

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*

Second Sunday of the Year 17th January 2016 (page 127 of Mass book)

Jesus enjoyed celebrations and parties. His presence made such a difference to those inviting him as we can see in our passage from St. John's Gospel today - the Wedding Feast at Cana. Our Lady is referred to as the 'mother of Jesus'. She is so aware of things going terribly wrong as the wine for the feast runs out and she is confident that her Son can do something about it. After an apparently harsh word from Jesus about his 'hour' not having come, Mary asks the servants to 'do whatever he tells you.' Now there is that amazing transformation of water into the best wine and the mega-sign reveals the glory of God in Jesus and leads many to faith in him. In St. John's Passion account, we are told 'near the cross of Jesus stood his mother' - she's with him at this crucial point when his 'hour' comes. The glory of God is revealed as he is lifted up and he calls the whole of humanity to faith in his Father. This is a very different kind of joyful celebration as Jesus gives his life for our salvation. He definitely chooses to be there too!

As this New Year unfolds, the challenge for us is to invite Jesus into our lives in a fresh way. Is your home the place which needs to be enlivened by his presence? He's not a killjoy so how could you allow his being there to make a difference to you and those with whom you share your life? Does Jesus influence you at your place of work? Do your colleagues know that you are a believer? Do they see in you joy, contentment and integrity which they find inspiring? At school or college, do our children and young people reveal a deep faith in Christ which is reflected in their words and actions? Here at church, do visitors experience a delight in the way we gather and celebrate the Sacred Mysteries? Does the awe and wonder of being so close to Christ shine in our faces?

A friend of mine who is Parish Priest of a large London parish told me that after Christmas a neighbour walking her dog stopped him outside the church door and asked 'Is this really the Catholic Church?' My friend replied 'Yes, of course. Why do you ask?' Her response was 'Well, everyone looks so happy coming out!' I wonder what the people looked like after the Wedding Feast at Cana? The encounter with Jesus opened them up to a marvellous glory and elicited a profound faith. Can this be our aspiration every time we come to church and in the everyday as we invite Christ into the reality of our lives? *God bless you. Fr. Norbert*

PEACE SUNDAY This Sunday, the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates Peace Sunday, our annual day of prayer for peace. Pope Francis has chosen the theme of "Overcome indifference and win peace". There will be an hour's Vigil of Prayer for Peace in Our Lady's Chapel from 3pm - 4pm, on Sunday afternoon and another from 6pm - 7pm at Beehive Lane. Please call Anne Stapleton (328516) for more details.

NEW BISHOPS Parishioners are most welcome at Westminster Cathedral for the Episcopal Ordinations of Canon Paul McAleenan and Mgr. John Wilson on Monday 25th January at 12 noon. You need to be in the Cathedral by 11.30am.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be this Sunday 17th at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

RCIA There are 9 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter this year. The next session is on Monday 18th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS of our three churches have their first meeting on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Joint Service Sunday 24th January at 3pm in Our Lady's Church.

Daily Services (all at 12 noon) followed by light lunch

Monday 18th January Digswell Village Church, Warren Way, AL6 0DH

Tuesday 19th January St Francis, Church Road, AL8 6HH

Wednesday 20th January St Mary Magdalene, Hollybush Lane, AL7 4JS

Thursday 21st January Salvation Army, Hollybush Lane, AL7 4JU

Friday 22nd January Free Church, Church Road, AL8 6PS

Monday 25th January Christ Church Peartree, Tewin Road



ECUMENICAL BRING AND SHARE SUPPER You are invited to take part in a shared supper during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The supper is organised by members of all the local churches and will be held at the Focolare Centre for Unity on Saturday 23rd January from 7 – 9 pm. As well as sharing food we will share thoughts on "What makes your church different? How is belonging to your church the same as belonging to any other?" If you can, please bring a dish to share. Soup and apple crumble will be provided.

SCHOOL FORMS Fr. Norbert will soon make times available for signing the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Nursery. A reminder that the forms can only be signed for practising Catholic families; there is also an additional yellow form available at the back of our churches.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY There is not long to go until Valentine's Day! Our Parish Marriage Preparation Day will be the week before on Saturday 6th February. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married either in WGC or elsewhere in 2016/17 so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged and so that you can be part of the day.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Brochures are at the back of the church. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?! Any questions - ask Fr. Norbert! If any parishioners would like to sponsor a young person going or part sponsor, please let Fr. Norbert know. (The cost of a place is £750).

