

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Ascension of the Lord 17th May 2015 (p. 272 of Mass book)

The Vicar General of the Diocese has asked us to announce this weekend that Fr. Gerard will be moving in the summer to be a Chaplain at Westminster Cathedral. Obviously it is very disappointing as he has only been with us a short time. We do not yet know the exact date of his move but we have been told that Fr. Martin Tate is coming as Assistant Priest in Welwyn Garden City, residing at Holy Family Church. Fr. Martin was ordained with Fr. Jeffrey Downie two years ago at the Cathedral and has served at Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate. It appears that the length of curacies is now just a year or two and so frequent changes seem inevitable. We wish Fr. Gerard every blessing in his new appointment and pray that he will enjoy his remaining time with us in the Garden City.

Today's celebration of the Ascension of the Lord highlights a different kind of leaving. Jesus having suffered, died and risen from the dead, spent time with his disciples. Then he is taken up in glory to the Father's Right Hand not to leave them alone but to send his Spirit to empower them to continue his work and bring the Good News into people's lives. He goes and yet he stays - quite a mystery! Jesus wants US too to have a share of his Spirit; he has the confidence that WE can minister his love to those around us. As you think of him in heaven, what is your picture? What does his radiant glory look like? How does he intercede for us at the Father's Right Hand? Where are our loved ones who have gone before us, relative to the Risen and Ascended Lord? In terms of his presence on earth, how do you feel his touch? Where are the places which draw you more deeply into his life? Who are the people who speak his words to you? The wonder of the Ascension is that it reminds us of the bond between earth and heaven and the fact that Jesus has blazed the trail which shows us the way to our destiny - to be with him for ever, glorifying the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May God bless us as we look forward to the completion of Eastertide next Sunday with Pentecost. ***Fr. Norbert***

PRAY AND FAST FOR THE CLIMATE In Warsaw 2013 at the UN interim Climate Talks, Yeb Sano, leader of the Filipino climate delegation begged world leaders not to be a talking shop but to make a binding commitment to reduce global emissions and avoid the drastic consequences of global warming. He promised to fast on the first day of every month until such a decision was taken. The Justice and Peace movement together, with groups of different faiths and backgrounds, is undertaking to make that journey in solidarity with him and many worldwide who have been inspired by his commitment. Consequently, we in our Garden City have been asked to host Wednesday 1st July. The event will be in Our Lady's Hall and the Peace Garden from 7pm - 9pm and will include prayer and a very simple supper. Please keep the evening free and let your friends and neighbours know. Watch this space!

MINISTRIES The commissioning and re-commissioning of people involved in the various ministries will take place the weekend of 27th/28th June, namely: Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians and Singers, Welcomers, Altar Servers and all Catechists (including Children's Liturgy). There will also be meetings with formation as follows:

Readers: Monday 15th June 7.30 - 9.00pm at Holy Family. **Welcomers:** Tuesday 16th June 7.45-9.00pm at Our Lady's. **Eucharistic Ministers:** Monday 22nd June 7.30 - 9.00pm at Holy Family (please note this is the correct day and date) **Catechists (incl. Children's Liturgy):** Monday 6th July 7.30 - 9.00pm.

We need many more Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers and Catechists. Please see Fr. Norbert.

WELCOMERS It is now essential in the Diocese that all parishes have fire marshalls in case of emergency in every church at each Mass. Fr. Norbert would like some of the welcomers to take on this role so that it is clear to those present at Mass who has this responsibility. We are also expected to have a fire drill at least once or twice a year and this means evacuating the church, timing the process and keeping a log!

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL met with the Growing in Faith Committee last Thursday. The group reflected on Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel and how we can continue to let that 'joy' be the driving force of our community here in WGC. Minutes will be published in due course. The committee to create a 'spec' for the new Parish Centre still has to meet; an architect would then be chosen based on tenders.

FILIPINO MASS on Saturday 20th June at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a jamboree in the Hall. The Filipino community will lead us at Mass and then serve food from different parts of the Philippines. There will also be a cultural show. All welcome!

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for **Tom Reddy R.I.P.** will be at Our Lady's on Friday 22nd May at 11.30am. The Funeral Service for **Kathleen Hallett R.I.P.** will on Thursday 21st May at Harwood Park Crematorium at 9.30am.

