

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year 13th October 2013 (page 149)

From Archbishop Nichols: Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

This weekend, 12th -13th October, as part of the celebrations for the Year of Faith, the Holy Father will be celebrating a special Marian Day in Rome. Pope Francis has asked that the statue of Our Lady of Fatima be brought to Rome from that shrine and on Sunday, at Mass, he will consecrate the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This act mirrors similar consecrations undertaken by Pope Pius XII in 1952 in Rome, and by Blessed Pope John Paul II, firstly in Fatima in 1982, and then in Rome in March, 1984.

But why a consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Such devotion reflects the Pope's desire to see mirrored in every human heart the simple and pure love that Mary had for Jesus. We consecrate ourselves to Mary's Heart as a sign of our desire to show her same openness to God and neighbour. To consecrate oneself – or others – to her Heart is effectively to set out on a pilgrimage to her heart and to seek there that we might love God more fully – more 'wholeheartedly' we might say – and to love our neighbour in concrete and real ways.

Devotion to Mary is not an optional 'add-on' to Catholic belief, but an expression of what is at the heart of our faith. To draw close to Mary is to draw close to Jesus. As the earliest Christian witnesses often taught, Mary was open to receiving Jesus in her mind and in her heart before she gave birth to him in her flesh. For this reason she is the first of all the disciples of the Lord as she is the most faithful of all the Lord's followers. In her maternal love of us she continues to assist us in our following of Him; a consecration to her Immaculate Heart gives expression to this in a simple way.

Over the past two hundred years especially, devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart has become more explicit in the Catholic Church. This reached its pinnacle through various Marian apparitions in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1830, in Rue du Bac in Paris, in the apparitions to St. Catherine Laboure, we were given the image of the Miraculous Medal. This is a very practical means of calling to mind Mary's maternal protection of us and our desire to imitate her. In the apparitions to St. Bernadette in Lourdes in 1858 we received a confirmation of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. In Fatima, in 1917, the invitation of

a Consecration to Mary's Heart was made explicit in the apparitions to the three children. In these various Marian shrines the Church sees that devotion to Mary is a very real path of holiness and a way of drawing closer to Jesus.

From the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has reminded us, again and again, that devotion to Mary is at the heart of our Catholic faith. He has expressed that devotion in practical ways – by praying before the image of her in St. Mary Major's Church on the morning after his election, and visiting that Basilica several times since, as well as by making a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil before he celebrated World Youth Day with three million young people in Rio. In his recent, oft-quoted interview, the Holy Father notes, "This is how it is with Mary: if you want to know who she is, you ask theologians; if you want to know how to love her, you have to ask the people."

There is no doubt that when Pope Francis makes this new consecration of the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 13th October, he will be praying most especially for those people most in need in our world – for those longing for peace, for the poor and the marginalised, for the sick and bereaved, for those who feel alienated from God. To her Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart he will commend these and all of us. As the Holy Father makes this consecration, let us each ask Mary to show us how we might more faithfully follow her son Jesus, and so love God and our neighbour more wholeheartedly.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND Fr Vincent is hoping to have an overview of all the sick and housebound of our parish. As such he would like to draw up a database of all those who are currently being visited and by whom and anyone else who is long-term sick and/or unable to get to church. Over time he would like to visit all those people to get to meet them and to offer them the sacraments of the church as and when they require. Not all these people will see a copy of the newsletter and so if you know of anyone who fits this category please draw their attention to it. It is best to email Fr Vincent but a phone call would be just as good. Contact details are on the back of the newsletter. Many thanks to all those who currently visit parishioners at home and especially who bring them Communion. Please keep up the good work.

YEAR OF FAITH This week the Cross of San Damiano will be with the Almeyda family who live at The Old Rectory (across from St. Peter's), Ayot St. Peter, Welwyn AL6 9BG. They invite parishioners to join them in prayer on Wednesday 16th November at 3pm. Another Cross will be with the Walters family who live at 76 Hollybush Lane, WGC AL7 4JW. They invite parishioners to join them in prayer on Wednesday 16th at 7.30pm. If you would like to host the Cross for a week in the these remaining weeks, please let Fr. Norbert know. **END OF YEAR OF FAITH DINNER** at the Homestead Court Hotel on Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm. It will be a 3-course meal with coffee and mints. Cost £19.50 (children 10 years and under £9.75). Next week there will be flyers with the menu and a chance to reserve a place. The round tables take 10 people.

