

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes    Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien  
Seminarist: Samuel Ejerege    Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year 12th October (p.140 of Mass book)***

‘There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.’ These are some of St. Paul’s words from his Letter to the people of Philippi. In some ways they sound like the Angel Gabriel’s words to Our Lady in St. Luke’s Gospel at the Annunciation when he says: ‘Nothing is impossible to God.’

As you come to Mass today, what is it that weighs on your mind? What is it that you have tried to sort out or achieve which seems to have eluded you? Where have you found a lack of success which has led you to despair? What obstacles have been put in your way? The Apostle knew he could trust God and that whatever might have been the case in the past, all things were still possible. Paul really believed! Do you? Do we? Paul was seeking a strength from God to give him courage for all that he faced and to be able to handle the issues of his ministry. What do you need from God at this time?

Our Lady was ready to receive God’s answer in his way. She trusted and she was open. Mary said ‘Yes’ and lived out that commitment all through her Son’s life and especially when it took him to the Cross. How must she have felt as she watched him give his life for our salvation? We can imagine her heart was broken. Did she really understand? Perhaps she thought back to Simeon’s words that a sword would pierce her heart? Did she give up? There is such nobility in the fact that she remained standing at the foot of the Cross right to the end.

Paul ends by speaking of the community sharing with him in his hardships. We need one another’s help and support. We cannot manage except with the mutual love and care which are hallmarks of our Christian life. Together with St. Paul we can say: ‘Glory to God our Father forever and ever. Amen!’

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** on Saturday 18th October at 6pm. Mass will be led for us by members of the Polish community with some readers and prayers in Polish. Dei Trust Music Group will be coming too. Afterwards there will be a reception in the hall. Everyone is welcome.

**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 of 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? Put the date in your diary!

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Years 5 + 6 will attend the 9.30 Mass on Monday 13th October at Our Lady's Church.

**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.

**PRISONERS' SUNDAY** We are invited today to pray for prisoners and their families. The Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) - a Catholic charity - works with thousands of prisoners, ex-offenders and their families especially those who are isolated and abandoned; through its care, it offers a message of hope for a fresh start and a new beginning.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Due to the change in the Priest's Reference Form at The John Henry Newman School, Fr. Norbert is offering extra dates and times for parents to arrange a meeting: Tuesday 21st October 3.30 - 6.00pm and Thursday 23rd October 5.00 - 6.30pm. Please book an appointment through Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579. The meetings will be at Our Lady's; please wait in the church. *It is still important that parent/s and child come.* Please note: Kathryn will not be in the office from Wednesday to Friday this week so try to phone on Monday or Tuesday morning or leave a message (with clear phone number).

**GROUP 183 HCPT 2015 PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** For information on how to be a volunteer helper for the group please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313 or email: group183@hcpt.org.uk.

**HCPT QUIZ NIGHT** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October starting at 8pm for HCPT in Our Lady's Parish Centre. All money raised will help fund a child's place for next year's trip. Thickets are £5 per person with max of 8 people per team. Please bring your own drink. To book your table text or phone Hayley on 07751239501 or just turn up.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN** We meet again next Saturday at 10.30am. Parents are reminded that Fr. Norbert wishes to speak to them at 11am.

**CHILDREN'S MASS (SB)** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am *'Give to God what belongs to God'*

**ANNUAL MASS COUNT** Week 2 Collectors please do the counting and record on the sheet. Thank you.

**GROWING IN FAITH** The final total for our three Welwyn Garden City Parishes is £578,096. Fr. Norbert would like to thank you for your great generosity and all the support given by the volunteers in ensuring that we could respond to the Cardinal. At the back of our churches is the latest GiF newsletter. Please do take a copy.

**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.

**GUEST SPEAKER** is giving a talk on the history of pharmacy for the CWL on Tuesday 14th October 8pm in Our Lady's Parish Centre, everyone welcome.

**INTERFAITH GROUP** Evening meeting - Wednesday 22nd October 7.15 for 7.30pm at Backhouse Rooms, 116 Handside Lane, WGC AL8 6SZ. "Essence of Faith" 3 different Faiths talking about their beliefs and practices - Christian, Jewish, Baha'i. All are welcome.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Accommodation sought by married couple based in WGC. Contact Brian: 07748 013 007.

**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!

**OUR LADY'S – MISSIO-APF RED BOXES** Thank you very much indeed to all those who have given in their APF - MISSIO Red Boxes. Your returned box should now be ready to pick up at the back of church. If you do still have a box at home that needs counting then do please let us have it by next weekend so that the volunteers can make sure the money is reconciled and banked. Thank you so much for your cooperation and generosity. **ST. BONAVENTURE'S** parishioners are reminded to bring their boxes as soon as possible.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** We are again supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world. As you go around the shops please buy some little gifts to put in these boxes (they don't need to be expensive) - there are leaflets at the back of each church advising you about what can or cannot be included. 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. There are flat pack boxes for you to use or cover your own if you have a box at home.

**400 CLUB** The subscriptions for the October draw are due the weekend 25/6 October and the draw will be made in the Parish Centre on Monday during the Bingo Interval.

Future Subscription Collection weekends will be - - November 29/30 - December 27/28 with the Draw on the following Monday during the Bingo. Prizes totalling £175 are won each month and numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, just see one of the at the collectors at the back of Our Lady's Church on the weekends shown above.

**BINGO** Thank you to the Monday Evening Bingo group who meet at Our Lady's Family Centre. Through their generous support another £300 has been donated to the Church for the the upkeep of the centre. Anyone wishing for a game of Bingo, just turn up at the Centre at about 8.00pm on a Monday. The Bingo is in the Pomegranate Café.

**CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Come and learn about your faith with other parish children, 3.45pm in St. Bonaventure's hall.

**ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEWSLETTER** For this week you are asked to email any newsletter items by Tuesday evening at the latest. Thank you.

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.*

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**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
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**St. Bonaventure's**  
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**Fr. Gerard 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.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**

13 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Edward the Confessor
14 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Teresa of Jesus
16 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
17 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Ignatius of Antioch
	7pm	Our Lady's	
18 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Luke

**Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year**

<b>18 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
<b>19 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