

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Pentecost Sunday (page 294) 15th May 2016

Today is PENTECOST - the Fiftieth Day! Happy birthday to the Church! It is the last day of Eastertide, not only an ending but also a beginning. This all sounds so mysterious - and it is. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and can never quite be defined. The Holy Spirit is Gift. The Holy Spirit completes. The Holy Spirit blows wherever he/she/it chooses.

On Pentecost Day in the Acts of the Apostles we are told that Our Lady and the Apostles were gathered in prayerful expectation and the Spirit came in such a dramatic way: rushing wind, noise, tongues of fire and different languages. Change came about as the frightened followers of Jesus are now bold enough to proclaim the Good News of Jesus without hesitation. People came to listen to them. And so the Church is born. We cannot help but think back to the Annunciation at the beginning of St. Luke's Gospel where Mary is asked to become the Mother of God. She says 'Yes!' and the Spirit seizes hold of her; Mary's active receptivity results in the Word becoming flesh in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit - the Incarnation takes place and we encounter God in Mary's Child. Pentecost gives the world the opportunity to meet Jesus in and through his followers.

Our Gospel passage from St. John takes us back to Easter Sunday when Jesus breathes his Spirit upon his disciples which in turn points us to Good Friday when Jesus is lifted up on the Cross and gives up his Spirit upon his Mother and the Beloved Disciple at the foot of the Cross - the beginning of the Church! On Easter Day the Risen Lord asks his disciples to be ministers of mercy, to offer the quality of forgiveness which comes from the Cross and from his Resurrection. They are to go out just as he was sent by the Father.

So today, let us commit ourselves to learn from Our Lady how to receive the Holy Spirit and let us endeavour to be like the Apostles, rising from our fears to be powerful witnesses of Jesus Christ! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

PATRICK KENEALLY RIP Patrick's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 16th at 9.30am.

BILLY JOYCE RIP Billy's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 16th May at 12.30pm. His body will be received into the church at 7.30pm on Sunday 15th.

ANITA ARTHUR RIP Anita's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 20th May at 11am.

MAUREEN MURPHY RIP Maureen's Funeral Service will be at West Herts Crematorium (Garston) on Friday 20th May at 3.40pm.

SCILLA HIESZ R.I.P. Funeral details are yet to be finalised.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES Holy Family Sunday 22nd May at 12noon. Our Lady's Sunday 5th June at 11.30am. St. Bonaventure's Sunday 12th June at 10.30am. Please keep the children in your prayers.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL had a very fruitful meeting last Monday. Minutes will be at the back of our churches when ready.

FILIPINO MASS The Filipino Community will lead Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 11th June at 6pm. There will be a gathering in the Hall afterwards with lots of Filipino delights!

AFRICAN MASS will be on Sunday 10th July at 11.30am. The next planning meeting will be after Our Lady's 11.30 Mass on Sunday 22nd May. African parishioners are asked to remain behind after Mass.

PLANTS Nicholas Breakspear School has plants for sale: Tomatoes, Alicante, Moneymaker, and Gardener's Delight @40p per plant; Marigolds and Lobelia @£2.00 per tray; Later Petunias, Begonias, Impatiens. Contact the school on 01727 860079 and leave a message for Mr Short with a contact number.

ST. THOMAS BECKET The relics of St. Thomas Becket will be coming to England from Hungary for a week long pilgrimage and tour of the country. There will be a Mass of Welcome at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 23rd May at 5.30pm to which all are invited.

SEMINARIANS Cedric de la Serre from the Diocese of Nanterre will be ordained priest on Saturday 18th June. David Krupa from the Diocese of St. Denis will be ordained priest on Sunday 26th June. Please keep them in your prayers as their ordinations approach. The experience of being in Welwyn Garden City in our parishes over the last few years has been very important for them. On Saturday 2nd July two more seminarians from Seville will be arriving for three weeks: Fran Trigo and Alfonso Pascual.

