

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*

Thirty-first Sunday of the Year 3rd November 2013 (page 158)

The clocks have gone back and Christmas seems to be just around the corner but before we start to put any Christmas trees up we have the month of November to get through. This is the time we traditionally remember all of our loved ones who have gone before us to their place of rest and reward in God's heavenly kingdom. November is the month of the dead because our ancestors believed that, with all the trees and plants dying back around us, it was the time when those in the world of the dead were closest to those in the living world. They were afraid that unless the dead were appeased by offerings they could capture people from this world and take them to their own. Thankfully we know this is not the case, but we also know that the dead are always in need of our prayers so that they can pass safely on their journey towards eternal life.

If our ancestors had known more about the world we live in, they would have known that in the Southern Hemisphere it is currently spring going on summer. This would have balanced out their despair with hope. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ we too know that although death can bring despair, it is in fact the gateway to true hope. Hope in God.

May all our loved ones who have gone before us rest in peace.

God bless you, *Fr. Vincent*

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The annual collection for this fund takes place next weekend (9/10th), envelopes are at the back of church. There are now around 100 sick and retired priests in the diocese. Many need support as they get older and the Fund relies on donations. Please give as much as you can afford and, if you pay tax, don't forget you can add 25p to every £1 that you give (at no extra cost to you) by completing the Gift Aid declaration on the back of the donation envelope. This collection takes place at the end of Mass. (You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

RCIA (The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) begins this Monday 4th November at 7.30pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church.

YEAR OF FAITH This week the Cross of San Damiano will be with Eddy and Reka Gallucci. They invite parishioners to join them in prayer on Tuesday 5th November at 6.30pm. Their address is 28 Mountway Close, WGC AL7 4JZ. If you would like to host the Cross for a week in the these remaining weeks, please let Fr. Norbert know.

END OF YEAR OF FAITH DINNER at the Homestead Court Hotel on Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm. It will be a 3-course meal with coffee and mints. Cost £19.50 (children 10 years and under £9.75). There are flyers available at the back of our churches with the menu and a chance to reserve a place. The round tables take 10 people. Reservations need to be in by Thursday of this week at the latest.

FR. MICHAEL'S FAREWELL will take place on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm followed by a Reception in Our Lady's Hall.

- At the back of church you will find envelopes for a presentation gift to Fr. Michael, please return these in the Offertory collection or to the Parish Office at St. Bonaventure's (cheques should be made payable to WRCDT).

- After the weekend Masses (9/10 and 16/17 November), there will be someone at the back of Church to take the names of those willing to provide 'finger food' for the Farewell Gathering. We are asking volunteers to provide 8 - 12 servings of a dish, to bring the food nicely displayed and to have the food ready to go on the serving table (i.e. nothing that needs to be heated or sliced). Savouries, children's savouries, and sweets are needed. This will be a great opportunity for the three parishes to gather and give our thanks and best wishes to Fr Michael.

DEANERY EDUCATION MASS has been rescheduled for Tuesday 26th November at 7pm in Our Lady's Church. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate the Mass. Pupils, parents, staff and governors of the Catholic Primary and Secondary schools of the Stevenage Deanery will be attending.

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

CONCERT FOR CAFOD The Herts Constabulary Choir are giving a concert at Holy Family Church on Monday 25th November. Tickets are £5 (no concessions). 7.45pm for 8pm start. Tickets are available from this weekend.

CAKE SALE (St. Bonaventure's Coffee Group). There will be a cake sale in aid of the Friends of Welwyn Care Homes after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 17th November. Donations of cakes etc. will be very welcome. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place as follows: for Holy Family Church on Sunday 10th November at 10.40am in church (after Mass); there will be an additional opportunity for parents to gather that evening (10th Nov.) at 7pm in Holy Family Church. For Our Lady's on Tuesday 19th November at 7.45pm in church (after Mass and Novena). Parents are requested to come and receive all the important dates related to their children's preparation for these Sacraments. Children do not need to attend the evening meeting.

CONFIRMATION Registration for young people (at least in Year 9 at school) will take place in Holy Family Church on Sunday 24th November at 7pm. The meeting is for young people of our three parishes and their parents. Dates for the preparation will be given at this meeting.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Cemetery on Sunday 17th November at 2pm. Welwyn Cemetery on Sunday 24th November at 2.30pm.

PADDY O'FLAHERTY RIP The Funeral Mass for Paddy will be in Our Lady's Church on Thursday 7th November at 9.30am.

PATRICIA GREEN RIP The Funeral Service for Patricia will be in Our Lady's on Tuesday 12th November at 10.15am.

NATIONAL INTER-FAITH WEEK 17th - 24th November. There are many activities taking place: 17th Mitzvah Day Food Bank Collection at Waitrose; 18th Talk at Jim McDonald Centre - Winter Festivals and the food that goes with them, 7.30 at Jim McDonald Centre, Hatfield; 20th Bring and Share Meal at Focolare Centre 7 for 7.30pm; Baha'i evening of music and reflection 7pm, Sunday 24th in the Focolare Centre.

POLISH SCHOOL On 16th November the Polish Saturday School is planning to celebrate its Official Opening as well as to mark The Polish Independence Day. The event will take place in Holwell Primary School, Holwell Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3RP. It will last one hour. It will start at 10.45 am and it will finish at 11.45 am. The event, which will include performances prepared specially on this occasion by Polish children and teachers, will be followed by refreshments. Booking for this event is essential! For more information, please contact: szkola@pss-wgc.co.uk.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOXES) Filled boxes need to be brought into church as soon as possible, they will be collected from St. Bonaventure's sometime between 15th to 22nd November (just waiting for confirmation of the actual date). Thank you to those who have already sent theirs in and for all the wonderful knitting.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP PARTY We have our party on Tuesday 5th November from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. Games, Spooky Tea and Fireworks. Bring a small amount of food (hot dogs and pizza provided). Parents (dressed for the occasion!) are welcome to stay but those who don't must return by 5pm so there is maximum supervision for the fireworks. We hope for fine weather! £2 to cover costs.

THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY will be meeting on Sunday, 10th November after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's. The meeting will be held in Our Lady's Hall and all African parishioners are requested to attend.

IRISH DANCING Cotter School of Irish Dancing meets on Mondays 6.30-7.30pm in Our Lady's Parish Hall. All welcome (ages 4 and upwards). £4 per lesson. Contact Laura Cotter 07817411553 or just go along.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

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

04 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Charles Borromeo
05 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
07 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
	9.30am	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
08 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

	Thirty-second 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>
09 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
10 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