS Thursday 2nd February is the 40th day after Christmas and is a day when candles are blessed in commemoration of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. As well as the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, there will be an extra Mass at Our Lady's at 7pm.

TRANSPORT TO MASS A group of parishioners from our three churches has met to reflect on a follow-up to the Year of Mercy, especially the call of Pope Francis to reach out to the community. The plan is to organise a transport service to Mass for parishioners who are unable to attend on their own; this will enable those people to continue to feel part of the community. It is intended to cover all 3 churches. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 18th January at 7:30pm in St Bonaventure's Hall to discuss the proposal. Please attend if you are interested and have any thoughts or experience on the subject. Any questions please contact Desi Russell 01707 371399 or Joe Galloway 01707 894207. What a great opportunity!

WOMEN OF VALOUR is a Prayer Group made up of women who meet every Saturday at 4pm in Our Lady's Chapel (near the entrance to the Hall) to say the Rosary and to share the Word. They would like to invite you to join them and encourage you to bring your children along.

The CAFOD group are holding a "Thank You" evening for all parishioners on Friday 27th January at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Tea coffee wine and a light buffet will be provided. There will be no charge or collection for this evening, it is simply to thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH A date will be set for a meeting to continue the preparations for Holy Family Church's 50th. Watch this space.

FIRST FRIDAY Our next early morning Mass will be on Friday 3rd February in St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the Hall. The Blessing of the throat on St. Blaise's Day will be given that day.

JOAN LAIRD RIP Joan's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 3rd February at 12.30pm.

SUSAN HUGHES RIP Susan's Funeral Service will be in the Chapel of Southway (Hatfield Lawn) Cemetery on Friday 10th February at 1.30pm.

KAY CUNNINGHAM RIP Kay died on Friday and so details are available of her Funeral.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The first meeting for parents of our three churches will be on Wednesday 25th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. If you have not yet signed up for your child at Our Lady's or Holy Family Churches, please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible. Children should be at least in Year 3.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Sunday 22nd January at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

RCIA Next meeting on Monday 16th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall starting with coffee at 10.30 and finishing around 5pm. Couples are invited to stay for 6pm Mass when there will be a special Blessing of Engaged Couples. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 should come. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you plan on coming.

HOLY LAND (Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017: 46 have booked) and **FATIMA** (Sunday 10th - Thursday 14th September 2017: 18 have booked so far) £689. We have run out of brochures for both pilgrimages, so best to contact Pax Travel for more details on 020 7485 3003 or info@paxtravel.co.uk Not many places left!

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 17th January at 10.15am. Holy Family Wednesday 18th January at 7pm. Our Lady's Friday 20th January at 7.45pm.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY The main Service will be on Sunday 22nd January at 4pm in the United Reformed Church opposite Sainsbury's. There will be two other Services: Wednesday 18th January at 12 noon at Ludwick Way Methodist Church and on Wednesday 25th January at 8pm at Revival Chapel, 18 Martinfields, Welwyn GC, AL7 1HG All welcome.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL has its next meeting on Tuesday 7th February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Please let Fr. Norbert know if there are any points you would like raised.

SVP The SVP are very grateful to the parishioners of Holy Family church for their generous and unexpected donation. Thank you. As always, it will go towards helping those most in need.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday 11th February at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. The sick and infirm of our parishes are especially invited.

CARDINAL'S MASS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES will be on Saturday 3rd June at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more, and would like to be invited to this Mass, please give the details of your names and address, email, phone and date of wedding to Fr. Norbert and he will send them on. Every year many couples have attended this Mass and have come home extremely happy!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will be on Saturday 25th February at 6pm at Our Lady's.

MOTHER AND TODDLER This friendly group meets every Wednesday in St. Bonaventure's hall from 10am. Come along with your little ones - lots of toys to play with and it is good opportunity for mums, grandparents, carers, to get to know one another.

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

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

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

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

Herts Welcomes Syrian Families the AGM of this organisation will be held on Wednesday 25th January, at the Quaker Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane, WGC, Herts AL8 6SP. Start at 7.30pm, with coffee and biscuits, and the AGM will start at 8pm. Past and future activities will be discussed and there will be a report from the Refugee Council's Casework manager. All are welcome.

Justice & Peace Commission, Annual Open Meeting, 18th January This year's Open meeting will take place, at St John Vianney's church (West Green, north London), next Wednesday at 6.30 pm. Start with Mass and then refreshments, and the meeting. John Fogarty (john.fogarty@ntlworld.com, tel' 01707 327771) will be travelling to London.

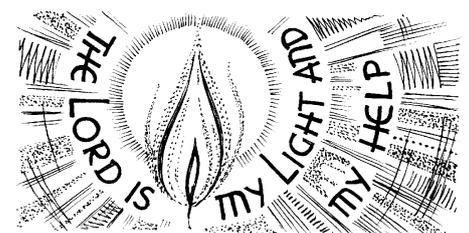
CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30am - 11am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm -5.30pm.

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Anthony Abbott
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12noon	Nuptial Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Agnes

Third Sunday of the Year

21 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
22 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 Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) Office Tel: **01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: **07876 526935** email: **chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**