

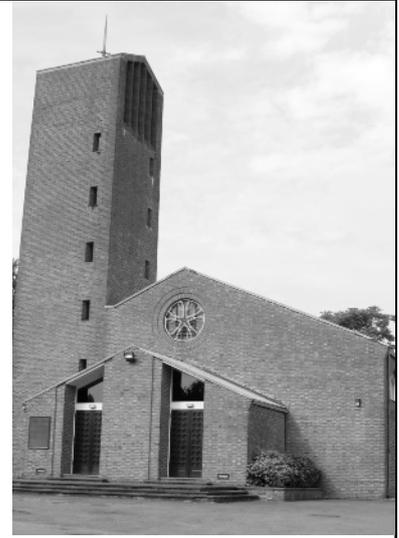
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

*All Saints 2nd November (p.184 of Mass book)*

Today we celebrate All Saints Day. Happy Feast! We have now entered into the month of remembering, the clocks went back an hour last weekend and so it's really dark in the evenings. And as I write this piece on Friday afternoon the sun is shining and there is a holiday atmosphere outside!

Today's festival takes us to God's purpose for us. He wants us to see him one day face to face in the glory of heaven. He longs to see us in the throng of the Angels and Saints praising him in heaven. His Son's presence on earth offers us the vision of eternal life with so many gathered around him. Today's Scriptures put us in touch with all God has in mind for us; the Word of God invites us to respond to this grace like the Saints in glory.

Do you want to be a Saint? Are you a Saint? Who is making you into a Saint? What are the benefits of membership of this merry band?! I think firstly to be a Saint means to be open totally to God, not letting life's difficulties and one's own inadequacies get in the way of the path God is leading us along to glory. To be a Saint fosters in us the willingness to support others in their journey, to pray for them and give them good example. To be a Saint offers a wonderful sense of belonging to the Communion of Saints, to be a part of the powerhouse of prayer and worship which gives God glory and provides intercession for the world. We are not alone; there is such a strong and vibrant bond holding us together and so near to God.

Today let us thank God for the Saints - for those men, women and children who have listened and responded to him. Let us seek their prayers and aspire to join them one day just as even now we are doing our best to reflect God's glory.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**RHEIMS TRIP** A brilliant time was had by all who went to the Champagne region in Rheims last week. The Diocesan Deaf Service joined us and so Mass was celebrated in sign; the deaf were especially thrilled to be welcomed so warmly into the group. Remy Pignal came from Paris and sends his regards to everyone in Welwyn Garden City.

**SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND** The annual parish collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund takes place next weekend and all the money raised will be used to ensure that elderly priests and those who are struggling with ill health receive the care and support they need. The Fund was set up 35 years ago and has resulted in all our retired priests having somewhere to live, those with a disability having equipment needed to live an independent life, those who require nursing care receiving help and having regular visits as they get older. This Fund is a charity relying on sufficient donations and the Growing in Faith campaign which we ran in the summer will make a real difference. Next week's collection remains a vital part of the Fund's finances. Please take home with you one of the special envelopes which will be collected next weekend. If you can Gift Aid the money that will add 25% to whatever you can afford to give. Thank you in advance for your great generosity.

**ALL SOULS DAY** With All Saints Day transferred to Sunday, All Souls Day will be celebrated on Monday 3rd November. 9.30am Mass will be at Holy Family Church, 12noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. Although not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is such an important day to come and pray at Mass for our loved ones and all who have died.

**PETER WEI** Peter's Rector has written from Rome to thank our community for making him so welcome in the summer. Monsignor Vincenzo Viva refers to Peter's six-week stay as 'a fruitful period which will be a source of enrichment and growth for his future ministerial life.' He concluded his letter with the following words: 'Full of gratitude and esteem, I assure you and your Parish Community of remembrance in prayer.' Peter will be ordained a deacon next spring and a priest in China in the summer.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** There will be Services of Remembrance at the War Memorials in the Town Centre and Old Welwyn at 11am on Sunday 9th November as usual. This year, however, the Service at Hatfield Hyde (on Hollybush Lane) will be at 11am as well. This will affect those coming to Our Lady's for 11.30 Mass as the road will be closed off near the War Memorial. Please keep this in mind.

**NEXT SUNDAY** is 9th November which is the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome - the Pope's Cathedral Church, known as 'The Mother and Head' of all churches throughout the world. The feast takes precedence over the usual Saturday evening/Sunday 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 of WGC.

