

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*

Fourth Sunday of the Year 31st January 2016 (page 133 of Mass book)

Have you ever found yourself saying the wrong thing? It is embarrassing and you cannot take back the words! Sometimes the other person has a sense of humour and so the funnier side of the situation can be appreciated. But that's not always the case!

In our Gospel passage from St. Luke, we are still with Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth. The people marvel at Jesus as he speaks and tells them that the text from Isaiah (which we heard last week) is being fulfilled as they listen. However, the Lord does not stop there. He is filled with the Spirit of God. He has to proclaim the truth. He opens his mouth to continue his teaching: God works beyond the boundaries we normally expect; God helps foreigners; faith is present in pagan people; sometimes religious people can get in the way of God. Does he need to say all those things in such a blunt way? Why isn't he more tactful? Jesus is ready to challenge just as he cannot help but be compassionate and merciful. What a combination! The audience of people who know him so well want to kill him immediately. What would your reaction have been? Thank goodness Jesus escapes quite calmly and continues his ministry. Just think what we would have missed out on in St. Luke's Gospel!

As we gather for Mass today, let us reflect on the core of Jesus' teaching in the synagogue. Firstly, do we really believe that God's Spirit is at work in our world? Do we hold that Jesus is making himself known in ways we would never expect? Finally, and importantly, do we allow for the fact that because God is God, we do not understand all that is unfolding and that what is initially incomprehensible might turn into Good News which transforms our lives?

May God bless each one of you. *Fr. Norbert*

BISHOP PAUL McALEENAN ordained Bishop last Monday at the Cathedral will celebrate Sunday's 10.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

STAINED GLASS To commemorate the Year of Mercy and the Doors of Mercy at Our Lady's Church, new stained glass windows representing the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been installed. They will be blessed on 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas - at the 7pm Mass.

LENT AND EASTER This year Easter falls on 27th March which means that in no time it will soon be Ash Wednesday (10th February)! Mothering Sunday will be 6th March.

CARDINAL NICHOLS will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 13th March at 10.30am to mark the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone. A date for your diary!

CONFIRMATION The Group has a retreat afternoon today (31st) at the Focolare Centre from 2.00 to 5.30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS of our three churches have their next meeting on Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

CANDLEMAS Tuesday 2nd February. Masses at 9.30am in St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's (by candlelight). This is the 40th day after Christmas when we remember Simeon calling Jesus 'The Light of the Nations' and so bless and carry candles in procession.

ST. BLAISE'S DAY Wednesday 3rd February. There is a special blessing of the throat on this day which will be given at the end of 9.30am Mass at Holy Family.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY Fr. Norbert has written to all the couples coming on Saturday 6th February. The day will begin with coffee in Our Lady's Hall at 10.30am and finish with the 6pm Mass at which there will be a Blessing of Engaged Couples. Please keep them in your prayers at this important time in their lives.

RCIA Next Sunday at the 11.30 Mass the 9 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter will be presented and sign the scroll which will be taken to Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 13th February when the Rite of Election will be held at 3pm. They will be presented with hundreds of others to the Cardinal and then they will be formally 'elected' by him. Please pray for these adults as they take this important step in their journey of faith.

FUNERALS **Brian Carrick RIP** Brian's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday 5th February at 12.30pm. **John Carton RIP** John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 8th February at 1pm.

THE SVP sends a very warm THANK YOU for your very generous annual donation in December 2015, which amounted to £957.14. We provided food hampers and inexpensive gifts to families in need at Christmas, all of whom were extremely grateful and overwhelmed by the kindness and good wishes of so many people. Your donations benefit all those supported by SVP throughout the year and help us to make their burdens a little lighter.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING: The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's Church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next Saturday 6th February at 10.00am for ONE hour only. Please do come along to help. There will be refreshments afterwards.

OUR LADY'S MINISTERS' ROTA: The new Rota from February to April 2016 for Welcomers, Readers and Holy Communion Ministers is now available for collection at the back of the church. A copy will also be available on the website www.ourlady-parish.info.

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. The price is guaranteed to have no surcharges until Friday 5th February.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL last met on 25th November, the Minutes of which are now available at the back of our churches. The next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd February in the sacristy of Our Lady's. The Year of Mercy is an important item on the Agenda as well as the parishes' response to Proclaim '15. When a date is set for the following meeting, there will be more time for other items to be sent in by parishioners for discussion. Fr. Norbert apologises that not enough notice has been given to you all.

FINANCE COMMITTEES Holy Family's meets this Friday (5th) at 3.30pm in the Parish Room and St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 23rd February at 10.15am in the Parish Hall. Our Lady's met last Friday evening (29th).

EARLY MASS There will be Mass in St. Bonaventure's Church on Friday 5th at **6.30am**. All are welcome. After Mass there will be a light breakfast in the Hall and hopefully everyone will get on time to the Station or work elsewhere. Of course, you don't have to be a worker to come! If you can help with the breakfast (no cooking involved) please let Fr. Norbert or Kathryn know.

PALMS If you have any palms from previous years, please bring them in and they will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday (10th February).

HCPT GROUP 183 There will be a retiring collection for this year's HCPT group's trip to Lourdes, this weekend.

CATHEDRAL MASS in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in this Year of Mercy will take place on Saturday 6th February at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. All are welcome. If anyone will be attending in a wheelchair, please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible so that a space can be reserved.

MASS FOR SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES at Cathedral on Saturday 14th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by the 7th March 2016. Over the years many couples from our three churches have had a wonderful time at this celebration!

SCHOOL FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available in Our Lady's Church for signing the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Nursery on the following dates: Friday 12th February 3.30 - 5.30pm, Tuesday 23rd February 3.30 - 5.30pm and Tuesday 15th March 3.30 - 5.30pm. Parents should phone Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come with their child and the necessary form together with the additional yellow form available at the back of our churches and wait in the church until called. *A reminder that the forms can only be signed for practising Catholic families*

THE 400 CLUB After each Mass on Saturday and Sunday this weekend, there will be members of the 400 club at the back of Our Lady's church to collect any subscriptions, and to welcome any new members who may wish to join.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD Group will be holding a cake sale on Sunday 7th February at Holy Family after 9.30am Mass. Donations of cakes would be very welcome as well as your support in buying.

HOLY COMMUNION The First Holy Communion children at Holy Family Church have their first session on Wednesday 3rd February 4.30 - 5.30pm in the Parish Room. These children will be presented at Holy Family's 9.30am Mass on Sunday 7th February. The First Holy Communion children from Our Lady's Church will be presented at the 11.30 Mass on Sunday 7th.

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 St. Bonaventure's
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Fr. Martin 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

WEEK OF PRAYER for Christian Unity. Our thanks to the Hospitality Group and all our parishioners who made the visitors feel so welcome.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 or Angela Edwards on 01707 690157 (evenings) or 07879610109.

HERTFORDSHIRE welcomes Syrian refugees An Open Meeting is being held at St Pauls Church, Blandford Road, St Albans, AL1 4JP from 2-4pm this Sunday Jan 31st to find out what is happening to help refugees in our county.

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

MASS TIMES

01 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
02 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Presentation of the Lord
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	SS Laurence, Dunstan, Theodore
04 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
05 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Agatha
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	12.30pm	Funeral Service	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Paul Miki and comp.
			Fifth Sunday of the Year	
06 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 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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