

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*

Thirty-second Sunday of the Year 6th November 2016 p. 161 of book

In two weeks time, Pope Francis will seal the Holy Doors of St. Peter's as the Year of Mercy draws to a close. When will they be opened again? I suppose an obvious year would be 2033 when we will mark 2000 years since the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Perhaps a future Pope might find a reason to have a Jubilee Year before then and so the Doors will be unsealed and flung open? A Jubilee Year is a time of grace and blessing - an opportunity to be seized of coming closer to God and being open to his love in a fresh way and offering that gift to others.

Here in Welwyn Garden City we have had the Deanery Doors of Mercy at Our Lady's and many have come from afar as well as from our own three parishes to reflect on God's mercy and the challenge of bearing the fruits in our lives of the corporal works of mercy (to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead) and the spiritual works of mercy (to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill and pray for the living and the dead). Soon we will have a Mass of Thanksgiving marking the closing of the Jubilee Year on Friday 18th November. As one priest of the Deanery reminded us - and insisted - mercy does not come to an end...*and he is right!* God's mercy will continue to be lavished upon us and so many others. This Year of Mercy has heightened our awareness and opened us up to new perspectives and different experiences.

We are now in November, a month when we take time to remember those who have died and commend them to God. God is a God of mercy who wants all people to share in his gift of eternal life. Jesus' Death and Resurrection are the source of everlasting peace and rest. Let each of us pray with all our heart, mind and soul for the Holy Souls that they be perfected by God's grace and come to the eternal vision of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May God bless your week. *Fr. Norbert*

MASS COUNT With Holy Family Church closed for two Sundays, we did not have the annual Mass count in October. Over the next four weekends numbers will be counted at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND Next weekend there will be a retiring collection for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund which helps cover medical, housing, convalescence and personal needs of sick and retired clergy. Many of you are already generously supporting this fund through the Growing in Faith campaign. If you would like to contribute there are special envelopes at the back of our churches. Please take one home and read about the work of the Fund. If you can GiftAid your contribution that will bring in more money. Thank you.

IRENE HARWICH RIP Irene's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 10th November at 12.30pm.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents who missed the recent meetings at Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church should see Fr. Norbert.

CONFIRMATION Any young people who the enrolment meeting for Confirmation should see Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The first session is next Sunday (13th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church's Parish Room.

RCIA Next session on Monday 7th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. Please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Hyde (Hollybush Lane) today (Sunday 6th) at 2pm. Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Sunday 20th November at 2pm. Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 27th November at 2pm.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets at the back of our churches for you to write the names of loved ones who have died. They will be placed near the altars of the churches and the dead will be prayed for throughout the month of November. No need to give any money.

PRAYER FOR THE DEAD This weekend a candle will be given to each household with a prayer card so that we can join our prayers together as a community for the dead every day during the month of the Holy Souls. It is a wonderful way of supporting and praying for the bereaved.

CLOSING OF JUBILEE YEAR will be marked in Welwyn Garden City on Friday 18th November with Mass at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Mass with priests and people from the Stevenage Deanery attending. Afterwards there will be a reception in the hall at which we will celebrate Fr. Frank Leonard's 80th birthday. All welcome!

EARLY MASS A special word of thanks to those who have prepared breakfast for people attending the early Mass on the first Friday of each month in the Year of Mercy. The Masses will continue (and the breakfasts!) so the next one will be at 6.30am on Friday 2nd December at St. Bonaventure's.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CHILDREN'S LITURGY There is a meeting for all leaders and for anyone else who is interested in becoming a leader at 7pm on Wednesday 9th November in Holy Family Parish Room.

INTERFAITH As part of National Inter Faith our local group will be hosting a Shared Supper at the Focolare Centre on Thursday 17th November at 7pm. Please bring a savoury or sweet to share and, if possible, list the ingredients to help those with special dietary needs. It is always a great evening and you will be made most welcome.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES Filled boxes can be brought to St. Bonaventure's or whichever church you attend as soon as you have them ready and by the weekend of 19th/20th November at the very latest. We have about 60 boxes returned already but if all come back we should have well over 150. Thank you for your support.

CONCERT Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir are performing a concert in Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Church on Saturday 12th November at 7.45pm. They also have guest appearances by local soprano Lucy Black, and a guitar ensemble. Songs will be from classical to pop, spirituals, folk and songs from the shows. Tickets are £10 (under 16's free) which includes a free buffet and an opportunity to meet the choir and guests afterwards over a glass of wine. Tickets will be available on the door on the evening or from Hugh Smith (07785 220612).

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Meeting this week on Tuesday 8th at 8pm following Mass for our deceased members. All ladies will be made very welcome.

The **CAFOD** group are meeting on Tuesday 8th November in the parish room at Holy Family - at the **new time of 2.30pm**. All are welcome.

LEGACIES The Diocese has produced pamphlets asking parishioners to consider making a legacy gift to the Church. It is obviously a delicate subject. If you would like more information, please take one of the pamphlets from the back of the church and/or contact the Fundraising and Stewardship Office of the Diocese on 020 7798 9375 or legacies@rcdow.org.uk

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY UPDATE For 4 years there has been a Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre in WGC. This has been run in partnership with Panshanger Church and with the support of other WGC churches. The Team has met 93 clients and prayed with 92 of them, in their own homes. 28 households have gone debt-free. 21 are continuing to work with CAP to become debt-free. 3 are managing with minimal input. Each client generally requires three official meetings with the debt centre manager and volunteer. Clients' issues are often far more complex than 'simply' one of debt, and this calls for a holistic, and very prayerful, approach to ministry. There is now the thought of extending this Ministry, and applications are being sought from people in the Welwyn Hatfield area for the role of CAP Debt Centre Manager. The Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Centre achieves its purpose of reaching local people in need of CAP's debt counselling service, and giving clients the opportunity to hear and respond to the love of Jesus. This is an exciting ministry opportunity, starting early 2017, for someone committed to serve the local community, to promote the Christian faith in line with the objectives of Christians Against Poverty, and to demonstrate the Love of God in a very practical way to the people of Welwyn Hatfield, especially those who are struggling.

For more information about the role, please contact: Linda Tatchell lindatatchell@capuk.org; tel.: 07513 006840

Tackling Poverty and Injustice across the World- An evening with CAFOD You are warmly invited to an information evening on Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm in Fortescue Hall at St Hugh of Lincoln, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3TP. This will be a chance for us to come together as a community to discuss the issues that we are hearing about in our world in this Year of Mercy; from the refugee crisis to 'Laudato Si' the Pope's encyclical on caring for our common home. We shall explore what we can do in response, and to see how we may already have the tools to do so as part of our faith. It will also be an exciting opportunity to see how your support for CAFOD is already making a difference.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 18th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 4th December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

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

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings
 should be made with Phil Johnson 01707
 377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 38 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

FATIMA 2017 Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel is offering us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. Brochures now at the back of our churches.

OUR LADY'S Many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning, your help is much appreciated and thank you to all who came and cleaned at **ST. BONAVENTURE'S** during the week.

THE HCPT desperately need bottles for their Christmas Fair on the 26th November. If you are able to help please leave your donation at the back of the church in the HCPT box.

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

MASS TIMES

07 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
08 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
10 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Leo the Great
	12.30pm	Mass	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's
11 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Martin of Tours
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Josaphat

Thirty-third Sunday of the Year

12 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
13 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 and need a Catholic Chaplain contact Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net