

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

***Fourteenth Sunday of the Year 5th July 2015 (p. 104 of Mass book)***

Today we return back to our normal cycle of readings for Year B, most of which are from St. Mark's Gospel. Jesus goes to his home town together with his disciples. What a 'welcome' Jesus receives! The people know him through and through: they can name his family members and highlight his trade as a carpenter. However, even though they are aware of the miracles he worked, we are told by the Evangelist that 'they would not accept him.' What a sad moment for Jesus - rejected by the very people he knew so well. What do the disciples make of the rejection? Where is Our Lady and what is her reaction? The conclusion of the passage states that Jesus is amazed at their lack of faith and that he cannot do much there. What does he want to do over and beyond the healing of a few sick people?

This passage is a challenge to all who count themselves as people who 'know' Jesus, members of his 'family' - CHRISTIANS! Perhaps we can feel we know him so well that there is little left to discover? Maybe we are waiting for only the dramatic and miraculous to happen and are disappointed when nothing happens? In the everyday circumstances of life where is he waiting to be found? St. Mark's warning to us through this episode is that we - his followers, baptised in his name - might be the very ones who reject him because we will not allow him to come to us in his way rather than in the way we want or expect. Back in chapter 3 of this Gospel, Jesus is at home and he says: 'Anyone who does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' Let us pray that we may do God's will and truly be members of Jesus' family. Let us allow him to show us how we can get to know him better and deepen our love. Let us nourish our faith and pass it on to others!

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**MAUREEN BELL R.I.P.** The Funeral Mass for Maureen Bell R.I.P. will be this Friday 10th July in St. Bonaventure's Church at 10.30am.

**FR. GERARD'S FAREWELL MASS** will be on Saturday 18th July at 6pm in Our Lady's. Servers from our three churches are welcome to serve. Please come with your albs, cinctures and medals. Musicians and singers who wish to take part should gather in church at 5.15pm. The celebration afterwards in the hall will take the form of a bring and share, so we ask parishioners to leave food in the hall from 5pm. If any of you would like to contribute towards a presentation for Fr. Gerard there are envelopes at the back of each church. Please return them to Fr. Norbert. Fr. Gerard's last Sunday in Welwyn Garden City will be 26th July.

**SPANISH SEMINARIANS** arrive in WGC on Thursday evening. One is Francisco José López (Fran) who is 34 years old and has finished his first year at seminary; the other is José Rubén Oliveros who is 20 years old and has completed his second year. They will be with us to improve their English and to share in the life of our parishes. They are the first seminarians from Seville to come to this country for this kind of placement. They will be with us until the end of the month. We hope they enjoy their stay.

**FR. MARTIN TATE** came for a visit last week. He will start as the new Assistant Priest on Tuesday 29th September and be resident in the Presbytery of Holy Family.

**CATECHISTS** have a meeting with Fr. Norbert on Monday 6th July 7.30 - 9.00pm. This includes Catechists involved in Children's Liturgy.

**MEETING** of Parish Advisory Council and Growing in Faith Committee will be in Our Lady's Sacristy on Monday 13th July at 7.30pm.

**PARISH CENTRE COMMITTEE** will next meet on Monday 20th July at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**AFRICAN MASS** will be next Sunday (12th) at 11.30am at Our Lady's. There will be dance and drums at Mass and different African languages. Afterwards the party will be in the Hall with food, drink, dance and an African DJ. The African Community would like people from our three churches to come whatever your background. They hope you will enjoy the flavours, rhythm and exuberance of African culture and worship! All welcome!

**PRAY AND FAST FOR THE CLIMATE** Our thanks to everyone who made such a great contribution to last Wednesday's Climate Change Meeting and prayer. We have all been given much to think about.

**OUR LADY'S** Many thanks to everyone who came on Saturday morning to clean the church and maintain the grounds. Your help is much appreciated.

**INTER FAITH MATTERS** What is Islam? On Thursday 23rd July at The Quaker Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane. Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm until 9.30m.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP** are having their monthly meeting on Tuesday 7th July at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Please join us if you can.

The group thank the parish community for their support for the concert held on 1st June. The event raised £235 for CAFOD. The CAFOD Strawberry Tea takes place on Sunday 26th July in Bob and Sandy Leys garden at 401 Knightsfield WGC time to be advised. We look forward to seeing you there.

**NEED A BABYSITTER?** If you need someone to babysit your children then please call 01707 552288 or 07533077879 for further information.

**NEED A CLEANER** or someone to do your ironing? Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231.

**PROCLAIM '15** On Saturday 11th July there will be a gathering of representatives from all over the country in Birmingham for an initiative launched by the Bishops of England and Wales called Proclaim '15. This is in response to the Pope's Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. Stevenage Deanery is sending Susanna Hawksley from the Hitchin Parish as our representative. The Cardinal has asked every parish to have a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on 11th July. So there will be half an hour at St. Bonaventure's 10.30 - 11.00am and half an hour at Our Lady's 5.15 - 5.45pm. Our prayer is especially for a strengthening of Faith which can be shared with others so that they encounter the Joy of the Gospel.

**BISHOP JOHN** will celebrate 8am Mass at St. Bonaventure's, 9.30am Mass at Holy Family and 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 26th July. This is part of his 'tour' of the parishes of Stevenage Deanery!

**MARRIAGE** We are going to have a Day on Marriage on Saturday 10th October here in Welwyn Garden City. It will be a day of enrichment for married couples - a time of retreat and reflection to support the Sacrament of Matrimony. We have never had something like this and it should be a brilliant and worthwhile experience. Edmund Admaus who is the Director of Marriage and Family Life in the Diocese will come with others to lead the day. More details to follow but do keep this date free.

**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 today (Sunday 5th July) at 7pm. The meeting will last about an hour and is principally for parents though children can attend.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** will be celebrating their 60th anniversary with a trip to York on the 23rd of September. Any parishioners who would like to join them would be most welcome. The trip will be by train, the cost to be advised later. For more details contact Anne Davidson 01707 327569.

**ALSO** The Catholic Womens League are having a Tombola stall at the Peartree fun day on the 29th August. We would be grateful for any donations to our stall, all monies go to our various charities.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** A coach from the deanery will be 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. Saturday 23rd July to Tuesday 3rd August, 2016 with no overnight travel and the price roughly £770. We would do fundraising, seek sponsorship and ensure safeguarding guidelines are followed. 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

**WESTMINSTER JUSTICE AND PEACE** are uniting with groups of Christians and of different faiths and backgrounds who want to see an international agreement on the reduction of carbon emissions at the UN Paris Climate talks in December 2015. To highlight the huge importance of these talks they plan to cycle to Paris to take part in rallies of support for climate justice and to meet other people of faith who want to see a change in our profligate use of fossil fuel. John Fogarty will be going on Phase 1 together with Ama Owusu-Afriye from London to Newhaven (29th - 31st August). Why not go?

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

**WANTED** A young person who is passionate about action for the climate. There is a temporary vacancy for someone to publicise the Pilgrimage to Paris cycling project. If this is of interest to you then look at the website [www.rcdow.org.uk/justicepeace](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/justicepeace) for further information/application form. Interviews between 13th -15th July.

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

**MASS TIMES**

06 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Maria Goretti
07 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
09 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
10 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	10.30am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Benedict

**Fifteenth Sunday of the Year**

11 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
12 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