

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-third Sunday of the Year 4th September 2016 p. 133 of Mass book

Today (Sunday) Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be declared a Saint by Pope Francis in St. Peter's. She died on 5th September, 1997 aged 87. It was soon after the death of Princess Diana. I remember a friend telling me that he was travelling on the Tube on that day and that the Tube driver made an announcement so that the everyone would know about Mother Teresa's death! I saw her once in Birmingham at the National Conference of Priests in the early 90's. She was a tiny figure in her sari-styled habit clutching her bag as she went along. She melted the hearts of so many that day - especially some of the more militant clergy who had gathered! We know that she went to the United Nations to collect the Nobel Prize for Peace. Through the work of her Missionaries of Charity, so many of the poorest of the poor have been offered a dignity beyond measure and loving care. ***Saint Teresa of Calcutta...pray for us!***

For many of us there is a significance to day as we start back after the summer break. For children and their families, the holidays are in the past and a newness breaks in with the return to school and very soon some will be going (back) to college or university. For others now is the time to go away when it's less busy or cheaper! I hope you have a brilliant time. One of the amazing things I experienced in the summer was World Youth Day in Krakow: it was absolutely exhausting and yet well worth it! I was privileged to lead the Stevenage Deanery Group of 17. On Saturday 24th September, many will be able to attend the 6pm Mass at Our Lady's, WGC and share their reflections with us. Some are talking about the next WYD - Panama 2019! We'll wait and see!

This Sunday Jesus says to us: 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.' Perhaps you might reflect on what is YOUR cross. Who helps you to carry it? Also, think about what you are learning from Christ so that you might be an even better disciple? Have a good week and God bless you.

Fr. Norbert

EDMUND TUBRIDY RIP Edmund's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 6th September at 12.45pm.

BRIGID PECK RIP Brigid's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 7th September at 12 noon. Her body will be received into the church on Tuesday at 4.30pm.

SANDRA KINSEY RIP Sandra's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 9th September at 9.30am.

FRANK TEMPANY RIP Frank's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Friday 16th September at 12.30pm.

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. **YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!** Invite family and former parishioners too! If you can contribute savouries and/or desserts for the finger buffet, please let Cathy Staniforth know on 07525014859. There will be a music rehearsal in the church on Monday 12th at 7pm. All welcome. Altar servers should come at 6pm for a practice. (There's a list in the sacristy to sign up.)

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 at 11am. What else would you like to happen?

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH FLOOR The crack in the floor of the main aisle, due to a former underfloor heating system, has now been repaired. The new floor will be laid in October and will cover the whole nave. As mentioned some time ago, this will entail the closing of the church for two weeks. It has been confirmed that the work will begin on Monday 3rd October and be completed by Tuesday 18th October. Next week's newsletter will explain where Mass will be celebrated in that period.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION At St. Bonaventure's preparation for the children happens on a Saturday morning once a month starting in September. At Holy Family and Our Lady's the children's classes will start in the new year. Parents sessions will also be in the new year. **Enrolment meetings:** St. Bonaventure's - Friday 9th September at 6pm; Our Lady's - Tuesday 1st November at 8pm; Holy Family - Sunday 6th November after 9.30am Mass. Children should be at least in Year 3 at school.

CONFIRMATION Young people (at least in Year 9 at school) who wish to be confirmed should come with their parents to a meeting on Sunday 9th October at 7pm (venue will be advertised next week). Preparation starts in November. **RCIA** If you are an adult who wish to join the Catholic Church or if you are a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation when younger and now feel ready to be confirmed, come to Our Lady's Sacristy on Monday 3rd October 7.30pm. There will be a chance to meet others and find out more about what is involved.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. Please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

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. We will begin with Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee. The Day will end at 3pm. Please bring food to share at lunchtime.. This Day will provide a great time of enrichment for us all but especially Catechists, Eucharistic 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.

