

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes*  
*Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year 20th September 2015 (p. 135 of Mass book)***

**Cardinal Nichols, on behalf of the Bishops' Conference, writes:**

Today is Home Mission Sunday when we invite every member of the Catholic community to pray for, participate in and support the work of evangelisation in England and Wales. This is our task of deepening, sharing and proclaiming our faith, sensitively and confidently, wherever we may be. Pope Francis shows us that the true heart of faith is hugely attractive. He shows us how to let our faith be seen. He does this by making clear the great mercy of God, the mercy that he has received and that he shows to all. The mercy of God is God's love in action, reaching out to every person, to each one of us in our weakness. Mercy is God's tender embrace in lifting us up and inviting us to start again. Mercy appears all the more clearly when, recognising our own sinfulness, we rely totally and joyfully on the goodness of God. When Pope Francis was asked to describe himself he said, simply, "I am a sinner." As we understand the depth of God's never-failing mercy towards us, then we are freed to offer the same mercy to those around us. In doing so we show forth the best of our faith. Our response to Pope Francis is to make the task of proclaiming God's mercy the priority in our own efforts.

Today's Gospel from St Mark says that when we live our lives with trust in God as a child trusts his parents, then we will be free; our faith will be transparent and evident to others in all its attractiveness. Then we will be proclaiming the Gospel for others to see and hear. The key, then, to showing our faith in the way we live is to be ready to live constantly in the presence of God, knowing that God never takes his eyes off us, not to catch us out, but because he loves us so much. When we are constantly aware of that loving gaze which is upon us, and of the mercy and encouragement that flows our way, then we are enabled to look on others in the same way.

These are the foundations of evangelisation. On them, other steps can be built: the opportunity to speak about our faith; the expression of that love in programmes of action towards those most in need; a loving care for those who have been hurt by life and hurt within the Church, for whom any return to the practice of their faith is particularly difficult. In this effort for evangelisation we seek out ways of accompanying others, through friendship, through prayer, through conversation, so that they sense in us the welcome that God most certainly extends to them. Our efforts need not be complicated or heroic. As Our Blessed Lady reminds us, through our humble efforts the Lord can do great things!

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Finally, we your bishops want to thank each and every one of you for the witness that you already give. Your presence at Mass today is a good example. By coming to Mass you not only give due worship to God but also publicly proclaim your faith to everyone who knows of your commitment and routine. We thank you for your daily efforts in family living, the patterns of family life that you work hard to sustain. The family is the first and best school of faith, of prayer and of virtuous living. Thank you all indeed!

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. The Parish Advisory Council wants to share with parishioners plans for the new Parish Centre, an outline of events for the Year of Mercy and a structure of Prayer for the Synod on the Family. The Finance Committees of the three churches will also present the accounts. We WANT YOU to come and find out more. We NEED YOU to share your energy and enthusiasm in the building up of the life of our community.

**PLANNED GIVING DRIVE** in our three parishes next weekend and the following one.

**THANK YOU from Fr. Gerard** - Thank you so much for your kindness, welcome, support and prayers during my all too short time in the parishes of Welwyn Garden City. I really enjoyed my stay and am very sad to have left. However, the time spent with you all has enhanced and strengthened my vocation to priesthood. Thank you for the leaving party and very generous gifts and cards and for all your prayers for my dear sister Bernadette and my family. Only God knows what the next day will bring. Let us continue to pray for each other and please come and visit me at the cathedral: the kettle, tea/coffee will be ready and waiting. God bless you all and keep you safe. *Fr. Gerard*

**FR. GEORGE LYONS RIP** Fr. Norbert will celebrate Mass for Fr. George at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 26th September at 10am.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016** Our Lady's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.45pm in the church. Preparation will begin in January and takes place on a Sunday morning. Holy Family's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

**RCIA** The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults. ARE YOU AN ADULT WHO WISHES TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? ARE YOU A CATHOLIC ADULT WHO MISSED OUT ON CONFIRMATION WHEN YOUNGER? If so, why come and find out more on Monday 5th October in the Sacristy of Our Lady's at 7.30pm? You will find a warm welcome and have an opportunity to take things further.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people who wish to be confirmed next year should come to an enrolment meeting together with their parents in Holy Family Church on Sunday 18th October at 7pm. They should be at least in Year 9 at school.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** Fr. Norbert will arrange meetings for parents of children in Year 6 who will need a Priest's Reference for Secondary School Transfer. More details soon.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** on Saturday 17th October at 6pm at Our Lady's. Spotkanie organizacyjne odbędzie się w niedzielę 27.09 w kościele Our Lady's po mszy świętej o godzinie 11.30 wszystkich zainteresowanych serdecznie zapraszamy. Meeting regarding organisation of the Polish/English Mass will take place on Sunday 27th September in Our Lady's Church after the 11.30 Mass. All are welcome to participate.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** Well done to the children, staff and governors of Holy Family School on the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The Mass was beautiful and time together back at school wonderful.

