

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year 27th September 2015 (p.138 of Mass book)

So many of us keep wondering what to do about the refugee and migrant crisis. We see images in the newspapers, on screens and hear of the terrible suffering of humanity. There have been umpteen conversations trying to find a way forward among ‘ordinary’ people as well as the formal talks between politicians from a variety of countries. Indeed, it came up at the recent Open Parish Meeting.

One of our parishioners has written to me saying that, from a practical point of view, the local councils (Hertfordshire County Council and Welwyn Hatfield) need to agree to take a number of families and house them. Although some councils across the UK have done so, ours have not. This is funded for the first year under the government's vulnerable persons programme. It appears that the majority of councils across the UK which have agreed to accept families under the scheme have done so primarily after contact and pressure from churches and other faith groups in their local areas. I have been asked to contact Hertfordshire County Council and Welwyn Hatfield on behalf of our parishes. There is a Welwyn Hatfield Council meeting this Monday (28th) at which a motion is being presented to ask the council to agree to house refugee families. I will write to both councils. Email your local councillors before Monday evening's meeting if you can. If you have any other comments or observations to make which I could include, then let me have your thoughts as soon as possible.

Today's Scripture is as challenging as ever! Let each of us take time to ponder how best to respond. Pray hard. Write to your councillors. Find practical things to do which can serve Christ in those who are in need and remind them that they are loved. May God help us all to build bridges and make his Kingdom come. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

FR. MARTIN TATE We welcome Fr. Martin as our new Assistant Priest serving our three parishes and resident at Holy Family. He begins on Tuesday. We wish him much happiness and fulfilment here in the Garden City.

EDUCATION MASS Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 6pm on Wednesday 30th September at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3TP. Children, parents, staff and governors of the schools of the Stevenage Deanery will gather. Parishioners are most welcome too.

OPEN PARISH MEETING 60 parishioners came to last Monday's Meeting. Minutes will be available in due course.

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

PADUA PILGRIMAGE Parishioners who wish to travel by coach to and from Gatwick Airport in October should let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

YORK The Catholic Women's League had a wonderful and blessed time in York on Wednesday. Your intentions were prayed for at the Shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow. Congratulations to the CWL on their 60th Anniversary!

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 be available in October at Our Lady's Church to meet parents and Year 6 children who will need a Priest's Reference for Secondary School Transfer. The times are as follows: Friday 9th 8 - 9pm, Monday 12th 5 - 7pm, Tuesday 13th October 5 - 7pm and Monday 19th October 5 - 7pm. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707322579) to arrange a 10-minute meeting. Please wait in the church for your turn and please bring completed forms with you. If your child was baptised in one of our three churches in WGC and you require a Baptismal certificate, contact Kathryn for this too.

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.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT THE FOCOLARE IS? The inter faith group will be hosting a meeting at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 15th October at 7.15 to learn about the beginnings of the Focolare Movement and how it has spread all over the world to build unity between peoples. Do come, you will be made most welcome.

FR. GERARD Fr. Gerard has let us know that his sister, Bernadette's Funeral will be at St. Paul's Church, Station Road Wood Green N22 7SY on Thursday 8th October at 12noon. Her body will be received into church on Wednesday 7th at 7.30pm. We have assured him of our prayers.

HARVEST FAST DAY This Friday. Please take an envelope today and return it next week in the retiring collection.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - on Saturday next, 3rd October, at 10am for ONE hour, the cleaning of the church and the maintenance of the grounds will take place. New volunteers warmly welcomed. Will you help us? Refreshments available.

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!

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

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.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT takes place for the four weekends in October.

A BIG THANK YOU to our Tuesday group children who have donated 26 (and 8 more from other children) of their teddies to Project Paddington - each with a personal note to a child. If you would like to support this cause you can donate at projectpaddington.com. Your money will help many refugee children. Thank you.

PRAYER FOR THE CLIMATE Pope Francis writes, "Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years". (Laudate Si') On next Thursday, the first day of October we are invited to Fast and Pray for the Climate. From 6.30 to 7.30pm the Justice and Peace Group will have a simple 'bring and share' supper in the Pomegranate Cafe at Our Lady's, watch a short CAFOD DVD about the Climate and end with a time of quiet prayer. All are welcome.

MISSIO-APF RED BOXES Would those in Our Lady's Parish who have the Red Boxes in their home for APF-MISSIO please bring them to church for the usual emptying and counting? and for **ST. BONAVENTURE'S** the promoters will contact you or you can leave your boxes at the church. New box holders please make sure your name is written on the white label. Thank you.

HCPT QUIZ NIGHT Quiz night at Herts Uni Hatfield. On Friday 9th October 7:30 start. Teams of up to 8 people. To book your table please contact Bev on 07751410759

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 81 Parkway AL8 6JF
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Fr. Martin
 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

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE YOUTH MINISTRY in collaboration with the Focolare Movement invites young people 14-25 years to a **Performing Arts Retreat Weekend** 16-18th October at the Focolare Centre, Parkway. Workshops in song, dance and drama etc. Themes of justice and peace, migration, war and conflict, peace building in the environment will be explored. Further details and bookings: <http://dowym.com/events/performing-arts-weekend> or contact Mil on 07733 232896.

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. Need a **Mobile Hairdresser**, a **Decorator /Handy man** or a **Gardener**? A family concern, offering competitive rates. Contact **Tracey** (MOBILE HAIRDRESSER) 07581212941. **Jamie**(DECORATOR/HANDY MAN) 07572527731. **Tony** (GARDENER) 01707 260502 **NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231 - one off cleans, regular/weekly, ironing.

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

MASS TIMES

28 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
29 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Jerome
01 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Therese
02 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Holy Guardian Angels
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year

03 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
04 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



<p>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</p>
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