

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year 6th October 2013 (page 146)

‘Increase our faith’ is the prayer of the apostles to Jesus in our Gospel reading from St. Luke. They are told by the Lord that if it were only the size of a mustard seed amazing things could happen. In the passage from St. Paul to Timothy, we hear ‘...fan into a flame the gift God gave you...God’s gift was a Spirit of power, and love, and self-control.’

The Year of Faith began last year on 11th October and will end this year on 24th November. In calling for this special period of prayer and reflection, Pope Benedict wanted us as Catholic Christians to deepen our faith, to love Jesus Christ even more and to be dynamic in our attempts to radiate the light of faith to others. Who would have thought that another Pope would be the one to close the Year of Faith?

Has your faith grown? In what areas do you still need nourishing? What are the burning questions for which you seek answers? Has Jesus challenged you? What has been your response to him? Do you feel closer to him? Finally, have you made a difference to others through your words, actions and conviction? Have you fanned the flame of faith for others? Questions and more questions! Why not take time to reflect on some of these this week?

In four weeks’ time, the RCIA will begin in WGC. I keep meeting people who have expressed an interest in joining the Church or in finding out more. Perhaps you are one of them? Maybe this is the year for YOU or your loved one? Are you being called to make the journey to the Sacraments at Easter 2014?

As a community let us pray hard that some will respond. Let us be a source of encouragement to people we know who might be interested. Let us allow our faith to shine out - not promoting ourselves but sharing Jesus Christ with others and the joy which comes from belonging to the Catholic Church. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

FR. VINCENT WRITES: ‘I am very excited about beginning this new stage of my priestly ministry here at WGC. I have moved from New Southgate in North London where I have spent the last four years and I was ordained three years ago. I hope to get to know everybody as time goes by but I am terrible with names and faces so please be patient with me. With God’s grace and your help and support, I hope to serve the parishes of WGC to the best of my ability. PS I don’t know what football allegiance is like in WGC but just for the record I support Arsenal!’

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY Please place your envelopes/money in the retiring collection today.

YEAR OF FAITH will conclude with the feast of Christ the King on Sunday 24th November. As part of our prayer and reflection, the San Damiano Cross of St. Francis has been available for households to ‘host’ and invite others to join them in prayer. St. Francis made such a difference to the Church of his time and subsequent centuries and so it is fitting to pray with the Cross that spoke to him, asking him to renew the Church. If you would like to host the Cross for a week in the these remaining months, please let Fr. Norbert know. To mark the conclusion of the Year of Faith, there will be a Dinner at the Homestead Court Hotel on Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm. More details to follow.

FR. MICHAEL’S FAREWELL will take place on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm followed by a Reception in Our Lady’s Hall. In due course envelopes will be available for a presentation to Fr. Michael.

RCIA (The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) will begin on Monday 4th November at 7.30pm in the sacristy of Our Lady’s Church. Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation (or First Holy Communion) when you were younger and feel ready now for these Sacraments? Perhaps you are engaged to - or married to - a Catholic and would like to find out more? Maybe you have attended Mass for years and no one ever asked you? Had you ever thought of it before? Are you getting married in the next year or two in a country where a non-confirmed Catholic cannot marry without having been confirmed? Do YOU know someone who is waiting to be invited? There is much to reflect on! In these next few months why not think about it? Perhaps this is the year for you or some you know to take this important step.

BRENDAN DOODY RIP The Funeral Mass for Brendan will be in Our Lady’s Church on Monday 21st October at 1pm.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL will meet on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady’s Church.

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS The Polish Community would like to invite everyone to join them for the Polish/English Mass on Saturday 19th October at 6pm in Our Lady’s. Afterwards in the Hall there will be delicious food available!

Zapraszamy wszystkich serdecznie na Polsko-Angielska Msze 19 października o godz. 18.00. Po Mszy odbędzie się poczęstunek w sali przykościelnej. Gorąco zachęcamy wszystkich do przygotowania polskich potraw i ciast (oraz pozostawianie przed Mszą w salce) aby podzielić się z innymi parafianami. Chetnych do pomocy prosimy o kontakt z Sylwia 07825216627.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT Takes place from this Sunday for four weeks. Collectors please do the counting and record on the sheet. Thank you.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic Secondary School will need a Priest's Reference. Fr. Norbert has scheduled days and times in the coming weeks when parents and their children can come to see him with their form filled in, Tuesday 8th October 4 - 6pm at Our Lady's and Tuesday 15th October 4 - 6pm at Holy Family. Please ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a ten-minute appointment. You can attend whichever date/venue is most convenient regardless of the church you usually go to. It is essential that the 'Self-Assessment Form' is filled in completely. Please wait in the respective church to be called to see Fr. Norbert. Thank you for your co-operation.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH The Israel/Palestine Situation - A presentation, film and discussion in the Park Lounge, Campus West on Thursday 17th October 7.30pm. Pick up a leaflet from the back of church.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH Our next Children's Mass will be on Sunday, 13th October at 9.30am. There will be a practice this Sunday (6th Oct) after 9.30am Mass for band members as well as those children wishing to read or sing. We would love to welcome some new faces.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD We will again be supporting this charity by filling and sending shoe boxes to children in need around the world. As you go around the shops please buy some little gifts to put in these boxes (they don't need to be expensive) - there are leaflets at the back of each church advising you about what can be included. Filled boxes, knitted hats, scarves, gloves/mittens can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready. This year, for those who do not have a shoe box to fill or who dislike covering them, we have some flat pack boxes for you to use. Please take one if you can fill it.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH HEATING In recent weeks it has been necessary to replace the three 'booster' heaters in the church which had reached the end of their life and were unable to be repaired. The replacement cost is £7,800. As this is a one-off cost to the parish funds, you are invited to make a donation towards this expenditure. If you wish to make a donation, there are envelopes at the back of church for doing so. Also, if you pay income tax, then you may Gift Aid the donation and so add 25% to the amount. Many thanks.

CWL meets this Tuesday in the Parish hall at Our Lady's. Guest speaker from New Zion Christian Fellowship on 'Food Bank'. All welcome.

CATECHISTS' DAY Fr. John Hemer has written to say how much he enjoyed speaking to the catechists of our Deanery a week ago. He commented on the 'receptive audience'. Our thanks to all who were able to attend and to the Hospitality Group for the refreshments.

LOURDES The Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes leaves WGC early on Saturday 26th October. If you would like petitions taken to the Grotto, please put them in a clearly marked envelope and give them to Fr. Norbert. Don't put any money inside as the envelopes eventually are burned.

NEED A CLEANER? Contact Elizabeth Anderson who will do one-off cleans, regular or weekly etc, also ironing. Phone 01707 883770 or 07980 887231.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH Many thanks to all who came to help with church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds on Saturday morning.

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Fr. Vincent 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
Bookings should be made with Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790 135458
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

07 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Our Lady of the Rosary
08 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Blessed John Henry Newman
10 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Paulinus of York
11 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Wilfrid

	Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year		<i>Lord, Let me see your face, Know your heart and experience your love in my life. Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith. I believe Lord; Help my unbelief. Amen.</i>
12 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
13 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	

CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463
