

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 Ejerege Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fourth Sunday of Easter 26th April 2015 (p. 261 of Mass book)

Today is Vocations Sunday when we are asked to prize our personal calling from God and to pray for more vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. All vocations are important and are significant in the life of the Church; all vocations enrich our world. However, I am sure that Priesthood and Religious Life are often not considered as serious ways of life by many people.

On the radio earlier in the week, I heard that this year there are 45 women who have put themselves forward for the Religious Life in this country, wanting to serve as sisters and nuns. Apparently this is the largest number for 25 years. The reporter got very excited and was trying to analyse why this had taken place. What do YOU think? What would attract women to the Religious Life? What is it about Priesthood which would inspire a young man to offer his life as a priest? In some dioceses in the world, parishioners are asked to pray very hard that one or two of their number should answer the call especially to the Priesthood. They identify young men, encourage them, pray for them and support them. I have heard that there are places which produce a huge harvest of priestly vocations year by year! Is that what we want? How can we make a difference? Who would you personally approach and ask to consider becoming a priest?

On Monday 18th May there is going to be a Vocations Event at St. Bonaventure's at 7pm. Although it is a Diocesan Event, it is taking place in our midst. Firstly, let us set ourselves to pray hard that young men will come, that they will have the courage to take a first step and find out more by meeting others of a similar mind, by listening to those already priests and by joining together in contemplating in prayer what God is asking of them. Secondly, reflect on who you know who might have the seeds of a priestly vocation in them: someone in your family or who you see at church? What about yourself, is it something you have thought about for a long time and just put off doing anything about?

Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd. May there be many more to work with him in shepherding his People in faithful service and loving sacrifice. May we work together to build up his Kingdom here in this place. God bless you. **Fr. Norbert**

ST. GEORGE'S DAY Our thanks to all who helped to make the St. George's Day celebrations so splendid!

FIRST COMMUNIONS First Communion Masses will be as follows: Holy Family - Sunday 17th May at 12 noon; Our Lady's - Sundays 31st May, 7th and 14th June at 11.30am; St. Bonaventure's - Sunday 21st June at 10.30am.

CONFIRMATION Final session at 7.15pm at Holy Family on Sunday 26th April. Bishop John Sherrington will confirm our young people at Our Lady's on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm. The rehearsal will be at Our Lady's on Friday 1st May at 7.45pm.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will be on Saturday 9th May at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a get-together in the hall. All welcome.

RCIA Congratulations to Darrell Panter and to Claire Coe and her daughter Summer who were baptised at the Easter Vigil. The Chamberlain family will be baptised on Sunday 3rd May at 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE on Saturday 16th May. A coach has been booked. You need to be at Our Lady's for 7.45am and we will leave Walsingham at 5pm. We will be joining the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf. The day will include the Rosary, Walk along the Holy Mile and Mass. Hopefully the weather will be good for a picnic lunch. Walsingham in Norfolk has been a place of holiness, mystery and atmosphere for almost a thousand years since Richeldis de Faverches was inspired by Our Lady to build a Shrine in perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. One of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom – when travel to the Holy Land was virtually impossible – the original Shrine was destroyed at the Reformation. Many barren years passed until the Slipper Chapel, a 14th century wayside pilgrim chapel, was restored and pilgrimage to Walsingham began once more. In 1934, the English Bishops named the Slipper Chapel, the Roman Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady. If you would like to join us on the coach, please sign your name on one of the sheets at the back of our churches. Cost: £10 for adults and £5 for children payable in advance or on the coach. If you have never been before, why not come?

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for Barbara Dixon-Spain R.I.P. is at 12.30pm this Monday 27th April in St. Bonaventure's. The Funeral Mass for Brian Maguire R.I.P. is at 2pm on Friday 8th May in St. Bonaventure's.

MARY OTTAWAY RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 12th May at 9.30am at St. Bonaventure's. (Burial will be in Sheffield.)

