

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*

Third Sunday of the Year 26th January 2014 (page 127)

Today's Scriptures definitely are interesting! An excerpt from the prophecy of Isaiah is quoted in the Gospel passage from St. Matthew. Does it ring a bell? Where and when did you possibly hear it? Of course (!) the reading was used at 'Midnight Mass' at Christmas. Isaiah speaks of the light which people walking in darkness come to see; gladness, joy and happiness have burst into the world. St. Matthew cites this passage as he reflects on the start of Jesus' ministry - what a difference the Lord makes! When Jesus utters his first words of preaching, he says: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' I cannot but help think of Lent when we will be urged to change our lives, to turn back to God and to be renewed in the process. Repentance enables us to focus more clearly on Jesus, his teaching and our response. Repentance is a key element of the Lenten journey. Repentance is a grace for everyone as we receive loving compassion and forgiveness from our God.

Christmas seems like a long time ago. With a late Easter (20th April) this year, Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March; so we have some weeks still to go until the rigor of Lent kicks in! This Gospel passage together with the First Reading gives us the opportunity to take stock. How has the light of Christ shone upon us? In what ways has he enlightened us? Where do we search for that light and the effects it can have on our world? In our hearts what holds us back from following Christ more closely? Is it easy to hear his voice? Are we ready to respond to the call? What do we have to leave behind in order to be more effective disciples?

In the passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians the Apostle is clear that his role is to preach the Good News, that Christ is one and so should the community be. Paul knows that both he and his community can transform those around him AND THEY DO! Let this be our mission too.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Next weekend the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord replaces the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Candles will be blessed at each Mass - hence the name Candlemas.

EDUCATION SUNDAY Because Education Sunday falls in half-term, we have decided in WGC to mark it next Sunday. Children from Holy Family School will lead 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and children from Our Lady School will lead 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's Church

SAINT BLAISE The Blessing of St. Blaise will be given before Mass at 9.20am on Monday 3rd February. You are invited if you wish to come and have your throat blessed.

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.

LECH WALES Campus West cinema will be showing a film called "Walesa. Man of Hope" about the founder of the "Solidarity Movement" and Polish president. The film will be a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the life of this famous union activist - a person who helped to break down communism and who had such a huge influence on the history of modern Europe. Andrzej Wajda, the film director, described "Walesa" as the biggest challenge of his career. The film will be shown at 8.45pm on Wednesday 5th February at 8.45pm. Tickets go on sale this week! More info on <http://www.gardencitycinema.co.uk/>

FUNDRAISER Stand up comic (star of ITVs Splash!) Patrick Monahan is bringing his 'Cake Charmer' Tour to us in WGC on Saturday 22nd February. Fun, laughs and cakes guaranteed as Patrick helps to raise money for YMCA Space centres in Hatfield and WGC. Tickets for the gig at Gosling Sports Centre are £12 from <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/242784-> but hurry - tickets are going like....well, hot cakes really!

CARDINAL NICHOLS There will be a Mass of Welcome for Cardinal-designate Nichols on Friday 28th February at 5.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Parishioners are welcome. Come early to get a seat!

CAFOD A success story and a new challenge for 2014 There is a final "update" on the CAFOD noticeboard at the back of the church from Connect2Rwanda and the friends in Musha whom we have supported for the last few years. Happily and with the help of the Parishioners of WGC they are almost self-sufficient and looking forward to a life in which they are able to work and support themselves and their families. This is great news and they send you all their thanks and ask us to continue to pray for them as they pray for us as they face the future with new found strength and determination.

The fundraising for the future is going to focus on Connect2Ethiopia and we will let you have some more information on this when we receive it. **The Holy Family CAFOD group** will be holding a home-made cake sale on Sunday 9th February after the 9.30am Mass. If you are able to bake a cake or buy something from the cake stall on that date it will be very greatly appreciated.

CONFIRMATION Our young people have their next session today (Sunday) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Next weekend they will have a retreat afternoon (including Mass) at the Focolare Centre on Parkway at 3pm.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Preparation for these Sacraments at Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church will soon begin for children and their parents. The first parents' meeting for our three parishes will be this Wednesday 29th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

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.

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 CHURCH CHOIR 9.30am Sunday Mass Our choir is made up of musicians and non-musicians alike and we are looking for new recruits. If you enjoy singing and would like to come and join us please just wander upstairs to the choir loft and make yourself known to one of the choir members. There is very little commitment involved. All we ask is that if you are at 9.30am Mass please come and join us upstairs. We have informal rehearsals once a term to learn new material or practise for specific celebrations in the form of 'Sing for your Supper' evenings at Sally's house where eating, drinking, singing, socialising and having a good time are the order of the evening. Children, Teenagers, Young adults, Parents with children and the more mature members of the congregation will be warmly welcomed. Please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394 if you would like to join us or come upstairs next Sunday and join our happy throng.

HOLY FAMILY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS Please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394 if you know of a worthy local charity we can donate our next six monthly takings to. Many Thanks.

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.

THE SVP THANK YOU for your very generous donations (Dec. 2013) which amounted to £1162.72. Good quality food hampers and inexpensive gifts for young children were distributed to nine families in need in the local area. In total £669 was spent on these hampers. The families were delighted and extremely grateful for the gifts they received at this special time and were overwhelmed by the kindness and good wishes of so many people. Your donations benefit all those supported by the SVP throughout the year and contribute to theatre outings, visits to garden centres, Summer Camp for children, an annual tea party and financial support. Thank you and God bless you.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH Cleaning of the church and grounds maintenance will take place next Saturday 1st February at **10am** for ONE hour. New volunteers will be made very welcome!

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH The Role of Women in Different Faiths at The Jim McDonald Centre, Hatfield. Wednesday 12th February 7.30pm. See flyers at the back of church.

400 CLUB Next weekend there will be detailed information in the newsletter about the 400 club and how you can subscribe to it. This weekend normal subscriptions (for existing members) will be collected.

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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

27 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Angela Merici
28 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Thomas Aquinas
	7pm	Our Lady's	
29 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
30 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
31 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. John Bosco
	7pm	Our Lady's	
01 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

01 Saturday	6pm	The Presentation of the Lord
02 Sunday	8am	Our Lady's
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	10.30am	Holy Family
	11.30am	St. Bonaventure
	6pm	Our Lady's
		Holy Family



CHAPLAIN 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