

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*

Seventh Sunday of the Year 23rd February 2014 (page 139)

Many of you will be aware of the *Growing in Faith* (GiF) fundraising campaign which has been initiated in our Diocese by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The campaign raises money to support parishes through a 'project', to prepare students for priesthood and support priests in retirement, and finally to reach out to those in most need in our communities through *Caritas*. Our new Cardinal has recently written to me saying that GiF is a necessity and an effort he is asking all parishes to support by active participation. So far 140 out of the 220 parishes of Westminster Diocese have undertaken this campaign; now he wants us in Welwyn Garden City to start after Easter. Consequently in the second weekend of March there will be a census to update the records of our three churches. As yet there is no central record of names and addresses of parishioners. This would help me enormously in the administration and pastoral care of our wider Catholic Community.

For a number of months there have been meetings with the chairs of the three finance committees of the three churches of WGC to ascertain what would be the most appropriate project for WGC *from a financial point of view*. The hall at Our Lady's is in dire need of work and is way beyond its intended lifespan, with running expenses rocketing. A proposal is to rebuild the hall as the Hall for the Catholic Community of Welwyn Garden City and beyond, for it to be run by a committee made up from Holy Family, St. Bonaventure's and Our Lady's and to involve all parishioners in the project i.e. its design, its building and upkeep. To upgrade the Hall would cost around £400k; a new Hall would be in the region of £700k. It makes sense to invest in a project, the legacy of which would be for over 60 years.

An architect is at present putting together drawings of what a new hall might look like and some possible features. These should be ready to put up in our three churches the week beginning 17th March. I ask you to look carefully at the drawings and 'dream'.

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Nothing has been already decided. Your views are paramount. What would you like a new hall to have? What do you think the needs of our community might be in 10/20 years' time? What legacy do you want for your children, grandchildren and future generations? My hope is to have a meeting before the school holidays on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the (present) hall. This will give an opportunity for questions to be asked, comments voiced and dreams shared. The final decision does not have to be made before Easter but a sense of where we are going is essential. I would ask that a committee be formed of those willing to work with, and carry forward, the project for the next few years. At this stage consultation, planning and a deep sense of ownership are essential. Money will have to be raised and the necessary planning permission sought. Bishop John Sherrington has assured me that the vision for Welwyn Garden City of being one parish with three churches is still what the Diocese wants for us. The Financial Secretary of the Diocese has given an undertaking that the project would be supported by the Trustees of the Diocese and that a loan for ten years would be given. It would take a year or two for the finer details to be ironed out and in due course the work would begin.

My major concern as your Parish Priest is that the project undertaken here in WGC would be worthy of you the people and that future generations would be so grateful to the parishioners of 2014 for taking this bold and decisive step. When the church in my previous parish was restored I told the people that it was not being done for me and that one day I would be moved. In fact not long after it was completed I was moved to WGC! *So you are the ones ultimately who need to be committed to the project and to support it with your ideas and your contributions.*

Let us respond to our Cardinal in his aspirations. Let us co-operate in our shared vision. Let us strengthen the bonds between people and our reaching out through this project.

May God bless us and guide us in the coming months. *Fr. Norbert.*

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

JOHN McSHANE RIP John's Funeral will be on Wednesday 26th February at 1pm at Our Lady's Church.

REMY PIGNAL Rémy the French seminarian who was with us last May on placement is with us until Monday 3rd March. Bonnes vacances!

RCIA The next meeting will be on Monday 24th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. There are 14 adults and 2 children preparing for the Sacraments. Some will be baptised; some will be received into the Catholic Church; all will be confirmed and make their First Holy Communion. Next weekend they will be presented at Mass and sign a scroll which will be taken up to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th March. Please keep them in your prayers.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 26th at 7.30pm.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Sunday 2nd March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

ST DAVID'S DAY On Saturday 1st March there will be refreshments with a Welsh flavour after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. All welcome.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms for Nursery as follows: Friday 7th March 3.30 - 5pm, Tuesday 11th March 3.30 - 5pm, and Wednesday 19th March 3.30 - 5pm. All appointments are at Our Lady's Church. Parents are asked to ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment time. Parent/s should come with their child and the appropriate forms (obtained at the schools) already filled in; they should wait in the church. Come on whichever is the most convenient day!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES The next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 15th March at 6pm at Our Lady's. It will have a hint of St. Patrick and there will be a reception afterwards in the Hall. The other dates set for 2014 are: Saturday 7th June at 6pm, Saturday 13th September at 6pm and Saturday 15th November at 6pm.

ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION If anyone would like to help with the reception after the Mass on Saturday 15th March, please let Fr. Norbert know. We need to think about food, decoration and entertainment!

OCTOBER TRIP Pax Travel is organising a three-day trip to Rheims in the Champagne region of France in the October half-term from Sunday 26th to Tuesday 28th. We will travel by coach on the Shuttle through the Eurotunnel and stay in a 3 star hotel bed and breakfast for two nights. The price for an adult of £199 (£169 for accompanied children under 12) will also include one dinner, a guided tour of the Cathedral and a tour of a wine house! A detailed leaflet should be available next weekend.

THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE Cardinal 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. *This is the final week for names to be sent in.*

NANNY NEEDED A parish family is looking for a nanny to work approx 20 hours a week looking after their three school aged boys, starting mid-April. Please phone Hugh on 07740 818193 for more information.

DOG WALKING If you would like to help an elderly parishioner by walking her dog then please phone Nora on 01707 321432.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 'Streams in the Desert' Friday 7th March in the Methodist Church, Ludwick Way at 2pm. All welcome.

CWL cake sale after 6pm and 11:30am Mass the weekend of March 1st/2nd.

PEACE GARDEN PLANNING MEETING This takes place at noon in the Parish Centre in Our Lady's on Thursday 13th March. Refreshments provided! Please let Anne know if you can come 01707 328516.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH The monthly cleaning of the church and grounds maintenance will take place next Saturday 1st March at 10am for ONE hour. New volunteers are most welcome - 'training' will be provided! Refreshments will be available afterwards.

400 CLUB February Collection and Draw. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due this weekend and collectors will be available at the back of the Church after the Masses. Numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, just ask the collectors. You will be in time for the February draw. Information sheets are at the back of church with more information.

INTERFAITH The work of the Palestine Trauma Centre, including a description of the conditions in Gaza by Dr. Mohamed Altawil at the United Reformed Church, Woodhall Lane, Thursday 13th March 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

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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

24 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
25 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
	1pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
27 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
28 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
01 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. David

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