

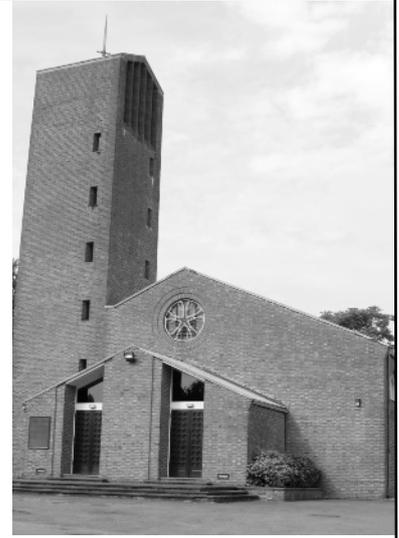
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year 18th September 2016 p. 140 of book

‘My advice is that there should be prayers offered for everyone - petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving...’ These are the words of St. Paul to Timothy in our Second Reading. What are you praying for today? Who has asked you to pray for them? How does thanksgiving figure in your life as you come to Mass?

At this time of the year I am always wondering about the RCIA - the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults. When the first session starts, I ask my self ‘Who will come through the door this evening?’ Sometimes there are people who have intimated that they are interested; at other times I am surprised. One never knows and there is the possibility that no-one will turn up! We start on Monday 3rd October. The RCIA is a process whereby people interested in joining the Catholic Church can learn more, grow in faith and be strengthened in discipleship.

One of the interesting things about the Church in this country is that every weekend there are people coming who are not from a Catholic background or sometimes have not had a faith. My priest friends from Catholic countries are always staggered to discover this as I introduce them to people at Mass who are not Catholics. Some of you reading this come with your spouse to offer support and encourage your children. Some of you have come with friends or that was how it all started for you! Sometimes a chance meeting or a word offered or a feeling experienced has led to a kindling of the desire to discover more. For some of you, you are content coming to church week by week and do not want to take things further. I understand that and it’s okay! But maybe there are some for whom NOW is the right time. Perhaps there is someone waiting for YOU to invite them to join the Church. There are many Catholics who were baptised and then for one reason or another were never confirmed. You are never too old to confirmed! Come to the RCIA.

My petition today is that those who are interested will be encouraged to take the first step and/or have someone else to support them. My prayer of intercession is for those who struggle with faith and never seem to find an answer which is adequate, that they may discover a trust in God who loves them so much. Finally, I am so grateful for our community with the vitality of joy and vibrancy of faith. May our enthusiasm for Christ be infectious! Have a good week and God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH We were blessed with great weather on Wednesday when Bishop John Sherrington - who was glad to be back - celebrated Mass for St. Bonaventure's 90th Anniversary. The Mayor really enjoyed herself! Sadly Ursula Howard was unwell and could not attend. Our thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Liturgy, the church and the reception. The centenary will be the next milestone!

EDUCATION SUNDAY Our thanks to Holy Family School and Our Lady School for leading Mass on Education Sunday last week. The children were great ambassadors for their respective schools and lifted our hearts to God. Our thanks to parents, governors and, of course, the staff.

RETREAT DAY Bishop John Crowley's Day for the Deanery last weekend was a wonderful, prayerful experience. He encouraged silent reflection with thoughtful input. The many visitors from other parishes enjoyed being back in the Garden City and strengthening the bonds between the churches of Stevenage Deanery. Thank you to all who helped with hospitality.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH There was a good discussion about the plans for Holy Family Church's 50th Anniversary next year. It was agreed that the Mass on Sunday 7th May at 11am would be followed by a reception at Holy Family School, that there should be an exhibition of photos and a booklet produced. There will be a further meeting in the new year (date still to be decided).

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH FLOOR The new floor will be laid in October from Monday 3rd until Tuesday 18th. For that period there will not be a Sunday 9.30am Mass; the Sunday 6pm Mass will be at Our Lady's. Wednesday 9.30am Mass will be at Our Lady's and Thursday 9.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. We are sorry for this disruption but the new floor should be splendid. The windows on the Sanctuary will be replaced on Thursday and Friday this week.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION At St. Bonaventure's preparation for the children happens on a Saturday morning once a month. 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: Our Lady's - Tuesday 1st November at 8pm; Holy Family - Sunday 6th November after 9.30 Mass. Children should be at least in Year 3 at school. (If you missed the meeting at St. Bonaventure's, have a word with Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.)

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 at Our Lady's Church. 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.

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. There will be an enactment of the martyrdom of St. Alban with massive puppets, music and prayer. Everyone is welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 1st October at 6pm at Our Lady's. Unfortunately we couldn't get the Barn Dance caller, but there will be food, drink, music and bingo. All welcome. Please bring food to share.

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT Tim Hogan (Flautist at HF) riding in the London to Brighton off road challenge in aid of the British Heart Foundation on Saturday 24th September. It is a challenging ride of 75 miles with 3 significant climbs(4000ft). Donations to: www.justgiving.com/RosieandTim -Welwyn or cash or cheques welcome. Thank you.

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. These can be collected from him *before or after Mass*. Meetings will be as follows: Tuesday 4th October 4 - 6pm, Monday 10th October 4 - 7pm, Friday 14th October 4 - 6pm. when parent/s and child will come to meet with Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book a 10-minute appointment. The same process will apply for entrance to Reception Class and then Nursery later on in the year.

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 4pm. There will be Mass at 12 noon with the Renewal of Marriage Vows. The Day will build on last year's WGC Parishes' Day and will be led by Edmund Adamus. Please bring food to share. If you intend coming, please let Fr. Norbert know; this will help Edmund know what resources to bring.

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!

LAUDATO SI AND CARE FOR CREATION Autumn series of events on local and global effects of climate change, Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si' and practical ways you can get involved. Range of exhibitors and talks with addresses from CAFOD, Justice and Peace and Caritas. Sponsored by Justice and Peace Westminster, Caritas Westminster and CAFOD. First venue is Hitchin - Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew 24 Sept, 10am-1pm. John F. can give you a lift.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Children from our three parishes are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up. Parents welcome.

MISSIO/APF Red Boxes at Our Lady's. It is that time of year when we collect in the Red Boxes and bank your donations. If you are able to bring your box to church in the next couple of weeks we will empty it, bank the contributions, and then return the box to you as soon as possible. Thank you all again for your support and generosity.

HCPT group 183 are starting preparations for next Easter's 2017 pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you are interested in becoming a helper, there will be a meeting on 2nd October at 6pm in Our Lady's sacristy. For more information please contact Emma on 07740858313.

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE the independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, will be holding an Open Morning for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18) on Saturday 8th October 2016 from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Means-tested bursaries are available for Catholic boys entering Year 3 and Year 7. Applications for September 2017 must be made by the end of October 2016. For further information, please contact Mrs Cathy Lovett, Admissions Officer.

Email address: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org Direct line: 01727 892012

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

Our Lady's Church
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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). 33 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

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.

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.

FATIMA 2017 Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel could offer us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. If you are interested, please let Fr. Norbert know so that brochures etc could be produced.

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

MASS TIMES

19 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
20 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	Chong Ha-sang and comp...
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Matthew
22 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
23 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St Pius of Pietrelcina
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Walsingham

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year

24 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
25 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](tel:01438285138) (24/7)**
Urgent need: [01438 314 333](tel:01438314333) via text message: [07876 526935](tel:07876526935) Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net