

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminararian: Samuel Ejeregbe Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Third Sunday of Easter 19th April 2015 (p. 258 of Mass book)

‘You are witnesses to this.’ These are the Risen Lord’s words at the end of the Gospel today from St. Luke. He is speaking to the disciples who are ‘in a state of alarm and fright ... dumbfounded.’ These friends of Jesus have doubts rising in their minds and a joy so great that they still cannot believe it. What an amazing bunch! Some had recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread at Emmaus. Now the Lord stands before them showing his hands and feet; he eats some fish before their eyes. Finally, he opens their minds to understand the Scriptures and entrusts to them the responsibility of being witnesses to the whole Event of his Death and Resurrection.

How would you react if the Risen One came directly into your presence? How would you feel if he showed you the hands and feet which were nailed to the wood of the Cross? What impact would eating with him make upon you? Are you carrying out his command to be a witness to him? Of course, his Presence is different. Nevertheless he IS with us. Jesus is present in the Eucharist, in others, in situations and places. We see those glorified wounds in the hope-filled love which triumphs over suffering, in the many glimpses of light breaking into the darkness of our lives and our world. We encounter him in the Sacred Banquet of the Eucharist as he nourishes us with his very life; he is with us when we eat and drink in the every day. Your faith-filled conviction is such a great witness to Jesus. It is not wishful thinking but the power of God’s Spirit at work in us.

As we begin another week in Eastertide, let us resolve to be open to the Presence of Christ - Risen and Glorious! Let us allow him to deepen the bond we have with him. Let us bear witness to him through our lives both in word and action.

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

SYNOD ON FAMILY LIFE. Rome October 2015 - Our responses to the questionnaire distributed before Christmas are due back by 24th May, so time is running out. Our responses are vital for the success of the Synod. We all have real experience of family life, marriage and relationships. I am happy to co-ordinate and help with the responses which, can remain anonymous and confidential. If you have responded, please let me know. It is important to know that our parishes have made a real contribution to this important discussion. The questionnaire is available at the back of the church or direct from me. Please contact me for further help and discussion. Thank you. Fr. Gerard. gerardobrien@rcdow.org.uk. 327434.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY will be on Thursday 23rd April and will be marked by 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church followed by refreshments in the Parish Room. (There will not be Confessions or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the 23rd.)

FIRST COMMUNIONS Parents have their final session in Our Lady's on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm. First Communion Masses will be as follows: Holy Family - Sunday 17th May at 12 noon; Our Lady's - Sundays 31st May, 7th and 14th June at 11.30am; St. Bonaventure's - Sunday 21st June at 10.30am.

CONFIRMATION Final session at 7.15pm at Holy Family on Sunday 26th April. Bishop John Sherrington will confirm our young people at Our Lady's on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm. The rehearsal will be at Our Lady's on Friday 1st May at 7.45pm.

RCIA Congratulations to Darrell Panter and to Claire Coe and her daughter Summer who were baptised at the Easter Vigil. The Chamberlain family will be baptised on Sunday 3rd May at 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE on Saturday 16th May. A coach has been booked. You need to be at Our Lady's for 7.45am and we will leave Walsingham at 5pm. We will be joining the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf. The day will include the Rosary, Walk along the Holy Mile and Mass. Hopefully the weather will be good for a picnic lunch. Walsingham in Norfolk has been a place of holiness, mystery and atmosphere for almost a thousand years since Richeldis de Faverches was inspired by Our Lady to build a Shrine in perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. One of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom – when travel to the Holy Land was virtually impossible – the original Shrine was destroyed at the Reformation. Many barren years passed until the Slipper Chapel, a 14th century wayside pilgrim chapel, was restored and pilgrimage to Walsingham began once more. In 1934, the English Bishops named the Slipper Chapel, the Roman Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady. If you would like to join us on the coach, please sign your name on one of the sheets at the back of our churches. Cost: £10 for adults and £5 for children payable in advance or on the coach. If you have never been before, why not come?

