

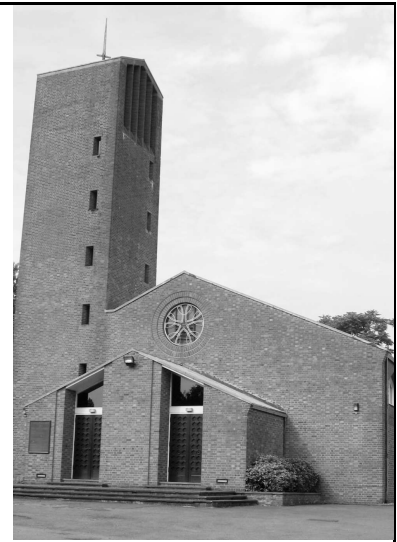
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Baptism of the Lord 12th January 2014 (page 118)

Water has been in the news a lot recently. There have been storms and floods across the country. So many people have been affected by the destructive effects of water with many having their homes or businesses destroyed. Even a 12th century church in Dorset was this week left under water and as yet it is not clear what damage these waters have done to a building that has stood firm for the best part of a thousand years.

Something I always remind people at Baptisms about is the dual effect of the symbol of water. As I have said it can be very destructive and even deadly but the reality is that we cannot live without water. In theory a person can survive weeks without eating food, however they could only last a few days without water to drink. Clean water is the most basic of all human rights and needs.

Today's Gospel talks about the glory of God in Christ being made manifest in the waters of the Jordan as Jesus underwent Baptism through John. Jesus had no need of Baptism as he had no sins to repent of, yet it was a foresight of the fact that he had come to take all our sins upon himself as the ultimate and final sacrifice to God, that he shared in this process.

Today gives us an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of our own Baptism: how promises were made on our behalf to renounce Satan and sin and follow the way of Jesus alone. Are we still committed to those promises? Are we still committed to that path?

God bless you, *Fr. Vincent*

THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE Archbishop Nichols will be inviting to the Cathedral couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversaries. This year's Mass will be on Saturday 7th June at 3pm. Please give your details to Fr. Norbert (names of husband and wife, wedding date, full postal address and email/phone number) who will then pass on the names to the Archbishop's Office; in due course invitations will be sent out. In recent years many couples from Welwyn Garden City have gone to this annual Mass and had a wonderful, prayerful experience.

AMELIA NIECKARZ RIP The Funeral Mass for Baby Amelia will be at Holy Family Church on Monday 13th January at 1.30pm.

TED O'LEARY RIP Ted's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 15th January at 12.30pm.

EMILY GILMOUR R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Emily Gilmour will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday at 11am.

Let us pray for the repose of their souls and for their grieving families and friends.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY begins on Saturday 18th January. As has become the custom, there will be a main Service (45 mins) on the Sunday and daily services (30mins) in a number of churches usually followed by refreshments.

Saturday 18th Our Lady's at 12 noon + Soup lunch

Sunday 19th Christchurch Baptist Church, Broadwater Road, AL7 3AX at 3pm (Fr. Norbert will be giving the address at this service)

Monday 20th Space, Church Road, AL8 6PW (near Sainsbury's) at 8am

Tuesday 21st Panshanger Church, Hardings AL7 2EJ at 12.30pm

Wednesday 22nd St. Mary Magdalene's, Hollybush Lane, AL7 4JS at 12.30pm

Thursday 23rd Digswell Village Church, Warren Way AL6 0DH at 12.30pm

Friday 24th Free Church, Church Road, AL8 6PS at 12 noon

Saturday 25th Shared Supper at Focolare Centre, Parkway at 7pm.

CWL The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th January at 8pm in Our Lady's Parish Centre.

CATHEDRAL MASS FOR THE SICK in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at 2pm on Saturday 8th February. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside, and as in previous years, the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP Anyone who has received any gifts they are unable to use or are surplus to requirement would you please consider gift aiding them for sale on the CAFOD table at Holy Family church.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY The Council is arranging a service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day this year on Monday 27th January 11am -12 noon - The Links, Hatfield. The day is intended to ensure that the horrendous crimes against humanity during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides are never forgotten and that its relevance for each new generation is understood. This year the theme is 'Journeys'. All welcome.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION (S.B's) We meet this Saturday when we will learn about the gift of Friendship. **CHILDREN'S MASS (S.B.s)** Sunday at 10.30am - 'Jesus is our Special Friend'.

SCHOOL FORMS Any parents who need a Priest's Reference for their child's entrance into Reception Class and missed the sessions before Christmas, should come to Our Lady's Church on Monday 13th January at 5pm with their child and completed forms. It will be the last opportunity for these forms to be signed by Fr. Norbert. No need to book a time, just turn up.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again this Tuesday 14th January. All are welcome to come and learn a little more about your faith and get to know other parish children.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS There will be Mass in Holy Family School Hall at 11am this Monday 13th January to mark the start of 2014. Everyone is very welcome.

HOLY FAMILY SAFEGUARDING REP Ann Chappell has kindly agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Representative for Holy Family Church. The paperwork is being processed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and in due course she will make contact with the various groups which involve children and vulnerable adults. We are grateful to her for taking on this responsibility.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION If you are planning to get married in 2014 or 2015 either here in Welwyn Garden City or in another parish in this country or abroad, please let Fr. Norbert know. There are Church papers which have to be prepared as well as civil requirements. The Marriage Preparation Day for our parishes will be on Saturday 15th February (the day after Valentine's Day!) in Our Lady's Hall.

CONFIRMATION Any young people (at least in Year 9) who missed the enrolment meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation should see Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The first session will be on Sunday 19th January at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Preparation for these Sacraments at Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church will soon begin for children (at least in Year 3) and their parents. If anyone missed the registration meetings, they should get details from Fr. Norbert.

THE WOMEN'S INTER FAITH GROUP meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at SPACE (opposite Sainsbury's) for informal chat over a hot drink. 12.30 - 2pm. We would really welcome some new faces. We will meet again this Tuesday 14th January. Bring a packed lunch if you wish.

JUSTICE AND PEACE At 6pm on Wednesday 22nd January the Justice & Peace Commission are holding an Open meeting and all are invited. This will take place at the Commission's offices, in West Green (north London), there will be soup, bread and cheese, cake, tea, coffee and juice. Some parishioners will be attending. If you would like to go, please contact John Fogarty (john.fogarty@ntlworld.com or 01707 327771), who will give you more information and provide a lift, if required.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH Many thanks to everyone who came to help with taking down the Outdoor Crib and with cleaning the church Saturday morning. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Need a Mobile Hairdresser, or a Decorator /Handy man or a Cleaner? As a family concern, we offer competitive rates which won't be beaten. Tracey (**MOBILE HAIRDRESSER**) 07581212941. Jamie (**DECORATOR/HANDYMAN**) 07572527731. Jackie (**CLEANER**) 07938917631.

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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 Johnson
 01707 377442 or 07790 135458
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

13 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
	1.30pm	Holy Family	Funeral Mass for baby Amelia
14 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
	12.30pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass for Ted O'Leary
16 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
17 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Anthony, Abbot
	11am	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass for Emily Gilmour
	7pm	Our Lady's	
18 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

Second Sunday of the Year

18 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
19 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. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463