

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*

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year (page 112) 17th July 2016

Jesus' journey to the Cross continues. He is intent on reaching his destination but that does not prevent him from stopping off to spend time with his friends, Martha and Mary. Was it a good encounter? Did he feel refreshed by their company? Yes and no! On the one hand he has Mary at his feet totally absorbed by his words and attentive to his teaching. Mary is a shining example of how to be a disciple through her attitude and love. Martha on the other hand probably is making a lot of noise in the kitchen reminding Jesus of how hard she is working and trying to put her sister in her place! I would not be surprised if she was an excellent cook. However, it is so comical to find the host tell her honoured guest off for not reprimanding her sister! Poor Jesus caught in the middle! What is absolutely clear from Jesus' words is that Mary has chosen the better part and that an important part of discipleship is to be close to him, to listen and not let anything get in the way of hearing God's word through the mouth of Jesus. Last Sunday, through the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus asked us to go and do something ourselves. Today we are urged to slow down and be receptive. Jesus challenges us in so many ways!

As we look out to our world we once again see the horror of terrorism hurting so many people, especially in Nice in France. Senseless deaths with the pain of bereavement breaking so many hearts. It just seems so unfair and there are no adequate answers. Let us pray for all affected by the recent events. Let us pray for peace, justice and hope. Let us never forget that Jesus understands suffering and carried his Cross for our salvation. He never retaliated but rather offered forgiveness to his oppressors. He is the source of salvation. Let us be ready to intercede and pray for the many individuals who do all they can to make a difference to our community and to our world.

If you are going away soon, have a brilliant summer! God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

LAMPEDUSA CROSS is made from pieces of a boat that was wrecked on 11th October, 2013 off the coast of Lampedusa. 311 Eritrean and Somali refugees were drowned en route from Libya to Europe. Inhabitants of Lampedusa helped to save the lives of 155 others. After meeting some of the survivors who are Eritrean Christians in the church on Lampedusa, Mr Tuccio, the island's carpenter, was moved by their plight but felt frustrated that he could not make a difference to their situation. The best he could do was to use his skills as a carpenter to fashion each of them a cross from the wreckage of the boat as a reflection on their salvation from the sea and hope for the future. The Cross will be with us until 25th July and will be in each of our churches at some point for Mass. CAFOD has produced a card on which people can write a message to refugees or migrants offering hope and encouragement in all they face. Please fill out one if you feel able and these will be sent to CAFOD. Thank you.

Litany of prayer before the Lampedusa Cross

For the grace to care for the suffering... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to feed the hungry... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to welcome the stranger... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to stand in solidarity... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to reject injustice... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to love... Grant us your mercy.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 18 people from our deanery will be flying to Krakow on Monday 25th July. Please keep them in your prayers. There will be a final meeting today (Sunday 17th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall, WGC.

CHAPLAIN AT THE LISTER Mrs Jacqueline Humphreys has now left the Lister Hospital as Catholic Chaplain. We are so grateful to her for her total dedication to our parishioners and their families over the years and we wish her and her family every blessing in the future. Bishop Paul McAleenan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in the hospital chapel and a presentation was made on behalf of the Deanery. The new Catholic Chaplain has been appointed and he is a permanent deacon, Reverend Anthony Curran, who will probably be referred to as Deacon Anthony. He will formally start at the end of August. Until then, if people need a Catholic Chaplain, they can contact the Chaplaincy Office on 01438 285518 during working hours or, out of working hours, switchboard on 01438 314333, and they'll page whichever RC chaplain is on duty.

THE HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP invites you to a Strawberry Tea on Sunday 24th July from 3pm at Sandy & Bob Leys house 401, Knightsfield WGC. There will be no charge for the event but there will be boxes available for donations.

FAREWELL. Marlis and John would like to thank Fr Norbert and the parishioners of the three WGC churches for all the good wishes received as they departed for Leicestershire. Special thanks to the African Community for their generous words and their lovely present! We will miss you all, but will keep you in our prayers.

AFRICAN MASS A huge 'Thank you!' to the African Community for their generosity in providing last Sunday's celebration in church and in the hall. We look forward to the next one!

SEMINARIANS Fran Trigo and Alfonso Pascual from the Seminary in Seville leave us on Friday 22nd July. They will go back with many happy memories of our community.

ST BONAVENTURE'S FEAST & OPENING OF PATIO This is celebrated today at both 8am and 10.30 Masses. There will be light refreshments after both Masses. A relation of parishioners who is a Franciscan Father has given a relic of St. Bonaventure's for the church and so this will be available for veneration too!

EARLY MASSES The next two Year of Mercy early Masses at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 5th August and Friday 2nd September at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome!

ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's Church on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm the 90th Anniversary of the First Mass. The Mayor will be coming and so will Ursula Howard, the granddaughter of Ebenezer Howard. We are hoping that priests of the Deanery and representatives of the Christian Churches will be there too. Keep the date free and come. All welcome.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH Fr. Norbert invites parishioners to a meeting to plan for Holy Family Church's 50th Anniversary. It will be in the Parish Room on Thursday 15th September at 8pm (after the HF Finance Committee Meeting at 7pm). The Cardinal will be celebrating Mass on Sunday 7th May. What else would you like to happen?

PRAGUE & HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGES Brochures are at the back of our churches. Please note Pax Travel's new address: Pax Travel Ltd, Second Floor, 102 Blundell Street, London N7 9BL.

ST. ALBANS Bishop John Sherrington will be preaching at an Ecumenical Evensong at St. Alban's Abbey Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 4pm for this Year of Mercy. Bishop John would like all the schools of Hertfordshire to lead a procession from Verulamium Park at 2.30pm which will enter the Abbey and prepare for Evensong. Watch this space!

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Monday 19th September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. You are all invited. Please come and hear what is already planned; make your contribution to the life of our parishes!

ALTAR SERVERS MASS The annual National Altar Servers Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th September 2pm for 2.30pm start. We will be going for this Mass and it would be great to have many of our servers. More details soon.

SCHOOLS break up this week. We wish staff and governors, children and parents a refreshing summer and every blessing after the successes of another year.

EDUCATION SUNDAY will be on Sunday 11th September. Holy Family School will lead 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and Our Lady School will lead 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's Church.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY for our deanery will be on Saturday 24th September in Our Lady's Hall led by Edmund Adamus and his team. Watch this space for more details.

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 Our Lady's Church
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 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

DAY OF RECOLLECTION 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC. This Day will provide a great time of enrichment for us all but especially Catechists, Eucharist Ministers, Readers and Welcomers. Here in WGC in our parishes we will then have the Recommissioning of Ministers the following weekend (17th/18th September) at all the Masses.

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

MASS TIMES

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	feria
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Mary Magdalene
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Bridget

Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

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 and need a Catholic Chaplain contact 01438 285518 during working hours or 01438 314333 out of working hours.