The Funeral Mass for **Jim Treacy R.I.P.** will be at 12.30pm on Monday 15th June in St. Bonaventure's.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Our Deanery is investigating the possibility of having its own coach going to next year's World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland where it is anticipated that 2 - 3 million young people (16-30 years old) from across the globe will gather with Pope Francis. The dates are 23rd July to 3rd August including travel. Do think about it for yourself or someone you know. We should be able to publish prices soon and more information. It will be a brilliant experience and will definitely enrich our parishes with the enthusiasm of our young people they return.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Thanks to all who helped with last weekend's celebration both in church and in the hall. Our next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 10th October.

VOCATIONS EVENT Don't forget that on Monday evening in St. Bonaventure's there will be a Vocations Promotion evening from 7pm. If you are thinking of Priesthood or would like to know more why not come?

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Saturday 6th June at 12noon. The Sacrament of the Sick is a powerful, beautiful and holy experience for those who are sick, infirm or desperately in need of healing AND also for the community which gathers around them. At the Mass the priest lays hands on the head of the sick person and then anoints that person's forehead and palms of hands with the Oil of the Sick (blessed by the Cardinal just before Easter). Our prayer is that those anointed may get better, receive strength for all they face and may feel the peace of Christ as they journey towards him. There will be a reception afterwards in the hall. All welcome. If you are in need of a lift to the Mass please fill in your name at the back of church.

PROCLAIM 15 and WESTMINSTER 15 In response to Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), the Bishops of England and Wales have asked all Catholics to reflect on ways of radiating the joy of the Gospel to others through our personal encounter with the Lord and our willingness to step out of our comfort zones in order to share with others what we ourselves have received. Here in Westminster the Cardinal invites us in our parishes to reflect on what we do well and consider how we might do that even better thus enhancing our proclamation of the Good News. There will be a big event in Birmingham on Saturday 4th July to which a deanery representative will go and then here in our own Diocese another large gathering on Saturday 14th November. We will keep you posted! **YEAR OF MERCY** Pope Francis has called for a Jubilee Year of Mercy which will start on Tuesday 8th December - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady and conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King. Here in Hertfordshire, Bishop John has already started planning events with the Deans which will complement all that the Diocese undertakes. This will be an important year for us all.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP This Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm an illustrated talk on the Architecture of Places of Worship which will take place at the Friends Meeting House in Handside Lane. One of the speakers will be Canon Peter Newby who is in charge of Art and Architecture for the Westminster Diocese. All welcome.

SVP Can you help a single mum who has recently moved into an unfurnished flat? She needs furniture, carpets and appliances (especially a cooker and fridge) for the flat and anything you can offer. Contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Congratulations to the children of Holy Family Church who are making their First Communion today (Sunday). First Communion Masses at Our Lady's will be on Sundays 31st May, 7th and 14th June at 11.30am; St. Bonaventure's has First Communion on Sunday 21st June at 10.30am.

CONFIRMATION Congratulations once again to our newly confirmed young people. We are very proud of them. Just to remind them and their parents that the Bishop will be having an afternoon with all the young people of Hertfordshire whom he has confirmed on Saturday 4th July 2.00 - 6.30pm at St. Edmund's College in Ware. They will be contacted soon with more information.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents of Year 5 children who will need a Priest's Reference Form signed in the autumn should come to a meeting in Holy Family Church on Sunday 5th July at 7pm.

DOG WALKING Nora's dog Fluff would like some more walks - if you can help phone Nora on 01707 321432. Nora and Fluff live near to St. Bonaventure's.

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 Our Lady's
 141 Woodhall Lane
 AL7 3TP
 Website: www.ourladays-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
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

THANK YOU Freda McKenzie thanks all those who supported 'Guess Teddy's birthday'. £355 was raised and Peter Bonass guessed the correct date of 26th October.

CAFOD NEPAL APPEAL Thank you to all those who gave so generously to this appeal. We will let you know how much was raised when we have all that information. We have also heard that CAFOD's Lent collection raised more than £4.5 million and of course this with Government 'matching' was doubled. We will let you know how much came from our three parishes in due course.

CONFESSIONS

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

MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Bernadine of Sienna
21 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	11.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Thomas Reddy R.I.P.
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria

Pentecost Sunday

23 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
24 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