

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*

Pentecost Sunday 24th May 2015 (p. 286 of Mass book)

On Saturday 23rd May Pope Francis beatified Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated on 24th March, 1980, while celebrating Mass in San Salvador in Central America. He was a champion of the poor and spoke out against injustice in his country of El Salvador. Archbishop Romero had not always been known for his outspokenness on behalf of the poor. He was a quiet and timid man, rather traditional in his approach to religion and not very sympathetic to the movement for Basic Christian Communities which had been steadily growing within El Salvador. He was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977 and soon after his appointment an event involving the death of a Jesuit priest challenged the way he saw his own ministry. Archbishop Romero attempted to create dialogue between the government, the military and the people. He asked for conditions that would give people at all social levels the chance to take part in democratic decision making. He spoke out about the unequal distribution of wealth within the country and supported land reform so that peasant families could support themselves. He called for an end to violence and repression. He invites us all to have courage and take our faith commitment into the world: "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mount Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties".

I could not help but think of Archbishop Romero today on Pentecost Day as we complete our celebration of the Easter Mystery. He allowed the Holy Spirit to work within him, to transform him and to give him the courage to speak out boldly even in the face of death. This is the effect the Holy Spirit had on Peter and his companions at Pentecost as we hear in the First Reading. What an amazing effect upon these disciples as they become bold Apostles! What a difference their ministry has made to the world and to history.

Today, I invite you to reflect on how the Holy Spirit can work in your life. Consider what creates fear in you about your Faith and ask for that transforming grace which will empower you too to be an Apostle - a fearless follower of Jesus ready to bear witness to him. What a difference you too can make to the world and to history!

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

HALL MEETING There will be a meeting on Wednesday 3rd June at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's for anyone who would like to be involved in drawing up the 'spec' for the new Parish Centre. Once this has been achieved, architects can then put in tenders for the detailed plans which then would be put to the wider community of our three parishes. Fr. Norbert's hope is that an architect would be chosen by the end of the summer and that the 2015/16 period would be used for the drawing up of plans, their refinement after consultation with parishioners, planning permission and tendering by builders. If this goes to plan, the demolition of the existing hall and building of the Parish Centre could take place 2016/17. Let us pray that there will not be any major hiccups!

PILGRIMAGE to Padua in October. All places have been taken and there is a waiting list.

WALSINGHAM There were 40 pilgrims in Walsingham last Saturday. They prayed for you all and had a wonderful time basking in the sunshine, signing the Mass and enjoying contemplation in the tranquillity of this holy place.

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

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!

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 **Jim Treacy R.I.P.** will be at 12.30pm on Monday 15th June in St. Bonaventure's. The Funeral Mass for **Tricia Knight R.I.P.** will be at 9.30am on Monday 15th June in Our Lady's Church. The Funeral Mass for **Mary Downey R.I.P.** will be on Tuesday 30th June at 12.30pm in Our Lady's. The body will be received into the church on Monday 29th at 4.30pm.

WORLD YOUTH DAY The priests of our Deanery (Stevenage) took the decision last week to have our 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 Saturday 23rd July to Tuesday 3rd August, 2016 with no overnight travel and the price roughly £770. Obviously we would do fundraising, seek sponsorship and ensure safeguarding guidelines are followed. Do think about it for yourself or someone you know. It WILL be a brilliant experience and will definitely enrich our parishes with the enthusiasm of our young people when they return. The planning and promotion of the trip have to start at this early stage to secure the bookings and to fill the coach. For more information contact Fr. Norbert

PEARTREE SPORTS AND HEALTH DAY at Woodhall Community Centre 6th June 12pm - 4pm.

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 people 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. Please keep the evening free and let your friends and neighbours know. The plan is to have representatives from each continent to speak about the effects of climate change in their own land, for us to pray for that continent and then to have a song/hymn from that continent. When we have travelled round the world in prayer and reflection, we will have simple food from these continents to round off the evening. If you would be happy to help in any way, please see Fr. Norbert.

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 11th 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.

FIRST COMMUNIONS 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.

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.

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Fr. Gerard 01707 327434
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 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

HCPT will be having a quiz night on Friday 5th June. £5 per person in Our Lady's hall starting at 7.45pm. Tables of up to 8 people. All money raised will go towards funding a child's place on the trip next year. To book your table please contact Barbara Moore on 07789 743703.

THANK YOU to Rosaleen Dicks and her helpers for transforming the Repository at Our Lady's. Don't forget it is open after most Masses.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP will be hosting a concert which is going to be given by the Herts Constabulary Choir on Monday 1st June in Holy Family Church at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each, no concessions. Light refreshments will be available during the interval. Please support this very popular fundraising event.

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

MASS TIMES

25 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Bede
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Philip Neri
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Augustine
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
29 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Trinity Sunday

30 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
31 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