

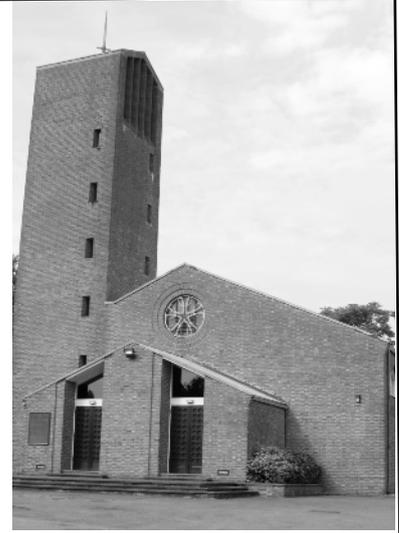
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Summer Newsletter 2017 to include 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th August

As we come to the end of another 'year' and the summer weeks break in, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of our parishes in a huge variety of ways. The Liturgy is enriched by so many adults and children using your various gifts and talents to help people feel welcome and bringing us closer to God. Each of our churches is so beautiful and lovingly cared for - the grounds as well! Our children, young people and adults are supported by catechists for the Sacraments and Children's Liturgy; they help those entrusted to them to develop in faith and love through their skills and enthusiasm. There are groups which reach out locally and abroad sharing resources and keeping a watchful eye on those who suffer. A great hallmark of this community is the silent, hidden way you respond to people who are in need of help: neighbours, friends or parishioners. THANK YOU! We all need a time of rest and refreshment when things are quieter. I hope this is a good period for you. During this season there are visitors at Mass; it is good to have you in our midst. Enjoy being with us as we appreciate your presence. Finally, I would like to thank Kathryn Hubbard, Fr. Martin and the scores of parishioners who offer so much support to keep our parishes going. As I conclude my ninth year in Welwyn Garden City, I ask God to bless each one of you. Your prayers, your love and your deep faith make our parishes the places of welcome and outreach which they are...AND make me so proud to be your Parish Priest.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

SUPPLY PRIESTS We are very grateful to the priests who have been - and will be - helping us during the summer months: Fr. Frank Leonard, Fr. Brian Reynolds and Fr. Frank Johnson. May God bless them!

FR. MARTIN is now back from his summer break and begins his final month in Welwyn Garden City before taking up his new post as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Stoke Newington. Fr. Martin's Farewell Mass will take place at Our Lady's on Saturday 26th August at 6pm followed by a Get-together in the Hall. You are all most welcome. There are envelopes at the back of our churches for contributions to a Farewell Gift for Fr. Martin. These can then be put in the main collection. Fr. Tom Montgomery the new Assistant Priest will move into Holy Family on Monday 4th September.

Fr Martin's Thank You Evening will be held Saturday, 26th August at 7pm in Our Lady's Hall following the 6pm Mass at Our Lady's Church. This is your opportunity to thank Fr. Martin for his work here in the Parish and to wish him good luck in his new position. The hall will be set-up starting at 4.30pm on Saturday. Please come along if you can lend even a few minutes to help prepare the Hall for the evening. If you plan to attend, bring finger food for a Summer Evening (ready to be placed on the serving table) to the hall from 5pm. The Parish will provide all the drinks.

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY will be celebrated on Tuesday 15th August. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks us to attend Mass. The times of Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

SACRAMENTS for young people and children. In September dates will be advertised for enrolment meetings for First Confession & First Holy Communion and for Confirmation. Children for Confession and Holy Communion are in Year 3 or above and young people for Confirmation in Year 9 or above.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY A date will be published after the summer holidays for early next year. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in the next year or two whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

RCIA For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will be on Monday evenings starting on 9th October at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

LAURA SCHECK RIP Laura's Memorial Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 11th August - 11 o'clock for an 11.30 start.

STRAWBERRY TEA Thank you to all who supported this event which raised £265 for CAFOD. A special thank you to the young people who were helping.

CAFOD GROUP meets on Tuesday 8th August at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family.

CAFOD BBQ 1.30pm on Sunday 20th August at Sandy & Bob's house 401 Knightsfield WGC. Tickets £8 adults £6 for children under 7. Vegetarian option available. All welcome.

OUR LADY'S Many thanks to all who came on Saturday morning to clean the church and maintain the grounds. Your help is much appreciated.