CAFOD Herts Constabulary Choir are giving a concert at St Bonaventure's on Monday 26th September at 8pm tickets £5 each. The event is part of St Bonaventure's 90th year celebrations all proceeds from the event will be going to CAFOD.

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!

END OF YEAR OF MERCY In our Diocese the Doors of Mercy at the Cathedral will be closed at Vespers on Sunday 13th November. Here in WGC, the Doors at Our Lady's will be closed on Friday 18th November. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Mass at 7.30pm. In Rome Pope Francis will close the Doors of Mercy in St. Peter's on the Solemnity of Christ the King Sunday 20th November and formally conclude the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

BISHOPS' VISITS Two other Auxiliary Bishops of our Diocese will be coming to preach on Mercy at Our Lady's: Bishop John Wilson on Sunday 9th October at 11.30am and Bishop Nicholas Hudson on Sunday 30th October at 11.30am.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert writes: It is important for parents to go to school open days/evenings with their children in September/October and see the options. Read the admissions criteria carefully to ensure you have a good chance of getting into the school if it is oversubscribed. Get hold of your child's Baptismal Certificate in good time. Think about the environment in which your child will flourish. In terms of the Certificate of Catholicity, the form will be given by the schools and will have to be signed by Fr. Norbert. The Certificate of Catholicity is a statement that the child comes from a practising Catholic family which means there is attendance at Mass every week. To facilitate this, Fr. Norbert will give out an 'extra' form for WGC parishes for parents to fill out for him. Meetings will be scheduled in early October when parent/s and child will come to meet with Fr. Norbert. These dates of the meetings will be published soon.

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. We will get the 12.53 train from WGC Station. Every server must be accompanied by a supervising adult and purchase their train tickets. After the Mass we will return to WGC for something to eat which will be on the parishes!

EDUCATION SUNDAY The Bishops of England and Wales have changed the day on which Education Sunday is marked and so it will be celebrated next Sunday (11th). Holy Family School will lead 9.30 Mass at Holy Family Church and Our Lady School will lead 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's Church. We look forward to welcoming children and parents, staff and governors to be with us for Sunday Mass.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY for our Deanery will be on Saturday 24th September in Our Lady's Hall starting with Coffee at 10am and ending at 3pm. There will be Mass at 12noon with the Renewal of Marriage Vows. The Day will build on last year's WGC Parishes' Day and will be led by Edmund Adamus and his team.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. After the summer, please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Monday 19th September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. You are all invited. The architect Colin Smart from Kyle Smart Associates appointed as architects for the project of the new Parish Centre for our three churches will give an update on all the work which has been going on. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. Chris Fanning, the Diocesan Surveyor, will come to explain the works necessary for Holy Family Church's tower. The Parish Finance Committees will present accounts for the three churches. The Parish Advisory Council will share thoughts about the month of November and we will hear about World Youth Day. Please come and hear what is planned AND make your contribution to the life of our parishes!

CAFOD There will be a meeting of the CAFOD group on Tuesday 6th Sept at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to come along.

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

Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

Website for our 3 parishes

www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

PRAGUE & HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGES 32 people are signed up for Prague in 22nd - 26th October (There are just a few places left) and 25 so far for the Holy Land Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (Still room for more next year!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES on Saturday 1st October at 6pm at Our Lady's (hopefully followed by a Barn Dance) and Saturday 3rd December at 6pm followed by a Curry Night.

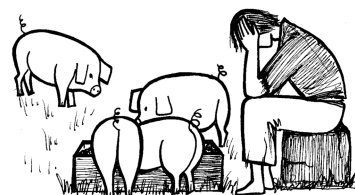
POLISH/ENGLISH MASS on Saturday 15th October 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a Get-together in the Hall.

BLESSING OF GRAVES (For those of you who want the dates for your diaries!) Hatfield Hyde (Hollybush Lane) Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Sunday 20th November at 2pm. Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 27th November at 2pm.

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

MASS TIMES

05 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
06 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12.45pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
	12noon	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
08 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
09 Friday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
10 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
		Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year		
10 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 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 Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net