WALSINGHAM There will be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham for the Year of Mercy on Saturday 9th July. We will have a coach from Welwyn Garden City. Watch this space for more details.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 24th July - 2nd August in Krakow, Poland. Stevenage Deanery is definitely on for Krakow! Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. The price is £750 including a deposit of £80. Here in WGC our finance committees have agreed to subsidise each young person by £300. So sign up! The young people will put on a fundraising Quiz Night on Friday 8th July at 7.45pm.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the SVP will be in Our Lady's on Saturday 21st May at 12 noon. Come and share in the peace and healing comfort the Lord brings in this powerful Sacrament in which the Lord's Mercy is revealed in the Holy Anointing. After Mass there will be a reception in the Hall.

QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY TEA The Christian Churches in WGC are going to put on an afternoon tea in Howardsgate on Sunday 12th June 3 - 5pm followed by a 'Songs of Praise'. There will be tea and cakes, bouncy castles, games and face painting. Help will be needed for this event which will be our way of marking this great occasion and reaching out to the wider community. Various permissions are required for an event like this and these are in the process of being sorted out. More details in due course but keep the date free!

DEANERY MISSION OF MERCY - OUR LADY'S, WGC

Come each evening or whenever you are free! We hope to welcome many from the various Deanery Parishes.

Monday 6th June

7.30pm Reflections on Mercy led by Hitchin Parish

8.30pm Social time and refreshments

Tuesday 7th June

7.30pm Mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation

led by Letchworth Parish with priests available for Confession

8.30pm Social time and refreshments

Wednesday 8th June

7.30pm Mercy through Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

led by Baldock Parish with reflections and silence

8.30pm Social time and refreshments

Thursday 9th June

7.30pm Mercy through healing in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

led by Stevenage Parishes with priests available for the Anointing of the Sick

8.30pm Social time and refreshments

Friday 10th June

7.30pm Mercy poured out in the Mass led by Welwyn Garden City Parishes

8.30pm Social time and refreshments

Connect2 Ethiopia evening – Tuesday 17th May, Holy Family Church 7.45pm

Come and hear Martina O'Donoghue, CAFOD's Programme Manager in Ethiopia explain how CAFOD is supporting communities in Ethiopia to earn a living, develop sustainable agriculture, and respond to humanitarian emergencies such as drought, as well as giving support those living with HIV and AIDS. All welcome. Teas served from 7.15pm.

ISABEL HOSPICE Sue Jeppeson, Lay Chaplain at the Isabel Hospice has written to say a big thank you to all who sponsored her on her 'Church Crawl' on Sunday 3rd April. Our parishes raised £206.78. Thank you for being so generous.

LORETO REUNION 2016 Saturday 25th June 2.30 – 5.30pm Once again the doors of the school are open to any past pupil and it is a wonderful opportunity to see how the school has changed, hear from the present Head Mrs Maire Lynch about the future and to catch up on the news of your friends who you went to school with. We serve afternoon tea at 3.30pm (for which we ask a contribution of £5 per person) Why not use this as an opportunity to contact as many girls who were in your year and meet up for a chat.

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 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
 welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil
 Johnson 01707 377442
 Website for our 3 parishes
 www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

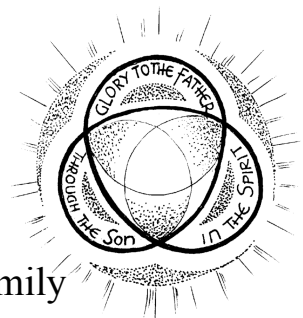
SURVEY One of our parishioners is doing research for her doctorate and needs people AGED 50 YEARS OR ABOVE to spare 15 minutes of their time to complete an online survey regarding online communication media being used in the public sector. The aim of this research project is to find out the views of the UK's 50+ population in order to understand what are the reasons underlying their choice of online communication channel. The online survey can be accessed from all computers, PCs, laptops, iPads and Smartphones at the following website address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFDJLQQ> *Please be assured that any information you provide will be used for academic research purposes only.*

DAY OF RECOLLECTION 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC.

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

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's Patrick Keneally
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's Billie Joyce
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family feria
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family feria
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure feria
	11am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure Anita Arthur
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
21 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure feria
		Trinity Sunday	
21 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
22 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	12noon	First Communion Mass	Holy Family
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family



<p>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</p>
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