OUR LADY'S MINISTERS' ROTA The new rota from August to October 2017 for Welcomers, Readers and Holy Communion Ministers is now available for collection at the back of the church. A copy is also available on the website: www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

THE MIXED GROUP will be having its annual sponsored 10-Mile Cycle Rally on Sunday 3rd September from Autumn Grove to Hertford Football Club and back starting at 12.45pm. The Group is appealing for more cyclists as this is the big fundraiser for The Mixed Group which provides a wonderful Christmas Day Lunch for people who would otherwise be on their own. If you would like to cycle or sponsor someone, contact Sean Cox on 01707 325278 for more details.

FIRST FRIDAY On Friday 1st September there will be the next 6.30 early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will be on Saturday 23rd September at 6pm Mass at Our Lady's with a gathering in the Hall afterwards.

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS will be celebrated on Saturday 7th October at 6pm at Our Lady's.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Time is racing by and parents will be thinking about a secondary school for their children soon to be in Year 6. Fr. Norbert always suggests to parents to visit the different schools *with their children*. An open morning allows you to see the school in action and the way the pupils and staff are. Think about where your child will flourish, taking into account his/her gifts, travelling, friendship groups and what schools offer. Definitely read the admissions criteria and try to see whether or not your child has a good chance of getting in. Some Catholic schools will need a Certificate of Catholicity which implies weekly attendance at Mass. Fr. Norbert will be available in the autumn to sign these certificates. All Catholic schools will need a Baptismal Certificate, so now is a good time to request one if you have not got the original. If the Baptism was here in Welwyn Garden City, contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579); otherwise make sure you give yourself time to acquire one from the church of Baptism. Should you need any other help, speak to Fr. Norbert or ask at school.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Monday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Hall to look at the year ahead including the plans for the refurbishment of the Hall and a sharing of presentations of all the great work done by groups in our three churches. Please keep this date free and come.

ME AND MY MUSIC at St John's Digswell (Monk's Rise off Knightsfield) The next session will be on Wednesday 9th August at 7.30pm. The cost is £8 per ticket (including whisky, wine and pizza) and all proceeds from the evening will be put to one side to assist those charities which St John's supports. To book: text your attendance and how many are coming to 07766 952113 The speaker will be Sister Jean Lawson who has run the House of Prayer on the island of Iona in Scotland for the last 15 years.

FATIMA 26 parishioners will be going to Fatima in this Centenary Year from Sunday 10th to Thursday 14th September. If you would like petitions taken to the Shrine, please put them in a clearly marked envelope and give them to Fr. Norbert.

HOLY LAND New dates have been set for the Ecumenical Pilgrimage from WGC to the Holy Land: Wednesday 22nd to Thursday 30th November. There are brochures and booking forms at the back of our churches and these should be returned as soon as possible to Pax Travel.

WANTED In the spirit of the gospels 'you don't need two shirts on your back', the Peace Garden team wonder if anyone has a spare wheelbarrow as their's is collapsing. Please phone/text Pam 0758069299 or Anne 07932338813 if you can help us. Also in the autumn, when perennials are divided, any unwanted plants would be welcomed to fill in gaps in the flower beds. Thank you.

IN NEED OF HELP finding direction in your life; struggling with relationships, exams, career, or any of life's transitions? Coaching could be just the help you need. Short-term and proven, it can help you to refocus, set your own goals and reach them. Contact parishioner Jessica Wall on 07859053772 for more information.

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

CAR BOOT to raise money for Hcpt 183 Do you have any unwanted items that you can give us to sell to raise money to take a child to Lourdes? If so please contact Barbara 07789743703. Date of car boot 23rd September.

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

MASS TIMES

Mondays	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesdays	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Wednesdays	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Thursdays	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Fridays	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Saturdays	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Sundays	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family

PLEASE NOTE

Tuesday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses are as follows: **9.30am Mass at Holy Family, 12noon Mass at St. Bonaventure**
7pm Mass at Our Lady's

CARITAS VOLUNTEER SERVICE This Diocesan Agency is seeking to recruit volunteers to be involved in social action. For more information pick up one of the leaflets at the back of our churches or email Verity Sykes on caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk

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.enh-tr@nhs.net