VOLUNTEER VISITORS WANTED! Friends of Welwyn Care Homes seeks to bring the community into the local care homes for the frail elderly, by building friendly links between local people and the residents and staff. Have YOU a couple of hours to spare a month when you could join a small team to chat over a cup of tea, or join in other activities with residents? For further information please contact: Anne Horsman, anne.horsman@btinternet.com; 01438840566.

THANK YOU The family of Chris Neumann would like to thank Fr. Norbert, Fr. Gerard and the many friends and parishioners who helped them through her illness, death and funeral. Your support during this time was greatly appreciated. The collection for Myeloma Support raised £443 in Chris's memory. Thank you for your generosity.

SEAMSTRESS/TAILOR REQUIRED Johnsons in the town centre are in need of a seamstress or tailor to work there on a Saturday. If you are interested phone (or text) Elizabeth, (a parishioner at Our Lady's) on 07787187342 or phone Johnsons direct 01707 338772.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND The annual collection takes place this weekend at the end of Mass. You have all been so generous in the Growing in Faith campaign. Now there is an opportunity for those who wish to make a donation which will support the training of future priests for our Diocese. Your prayers also are crucial too.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be on Saturday 6th June at 12noon at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the hall. More details to follow.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S LORETO GIRLS' LENTEN FUNDRAISER £100 was raised last Sunday, thank you very much. Unclaimed raffle prizes - Nos: 21, 26, 57, these are in the parish hall kitchen.

PILGRIMAGE Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of the church. There are only five places left!

CARDINAL'S MASS of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

ELECTION HUSTINGS organised by Christian Churches in WGC 29th April, 8pm-10pm, Herts International Church, Unit 2 Sterling Court, Mundells, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1FT. Please join us to question our local parliamentary candidates on the issues that matter to us. Discussion topics and questions will come from your submissions, so if you have questions for us or for the candidates get in touch via welhat.hustings@gmail.com Last time, the hustings were a great success, with a packed room hearing the candidates' responses to questions on a wide range of international, national and local issues. We will be following the same format as last time, with questions and topics from what you send us in advance supplemented by a limited number of questions on the night. This is your chance to grill the candidates, and focus them on issues you care about, so don't miss out.

2015 AFRICAN MASS will take place on Sunday, 12th July at 11.30am at Our Lady. The first planning meeting with Father Norbert is set for Sunday, 17th May at 8.00pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. All African Parishioners are welcome.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH: The Ministers Rota for Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers is now available from May to July 2015. Please pick up your copy from the back of the church. The new rota will also be available on Our Lady's website.

OUR LADY'S: Church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds has been changed to **Saturday 9th May at 10am** as next Saturday 2nd May is the bank holiday weekend. All are welcome to come along and help with these vital tasks.

NEED A CLEANER etc? Need a **Mobile Hairdresser, Decorator /Handy man / Gardener or a Cleaner?** A family concern, offering competitive rates. Contact Tracey (MOBILE HAIRDRESSER) 07581212941. Jamie(DECORATOR/HANDY MAN) 07572527731. Tony & Liz (GARDENER & CLEANER) 01707 260502

also contact Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231 for **CLEANING** and/or **IRONING**.

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

SYNOD ON FAMILY LIFE. Rome October 2015 - Our responses to the questionnaire distributed before Christmas are due back by 24th May, so time is running out. Our responses are vital for the success of the Synod. We all have real experience of family life, marriage and relationships. I am happy to co-ordinate and help with the responses which, can remain anonymous and confidential. If you have responded, please let me know. It is important to know that our parishes have made a real contribution to this important discussion. The questionnaire is available at the back of the church or direct from me. Please contact me for further help and discussion. Thank you. Fr. Gerard.
gerardobrien@rcdow.org.uk. 327434.

CONFESSIONS

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

MASS TIMES

27 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	Barbara Dixon-Spain
28 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
29 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Catherine of Sienna
30 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
01 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Joseph the Worker
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Athanasius
Fifth Sunday of Easter				
02 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family	



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