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for **Keith Gray R.I.P.** will be at 12.30pm on Monday 20th April in St. Bonaventure's. The body will be received into the church at 4pm on Sunday 19th April.

The Funeral Mass for **Pat Jordan R.I.P.** will be at 12.30pm on Wednesday 22nd April in Our Lady's. The body will be received into the church at 4pm on Tuesday 21st April.

The Funeral Mass for **Barbara Dixon-Spain R.I.P.** is at 12.30pm on Monday 27th April in St. Bonaventure's.

The Funeral Mass for **Brian Maguire R.I.P.** is at 2pm on Friday 8th May in St. Bonaventure's.

Funeral details for **Mary Ottaway R.I.P.** are not yet available.

CWL have their AGM on Tuesday 21st April. Members are encouraged to attend as we are selecting a new chairman.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND The annual collection takes place next weekend. You have all been so generous in the Growing in Faith campaign. Now there is an opportunity for those who wish to make a donation which will support the training of future priests for our Diocese. Your prayers also are crucial too.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be on Saturday 6th June at 12noon at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the hall.

CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Resumes this Tuesday 21st April, 3.45pm.

FLOWER ARRANGING Connor & Julie are running four different classes, suitable for all abilities! Call or text Connor on 07801 206721.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S LORETO GIRLS' LENTEN FUNDRAISER After 10.30am Mass this Sunday. Please come to the hall and support these young people.

PILGRIMAGE Pax Travel has arranged for us a pilgrimage to Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of the church.

CARDINAL'S MASS of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

ELECTION HUSTINGS organised by Christian Churches in WGC 29th April, 8pm-10pm, Herts International Church, Unit 2 Sterling Court, Mundells, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1FT. Please join us to question our local parliamentary candidates on the issues that matter to us. Discussion topics and questions will come from your submissions, so if you have questions for us or for the candidates get in touch via welhat.hustings@gmail.com Last time, the hustings were a great success, with a packed room hearing the candidates' responses to questions on a wide range of international, national and local issues. We will be following the same format as last time, with questions and topics from what you send us in advance supplemented by a limited number of questions on the night. This is your chance to grill the candidates, and focus them on issues you care about, so don't miss out.

PRAY THE ROSARY Please join the CWL members as we pray the Rosary at 12.30pm in the Day Chapel at Our Lady's on Saturday 25th April.

This will be followed by a light buffet lunch in the lounge of the Family Centre. All welcome.

HOLY WATER - is blessed by a priest, invoking God's blessing on all who use it. It is a symbol of spiritual cleansing, of life, of spiritual nourishment. It is a reminder of our baptism when we were washed in the Waters of Christ. Holy Water is used when we enter a church and bless ourselves, and in times of danger and temptation. It is a long standing and beautiful tradition to have holy water in our homes and to bless ourselves every time we leave the house. Consider buying a holy water stoop for your home, and bless your homes and family. In this Easter Season we have Easter Water blessed at the Holy Vigil. Please bring a bottle and bring some to your homes. Fr Gerard.

2015 AFRICAN MASS will take place on Sunday, 12th July at 11.30am at Our Lady. The first planning meeting with Father Norbert is set for Sunday, 17th May at 8.00pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. All African Parishioners are welcome.

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OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

GROUP 183 returned home from from Lourdes on Sunday, and wow what an amazing week. The group took part in many activities from the torchlight procession, HCPT Mass, to playing games on the meadow, as well as time to pray and give thanks and rejoice. All the children had an amazing pilgrimage with lots of laughter and fun. A big thank you to all our helpers who gave up there time to care for the children. This was all made possible with the support from the parish, we thank you once again for enabling your HCPT group to travel to Lourdes.

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

MASS TIMES

20 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	Keith Gray
21 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Pat Jordan
23 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. George
24 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Erkenwald and Mellitus
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Mark
Fourth Sunday of Easter				
25 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Mass	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