**PLANS FOR NEW PARISH CENTRE** Fr. Norbert and the Chairs of the three Parish Finance Committees have a meeting with the Diocesan Surveyor next week re the new Parish Centre for WGC. After that a date will be set for the Planning Group.

**CAFOD** There will be a meeting of the Holy Family CAFOD group on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Holy Family parish room. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us even if only for a cup of tea.

**PETITION** organised by parents at Holy Family School - please look at the link <http://www.change.org/p/governors-at-john-henry-newman-school-revise-the-decision-made-by-the-governors-of-the-john-henry-newman-school-and-reinstate-the-holy-family-school-as-a-named-feeder-school>

**NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS** available at the back of each church. Write down the names of loved ones who have died and they will be remembered at Mass during November. There is no need to give any money.

**RCIA** This item has been in the newsletter for weeks! Are YOU thinking of joining the Catholic Church? Do you wish to find out more? Have you come to church for years and feel now is the right time? Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on your First Confession, First Holy Communion or Confirmation when you were younger and now want to seek to be a full member of the Church? Is there someone YOU KNOW who would like to be invited or encouraged? The first meeting will be in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church at 8pm on Monday 3rd November. Let us all pray for people who are thinking of taking this important step.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** On Saturday 8th November at Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane) at 12 noon and on Sunday 9th November at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Southway) at 2pm. People are asked to gather at the entrance to the respective cemetery for a moment of prayer and then the priests will make their way to the individual graves for a blessing.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** on Saturday 15th November at 6pm at Our Lady's. This will be followed by a 'Curry Night' in the Hall. The set up will be 11am - 12noon and food can be brought to the Hall 5 - 6pm. Non-spicy food will also be served. Can anyone help with that? Many thanks.

**POLISH MASS** Our thanks to the Polish Community for leading us in the recent Mass and for providing a splendid reception for everyone. The singing, food and drink were wonderful!

**HOLY FAMILY** Following a tidy up of the Holy Family Parish kitchen, there are a number of items, plates etc. left after functions. Please claim either this week-end or next or they will be re-homed. Also some DIY/Painting help required. Please speak with Fr Gerard. Many thanks.

**CHARLIE NEEDS A NEW HOME** Charlie, Sally's 10 year old cat would like to transfer from a first floor flat to a house with a cat flap and garden. Please ring Sally if you can help 01707 322946.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOXES)** Filled boxes can be brought into church as soon as possible.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY** We have our party on Tuesday 4th November from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (hot dogs and pizza provided). £2.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH!** There are some important dates for St. Bonaventure's coming up: 3rd October 2015 will be 90 years since the first priest arrived; 10th March 2016 will be the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the church and 14th September 2016 the 90th Anniversary of the First Mass. There will be a meeting on Saturday 22nd November at 11am in St. Bonaventure's Hall to start the ball rolling with planning. Coffee will be served for those staying on after 10am Mass.

**DEANERY MASS** There will be Mass at 11am next Wednesday at Marychurch Hatfield (26 Salisbury Square AL9 5JD) for the deceased clergy of the Stevenage Deanery). Bishop John Sherrington will be the main celebrant. You are all most welcome.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people of our three churches at least in Year 9 at school who wish to be confirmed are asked to come *with their parents* for a meeting in Holy Family Church on Sunday 9th November at 7pm. Forms will be filled out and dates given for the preparation.

**HCPT Race Night** at Our Lady's hall on Saturday 8th November at 8pm. There will be someone at the back of Mass for your chance to sponsor a horse for just £2

**BRIDIE MINOGUE R.I.P.** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bridie who died this Thursday. Funeral arrangements will be announced when known.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Parents who wish their children to prepare for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church are asked to come to a meeting in the church at 6pm on Tuesday 4th November at 6pm. Parents of Our Lady's Church children will have a similar meeting in the church at 7.45pm. Parents at the respective churches will be able to fill our enrolment forms and will receive the dates of their own meetings for next year and their children's sessions. Children, who should be at least in Year 3 at school, do not need to come to the meeting.

**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**

**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**

03 Monday	9.30am	Holy Family	All Souls' Day
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Charles Borromeo
	7pm	Our Lady's	
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
06 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
07 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
08 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria
<b>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</b>			
08 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
09 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	

<p><b>CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:</b> If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463</p>
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