

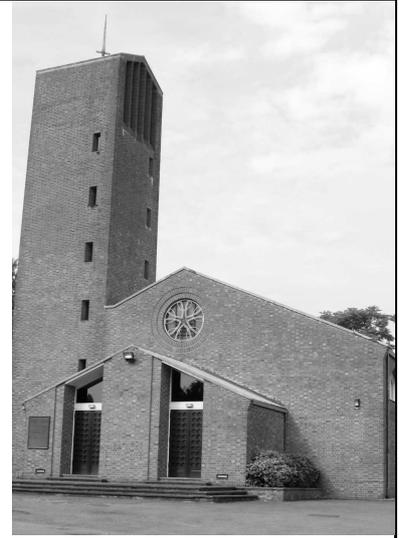
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

***Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year 28th September (p.134 of Mass book)***

‘What is your opinion?’ marks the start of another parable from St. Matthew’s Gospel. Sometimes when asked that question, we might not have an opinion or not have formed one just yet. Perhaps we are aware of how hard it might be to make a commitment to a point of view if the questioner disagrees with our response? Maybe we are just worried about what those around us will make of what we think?

Today’s passage is a challenge to religious people to consider the invitation from God to be a part of his Kingdom. It is so easy to say ‘Yes!’ and do nothing about it. And yet, as Jesus points out, there are those who appear to have said a blatant ‘No!’ who come to their senses and respond wholeheartedly. They can end up ten steps ahead of the religious! Of course, there is always an opportunity for a fresh start for everyone. But listening to Jesus Christ and working for the Kingdom he inaugurated is the call we must heed. Jesus brings an amazing quality to our lives. It is wonderful to know him and love him just as he knows us through and through and loves us to such a degree that he went to the Cross for us. As we opt for the Kingdom of God, we can make a huge difference to the lives of others as they see the full impact of Jesus Christ on ourselves. That is a challenge! We have to let our faith shine out through our way of living!

This week on 1st October I start my seventh year as your Parish Priest. Time flies! Please pray for me as I continue to carry out the responsibility entrusted to me. I keep you all in my prayers. Next Sunday Fr. Gerard O’Brien will begin as the Assistant Priest. I look forward to his coming to be with us with his gifts and qualities which will enrich the life of our parishes. May God bless our community as we strive to build up his Kingdom. May each one of us feel God’s presence in our lives in a personal and sustaining way. *Fr. Norbert*

**CAFOD'S HARVEST FAST DAY Friday 3rd October** CAFOD works with poor communities overseas on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Fast Days are our opportunity to support this vital work. Please collect a Fast Day envelope and prayer card after Mass, and consider fasting and praying in solidarity this Friday. Please return the Fast Day envelope with your donation for next weekend's CAFOD retiring collection. If you pay tax please consider Gift Aiding your donation.

**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 today (Sunday) 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?

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Parents who wish to enrol their children for First Confession and First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church are asked to come to a meeting in the church on Tuesday 4th November at 6pm. Those for Our Lady's Church are asked to come to a meeting in the church on Tuesday 4th November at 7.45pm. All the dates for parents' sessions and children's sessions as well as for the First Confessions and First Communion Masses will be given. Children do not need to attend. Fr. Norbert will meet with St. Bonaventure's parents on Saturday 18th October at 11am in the church.

**CONFIRMATION** There will be a meeting on Sunday 9th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church for young people of our three churches who wish to be confirmed in 2015. They should be in Year 9 or above at school. Parents are asked to come to this meeting.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Parents applying to a Catholic School for their child will need a Priest's Reference. Some schools only give out their forms at their open evenings. Consequently, Fr. Norbert has set the following dates for meeting with parents *and their children*: Friday 3rd October 3.30 - 6.30pm and 8.00 - 9.00pm; Tuesday 14th October 3.30 - 6.30pm. The meetings will be at Our Lady's. Parents are asked to ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 10-minute appointment and then to come with forms already filled out and to wait in Our Lady's Church. The Catholic schools require a Baptismal Certificate; so parents should ensure they have one. If a child was baptised in WGC, a new certificate can be requested from Kathryn Hubbard.