YEAR OF MERCY On the first Friday of the month during the Year of Mercy there will be an early Mass (lasting 25 minutes) at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am followed by a light breakfast. The idea is to give workers, commuters and others the opportunity to come together and make a prayerful start to the day in excellent company. The first such Mass will be on Friday 5th February, then 4th March, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October and 4th November. If anyone would like to help with breakfast, please let Fr. Norbert know.

DAY PILGRIMAGES We will have a day in Aylesford on Saturday 14th May with a coach from WGC. There will also be a Diocesan Day for the Year of Mercy in Walsingham on Saturday 9th July also with a coach from WGC.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES 2016 Saturdays 6pm at Our Lady's Church: 5th March, 23rd April, 1st October and 3rd December.

OTHER SPECIAL MASSES St. Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March 7pm. Filipino Mass Saturday 11th June 6pm. African Mass Sunday 10th July 11.30am Polish Mass Saturday 15th October at 6pm.

MASS FOR SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES at the Cathedral on Saturday 14th May in the afternoon.

ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS' MASS at the Cathedral 17th September in the afternoon.

CAFOD The Holy Family CAFOD group would like to invite all parishioners to join them in the parish room at Holy Family on Friday 29th January 2016 for their "Thanks" to you for your great support to them during 2015. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the group and there will be no charge or donation expected. With your generous help they managed to raise £3643.25. This has supported the community of Sebeya in Ethiopia. Your help has enabled the people of Sebeya to build 2 new schools and start a chicken cooperative. 30 members of the community were given a total of 350 chickens and the group are now selling eggs laid by the chickens and sharing the dividends.

OUR LADY SCHOOL Admissions Consultation (2017 Entry): Our Lady School does not wish to make any changes to its Admissions Policy for entrance to Nursery or to Reception that requires public consultation, however has decided to consult publicly on the 2017/18 Admissions Policy to both as it is good practice. The proposed policy is available on the school website (www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk) and via the school office until 31st January. If you have any views on our Admissions Policy for we would like to hear from you. Please address your reply to the Chair of the Governors Admissions Committee either by sending a letter to the School Office, or by emailing admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk and putting 'Admissions Consultation' as the subject of the message. Please make sure you tell us your name and email address so that we can get back to you if we need any clarification. Thank you very much.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2017 On Tuesday 26th January at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall, Pax Travel will be presenting information on this Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Welwyn Garden City (Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June). All welcome.

PRAGUE 2016 Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches for the October Pilgrimage to Prague in the Czech Republic. The highlight will be a visit to the statue of the Infant of Prague. The dates are Saturday 22nd - Wednesday 26th and the price £599.

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 AL7 3TP
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 St. Bonaventure's
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF
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Fr. Martin 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

NORA O'LOUGHLIN R.I.P. Nora O'Loughlin's family wish to thank you all for your sympathy cards and good wishes. Nora's Book of Remembrance will be displayed in St Bonaventure's Church for one week. Please come and sign it with your memories, thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND It is proposed to have a meeting after 10am Mass on Saturday 23rd April for all those from our three parishes who visit/take Communion to the Sick and Housebound. Details to follow.

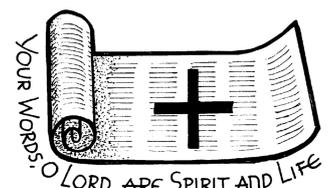
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| CONFESSIONS | Holy Family: | Thursday 10am - 10.30am |
| | St. Bonaventure: | Saturday 10.30am - 11am |
| | Our Lady's: | Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm |

MASS TIMES

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|--------------|--------|------|-----------------|-----------|
| 18 Monday | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady's | feria |
| 19 Tuesday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 20 Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family | feria |
| 21 Thursday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family | St. Agnes |
| 22 Friday | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria |
| | 7pm | Mass | Our Lady's | |
| 23 Saturday | 10am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria |

Third Sunday of the Year

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|-------------|---------|------|-----------------|
| 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