

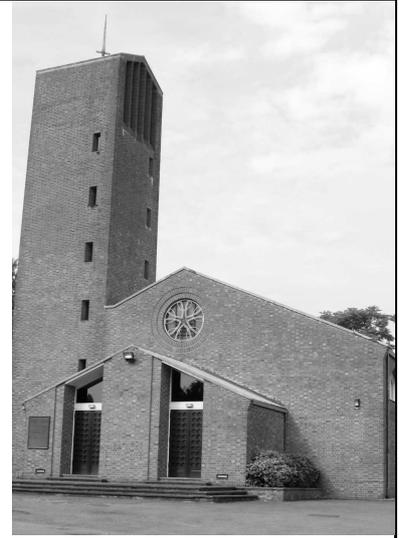
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes*  
*Seminarian: Samuel Ejeregbe Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14th September (p.181 of Mass book)***

‘God loved the world so much...’ These are key words of the Gospel message today from St. John as we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross. The Cross is the sign of love - God’s love for us, the response of humanity to the Father in and through Jesus Christ; the reconciliation of human beings by the Blood which was poured out. Forgiveness, peace, glory and triumph are some of the words which issue as we unravel the mystery of the Cross.

Do we love the world which God has loved so much? Would we be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this world as Jesus Christ did? The wood of the Cross is part of God’s Creation, taking us back to Genesis and the Tree in the Garden that was the cause of humanity’s downfall. The wood now is a throne carrying the Son of God and lifting him up in exaltation. Jesus hallows the wood so that it becomes humanity’s weapon in defeating sin and death. God’s love is personal and so deep and yet it extends to every corner of the earth and to every generation. This love pours forth from the Cross and brings life in abundance.

Today’s feast takes precedence over the 24th Sunday of the Year. We would have had a parable from St. Matthew about the Unforgiving Servant who refuses to cancel a small debt when his master has forgiven him a huge fortune. Jesus wants us to forgive from the heart and as many times as is necessary. Surely the Cross is the constant reminder that God is ready to forgive us unceasingly? As we glory in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us allow its power to work in us in ways we never thought possible!

Have a good week. Our prayers go out to those young people leaving WGC to start at university or college and those returning to their studies. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**SEMINARIANS IN WGC** One of the Diocesan seminarians wrote the following to Fr. Norbert “I am writing to thank you and all the parishioners of your three parishes, so much for your kindness and extremely generous hospitality during the Westminster Gathering earlier this week. I was wonderful to be able to see the vibrancy and faith of three very different parishes and it is very affirming to see the positive can do attitude of *ora et labora* at the coal face as it were. I enjoyed our conversations. Please be assured of my continued prayers for both you and your wonderful parishioners - their example will be deeply sustaining for me whilst I’m in Rome.”

Fr. Richard Nesbitt, the Vocations Director, wrote: “ This is a just a short note to say a HUGE thank you for everything. The seminarians’ time in WGC could not have gone better and we hugely appreciated all the effort you and the parishioners had gone to so as to welcome and host us all so warmly. It also gave the seminarians a great insight into how ministering to more than one parish can become an opportunity for real grace and growth rather than being necessarily a backward step. There was a real buzz amongst the seminarians on the way back to London afterwards - so mission accomplished! Please thank all those involved once again on our behalf - you have some truly wonderful parishioners!”

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** on Saturday 18th October at 6pm. POLSKA MSZA ZEBRANIE ORGANIZACYJNE/POLISH MASS MEETING 21 wrzesnia w kosciele OUR LADY’S po niedzielnej sumie odbędzie się spotkanie organizacyjne wszystkich chetnych serdecznie zapraszamy. Polish Mass organising meeting on 21st September 2014 in OUR LADY’S Church after the 11:30 Mass.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** on Saturday 7th February in Our Lady’s Hall. All couples getting married in WGC or elsewhere in 2015 and 2016 are invited to this day which will start with coffee at 10.30am and end with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. It is important that couples make contact with Fr. Norbert soon so that the paperwork and all the necessary preparations can be made, especially if you are marrying outside WGC.

**RCIA** will begin on Monday 3rd November at 8pm in the sacristy of Our Lady’s Church. Are you an adult who would like to join the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation as a teenage and now feel ready to make this commitment? Are you an adult who want to find out more about the Catholic Church with no strings attached? Do you know someone who would love to be invited to a meeting such as this?

**FR. GERARD** Our new priest, Fr. Gerard’s mother, Ann O’Brien, died last Sunday. May she rest in peace. Her Funeral will be on Monday 22nd September at 12noon in Wood Green at St. Paul’s Church. Let us pray for her, Fr. Gerard and all his family.

**FR. ALVARO** This weekend we welcome Fr. Norbert’s friend, Fr. Alvaro Pereira Delgado from Seville, Spain who is here for a few days of holiday. Sunday 14th is his 11th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination.

**ST. BONAVENTURE’S** Today is 88 years since the first Mass was celebrated at St Bonaventure’s and 40 years since the church was consecrated. Congratulations!

**BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON** Today is Bishop John’s 3rd Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination and his coming to live in Welwyn Garden City. May God bless him as he serves the people of Hertfordshire and the whole Diocese of Westminster.

**RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** Today the Church in England and Wales celebrates Racial Justice Sunday, a day on which Christians are called to pray earnestly for an end to racism and racial inequality. The Bishops’ Conference Office for Migration works in a unique partnership with statutory authorities in combatting human trafficking and modern slavery of the most vulnerable and marginalised people.

**SAMUEL WRITES:** I am Samuel Ejeregbe the new parish seminarian, as you all or some of you saw me at last Sunday Masses I am here for one year pastoral placement to share in the life of the three parishes and to shadow our parish priest Fr Norbert. I arrived on Saturday last week and trust me it started off with Baptism at Holy Family and then Vigil Mass at Our Lady's. It has been a busy week already, getting to know the parishioners and visiting the schools. I have had a good week thus far and I am absolutely thrilled to be in Welwyn Garden City. Please be patient with me during this period as I serve and learn from you all. Please pray for me and be assured of my prayers for you all.

*This Thursday Samuel will be 35 years old. Happy Birthday!*

**MINIBUS OUTING** for anyone with reduced mobility FRIDAY 26th SEPT to St. Albans Cathedral for the 12noon Mass and the Flower Festival ( tickets £8 ). Door to door transport and driver provided by the parish as Peter, our regular splendid volunteer driver, is not available. Please telephone Kay, 335633 to book.

**FUNERALS** Yvonne Carr's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 22nd September at 12.30pm.

David Jones' Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's at 9.30am on Monday 29th September.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** will have its first Mass of the year at 11am on Friday 19th September. All welcome.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** will have its first Mass of the Year on the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham at 11am on Wednesday 24th September in the School Hall. All welcome. Children from Years 3 + 4 will attend 9.30am Mass on Monday 22nd September in Our Lady's Church and Years 5 + 6 the 9.30 Mass on Monday 13th October.

**SCHOOL FORMS** Fr. Norbert will advertise dates for signing school forms for secondary school transfer once the open evenings have taken place. This will be end of September/beginning of October. If your child was not baptised in WGC, please try and get hold of a Baptismal certificate. If the Baptism was at one of our churches, contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 for a new certificate (if required).

**CONFIRMATION DAY** On Saturday 20th September, Bishop John Sherrington is inviting all the young people of Hertfordshire confirmed this year to Walsingham for a day of reflection and celebration. A coach will leave from WGC and stop off at other parishes in the deanery. The young people will be sent the information personally.

**CATECHISTS DAY** On Saturday 27th September there will be a Deanery Day for catechists led by Fr. John Hemer who teaches Scripture at Allen Hall. It will take place at St. Hilda's, 9 Breakspear, Stevenage SG2 9SQ. The day will start at 10am and finish at 3pm. There will be Mass at 12 noon and refreshments for lunch will be provided. Fr. Norbert encourages all involved in Children's Liturgy, First Holy Communion and First Confession, Confirmation, RCIA and Marriage to keep the day free if at all possible.

**GROWING IN FAITH** There was a tremendous response to Growing in Faith in WGC, especially on the final weekend. Your support is important and will help us to strengthen our parish and our Catholic Community in Westminster. Pledges worth £25,575 still have to be completed and returned. 75% of this will remain here for our new parish centre. If you received a pink pledge form in the post please return it by Friday 19th September! We will update the Parish on the final amount raised once all outstanding forms have been returned. Thank you!

**SCOTTISH REFERENDUM** Let us pray for the people of Scotland as they cast their votes on Thursday. It is certainly going to be an historic day with far reaching consequences for us all. May God guide them in the choice they make.

**ALTAR SERVERS** All existing servers and 'retired' servers are asked to check at home for albs and cinctures they no longer use. There are many new servers starting this ministry and it would be good to be able to make use of what has already been purchased. Thank you.

**LOCAL CHURCHES** Woodhall Lane URC Church had its last Service last Sunday and will join the Free Church on Parkway to form the new Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church. Their first Service will be at 2pm today (Sunday). Christchurch Baptist Church has a new Associate Pastor, Simon Cragg, whose induction takes place today. We wish both communities every blessing and assure them of our prayers.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2015** St. Bonaventure's preparation begins on Saturday 20th September at 10.30am in the hall.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP** are holding a cake sale after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 21st September, please be generous.

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**

**Our Lady's**  
**141 Woodhall Lane**  
**AL7 3TP**

**Website: www.ourlady-s-parish.info**

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**

**St. Bonaventure's**  
**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**

**Website:**  
**www.stbonaventure.org.uk**

**Holy Family Church**  
**194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**

**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE** Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790 135458  
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

**MASS TIMES**

15 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Our Lady of Sorrows
16 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	SS Cornelius and Cyprian
	7pm	Our Lady's	
17 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
18 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
19 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
20 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	SS Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions

**Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year**

<b>20 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
<b>21 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>



**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