FR. MICHAEL'S FAREWELL will take place on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm followed by a Reception in Our Lady's Hall. In due course envelopes will be available for a presentation to Fr. Michael.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our thanks to all who helped with last Sunday's celebration both in church and afterwards at the Barn Dance. A great time was had by all!

RCIA (The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) will begin on Monday 4th November at 7.30pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place as follows: for Holy Family Church on Sunday 10th November at 10.40am in church (after Mass); for Our Lady's on Tuesday 19th November at 7.45pm in church (after Mass and Novena). Parents are requested to come and receive all the important dates related to their children's preparation for these Sacraments. Children do not need to attend the evening meeting.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic Secondary School will need a Priest's Reference. Fr. Norbert has scheduled Tuesday 15th October 4 - 6pm at Holy Family as a final opportunity for parents and their children to see him with their forms. Please ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a ten-minute appointment. It is essential that the 'Self-Assessment Form' is filled in completely. Please wait in church to be called to see Fr. Norbert. Thank you.

OUR LADY'S ALTAR SERVERS All Our Lady's altar servers are asked to come to training in the church on Saturday 19th October 11am - 12.30pm. It is also a good opportunity for new servers to make a start.

ALBS If any servers who have 'retired' still have their albs and cinctures at home, please return them to the sacristy of the church where you served. Thank you.

OUR LADY'S APF/MISSIO RED BOXES. Would those members who have a Missio/APF Red Box at home please try to bring it to church for collection during the weekend of 19th/20th October. If the boxes are left that weekend monies will be counted and boxes ready for collection again a week later. Many thanks for all the contributions you have been able to make during this year.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD We will again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world. There are leaflets at the back of each church advising you about what can be included in the boxes. Filled boxes, knitted hats, scarves, gloves/mittens can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. This year, for those who do not have a shoe box to fill or who dislike covering them, we have some flat pack boxes for you to use or some already covered.

LOURDES The Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes leaves WGC early on Saturday 26th October. If you would like petitions taken to the Grotto, please put them in a clearly marked envelope and give them to Fr. Norbert. Don't put any money inside as the envelopes eventually are burned.

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS The Polish Community would like to invite everyone to join them for the Polish/English Mass on Saturday 19th October at 6pm in Our Lady's. Afterwards in the Hall there will be delicious food available! Zapraszamy wszystkich serdecznie na Polsko-Angielska Msze 19 października o godz. 18.00. Po Mszy odbędzie się poczęstunek w sali przykościelnej. Gorąco zachęcamy wszystkich do przygotowania polskich potraw i ciast (oraz pozostawianie przed Mszą w salce) aby podzielić się z innymi parafianami. Chetnych do pomocy prosimy o kontakt z Sylwia 07825216627.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S COFFEE GROUP Please collect your new rota from the back of church. **BRENDAN DOODY RIP** The Funeral Mass for Brendan will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 21st October at 1pm.

JUSTICE AND PEACE Sat October 19th (10am-4pm) London Justice & Peace Assembly. Three London dioceses and Missio. Salvation Army Regent Hall, Oxford St. Chair Bishop Pat Lynch with Bishop Kevin Dowling from South Africa and Bruce Kent. No charge. Tea and coffee provided. Contact John if you would like a lift - 01707 327771. **JAM JARS** Many thanks for the good number of jam jars handed in - it seems like enough to start a Marmalade Factory - for the time being **no more** are needed. The collecting basket will be removed from the church on Monday 21st October; there's still time to pop in a few more you might have accumulated.

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Holy Family Church
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OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790 135458
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

14 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria	
15 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Teresa of Jesus	
	7pm	Our Lady's		
16 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria	
17 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Ignatius of Antioch	
18 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Luke	
	7pm	Our Lady's		
19 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria	
		Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year		<i>Lord, Let me see your face, Know your heart and experience your love in my life.</i>
19 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's		<i>Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith.</i>
20 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure		<i>I believe Lord; Help my unbelief. Amen.</i>
	9.30am	Holy Family		
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure		
	11.30am	Our Lady's		
	6pm	Holy Family		

CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463