**RHEIMS TRIP** Sunday 26th October (6.15am departure) to Tuesday 28th October (10pm return). There are a few places left on the coach. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please take a brochure and booking form from the back of the church and book directly with Pax Travel.

**PEACE GARDEN** It is a really busy time in the garden; tidying up for the winter and planting bulbs for the Spring. It has also been extended over the last few months and we are desperately short of help to develop and maintain this pleasant area at the back of the church. If you could offer a few hours, please contact Anne (328516) or Tom (335358). Thank you.

**SYNOD IN ROME** There will be a very important gathering in Rome for the Synod on the Family. Pope Francis has asked people all over the world to pray for God's Spirit to guide all that takes place. The following prayer has been sent. Let us make this prayer our own in the coming weeks.

**Prayer to the Holy Family for the Synod**

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.*

**SVP TEA PARTY** The SVP is holding a tea party on 12th October at 3pm in Our Lady's Parish Centre. If you would like to come please put your name and telephone number on the list at the back of the church, and state if you need a lift.

**FUNERALS** David Jones' Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's at 9.30am this Monday.

Cyril Judge's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Friday 10th October at 12.30pm.

A Memorial Service for Philip Rayner will be this Wednesday at 1pm in St. Bonaventure's.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the above.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** The dates have been set for November: Old Welwyn Cemetery on Saturday 1st November at 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) on Saturday 8th November at 12 noon. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) on Sunday 9th November at 2pm.

**MISSIO-APF RED BOXES** Would those in Our Lady's Parish who have the Red Boxes in their home for APF-MISSIO please bring them to church for the usual emptying and counting? and for **ST. BONAVENTURE'S** the promoters are Mavis Cleasby, Desi Russell, Steve Giblin and Olga Morrisoe. They will contact you or you can leave your boxes at the church. New box holders please make sure your name is written on the white label. Thank you.

**CWL** On Saturday 4th October the CWL are joining with the local community and holding an Autumn fair in Our Lady's Family Centre from 11am to 2pm There will be craft stalls and a tombola stall. Come and enjoy some early seasonal bargains. To book a table (£5) phone 01707 377442 and leave your details or email peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com. A chance to sell your crafts or raise money for your charity.

**A SPECIALIST GUEST SPEAKER** is giving a talk on the history of pharmacy for the CWL on Tuesday 7th Oct 8pm in the parish centre everyone welcome.

**ROOM TO LET** Near to the Q.E.II hospital. If you are interested please contact the parish office 01707 322579.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP** If you would like to join our team of flower arrangers Monica would love to hear from you. Phone her on 01438 714923 to find out what is involved. No experience needed!

**CURRY NIGHT** After the Special Needs Mass on Saturday 15th November at 6pm there will be a 'Curry Night' in the Hall. Anyone willing to make a dish, please let Fr. Norbert know. Obviously we will have some non-spicy food too!

**SPANISH COFFEE MORNINGS** At the Gosling. See posters on our noticeboards.

**CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We go to McDonald's for tea this week. Meet in hall.

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS** Thank you all for continuing to support our charity coffee mornings. Up until January we will be collecting for 'Dolphins' a very worthy cause run jointly by one of our very own parishioners Anne Marie Conway who sent the following information: *DOLPHINS is a local support group for families with disabled children. We provide support and advice and organise outings and events for the whole family during school holidays. Run by myself and Laura Hall, we've been supporting families for over 10 years. We are not a registered charity so rely on fundraising and donations to continue our work.*

Please give generously and encourage your friends to visit the coffee morning.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** The monthly church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds will take place at 10am next Saturday 4th October. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**

**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**

**Our Lady's**

**141 Woodhall Lane**

**AL7 3TP**

**Website: www.ourladys-parish.info**

**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

or 07790 135458

peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

**CONFESSIONS**

Holy Family: Thursday 10am - 10.30am

St. Bonaventure: Saturday 10.30am - 11am

Our Lady's: Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

**MASS TIMES**

29 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
30 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Jerome
	7pm	Our Lady's	
01 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus
	1pm	St. Bonaventure	Memorial Service for Philip Rayner R.I.P.
02 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Holy Guardian Angels
03 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
04 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis of Assisi
	<b>Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year</b>		
<b>04 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	
<b>05 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