**YORK** The Catholic Women's League will be in York on Wednesday 23rd to mark their 60th Anniversary. They will remember you all at Mass at the home of St. Margaret Clitherow on The Shambles.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane on Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway on Sunday 8th November at 2pm. Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm on 22nd November.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH** Next year Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass in St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 13th March at 10.30am to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the church. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass the evening of Wednesday 14th September (2016) the 90th Anniversary of the First Mass in the church. There are many ways of celebrating the 90th, so come to a meeting in the church on Monday 28th September at 7pm. Bring your ideas and ways that you can make things happen!

**FR. MARTIN TATE** will start as the new Assistant Priest on Tuesday 29th September and be resident in the Presbytery of Holy Family.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY** in Our Lady's Hall on Saturday 10th October for married couples to be enriched and strengthened further. Due to illness in her family Jane Deegan cannot come so the day will be led by Edmund Adamus, Director of Family Life in the Diocese. He is so pleased that there has been a lot of interest and asks that couples 'register' with Fr. Norbert by giving names and contact details so we have an idea of numbers coming. We ask couples coming to bring food to share at lunchtime. The programme is as follows

10.30 Opening prayers and welcome

10.45-11.30 Spirituality and sacrament of matrimony Q and A?

Noon Mass with Renewal of Vows Lunch

2pm Spiritual Exercise Workshop (testimony based)

Feedback Forms General discussion about future initiatives

3pm Closing Prayers

**CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)** Our three parishes as well as others in WGC contribute financially towards the CAP Centre based at Panshanger Church which has been running for three years. In that time, Linda Tatchell, the CAP worker, has seen 62 clients: 30 are now debt-free, she is still working with 20 and 21 have dropped off the radar. At least 10 have started a significant journey of faith. CAP Job Club starts on Tuesday 22nd September at Christchurch, Broadwater Road at 12.30pm. It will offer a free service for the unemployed (often longterm unemployed) and there will be good links with the Job Centre which refers people to CAP Job Clubs round the country. Freephone 0800 3280006 for Job Club. Prayers are asked for the success of these ventures.

There will also be a fundraising Curry Night for CAP at Christchurch Broadwater on Wednesday 14th October. Tickets £7.50 each. There will be a speaker with history of gambling addiction – powerful story. And magic tricks!

**GO FOR GROWTH** Ecumenical Conference with excellent and inspiring speakers at the Focolare Centre on Saturday 3rd October 10am - 4pm. More details on fliers at the back of our churches.

**NATIONAL PRAYER WEEKEND** 25th - 27th September. There will be a Meeting for Prayer in the United Reformed Church, Church Road on Friday 25th September 7 - 9pm. There will be prayer for our local community and for each other. If you have a prayer request contact Christine on 07711 791098.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234  
 welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk  
 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

Holy Family Church  
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ  
 welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**  
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson  
 01707 377442

**CAFOD CHARITY CAR PARK** The CAFOD group are doing a Charity Car park at Oaklands College in WGC on Saturday 26th September. 9.15 am – 3.45 pm. **Parking is only £1 per visit.** Please try and visit us. Fast day envelopes are available next weekend.

**SVP REQUEST** A single mum needs toys/books for a 2 year old boy. Contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456 if you can help.

**WESTMINSTER DIOCESE YOUTH MINISTRY** in collaboration with the Focolare Movenent invites young people 14-25 years to a **Performing Arts Retreat Weekend** 16-18th October at the Focolare Centre, Parkway. More details in next week's newsletter.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Saturday 10th October at 6pm at Our Lady's. It will be followed by a Barn Dance with a band and a caller. We ask people coming to bring food to share.

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

**MASS TIMES**

21 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Matthew
22 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Pius of Pietrelcina
24 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Our Lady of Walsingham
25 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

**Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year**

26 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
27 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