

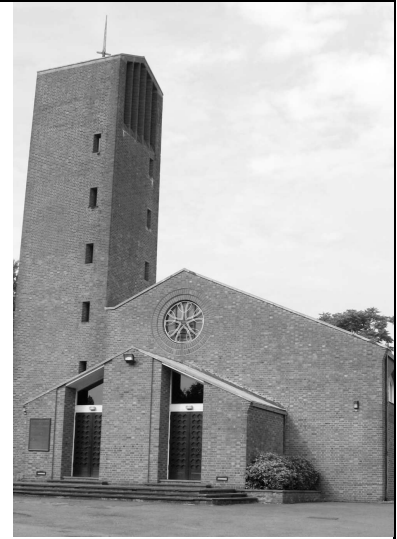
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year 22nd September 2013 (page 140)

Just before I went away on my summer break, we read some powerful passages from St. Luke's Gospel urging us to get our priorities right. Last Sunday there were the parables of God's mercy revealing his unconditional love. Now as I return, we hear another parable from the mouth of Jesus. He tells us about a steward whose life is going to change dramatically as he is going to lose his job. He has to be ingenious in the way he responds to this major crisis. This man is shrewd and seems to take a dishonest path as he ensures he has friends who will be there for him in the future. This parable is one of the hardest to grasp fully as we don't really know what was business practice all those centuries ago and so what was the full impact of his 'dishonesty'. Leaving that to one side, the message to us is that the Kingdom is here, on our doorstep; it requires response; we have to consider our own personal future destiny.

Sometimes it can feel a lot easier for someone to tell us how to live as Jesus wants, for us to be given a step by step account of what we should do. However, each of us has such different life situations, joys and sorrows; we have responsibilities and experiences which affect us in various ways. The parables challenge us to stop and think. We have to reflect on what God is asking of me - of you. We must pray for the grace to make the right decisions and choose the paths which will bring us closer to God. Very often these can be the hardest paths of all. We need each other's support and we should put our faith in God's willingness to help us and pick us up when we fall.

Last weekend we bade farewell to Fr. Michael praying that his time in Wheathampstead will bring him and his new community many blessings. Now we await Fr. Vincent's arrival on 1st October. We have been so fortunate to have Fr. Frank Leonard's tremendous support - he certainly is being kept very busy in his retirement! I hope you have a week filled with God's presence and an awareness of the deep love he has for you.

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

SVP The SVP invites you to an Open Tea Party at 3pm on Saturday 12th October in Our Lady's Parish Centre. Lifts can be provided. If you would like to come please put your name and telephone number on the list at the back of church.

RCIA (The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) will begin on Monday 4th November at 7.30pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church. Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation (or First Holy Communion) when you were younger and feel ready now for these Sacraments? Perhaps you are engaged to - or married to - a Catholic and would like to find out more? Maybe you have attended Mass for years and no one ever asked you? Had you ever thought of it before? Are you getting married in the next year or two in a country where a non-confirmed Catholic cannot marry without having been confirmed? Do YOU know someone who is waiting to be invited? There is much to reflect on! In these next few months why not think about it? Perhaps this is the year for you or some you know to take this important step. Let us as a community pray hard that God's Spirit may inspire and guide those who are considering it.

KAREN McAULIFFE R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Karen will be at 2pm on Tuesday 24th September in Our Lady's Church. We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Karen's husband and children and to their relatives and many friends. May Karen rest in peace.

A MINIBUS OUTING to Van Hage Garden Centre, Ware has been arranged for parishioners with limited mobility. This is free and will be this Tuesday 24th September in the afternoon; if you are interested in going please contact Kay Mason on 335633.

MACMILLAN Big Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September in Pomegranate Cafe, in Our Lady's parish centre from 10am to 3pm. All money taken for tea and coffee on that day will go to the charity. The event is being run by Jackie Jones, a Macmillan nurse and parishioner of Our Lady's.

A DAY FOR FAMILIES at the Focolare Centre for Unity, Parkway, WGC on Sunday 29th Sept - 10am to 5pm. The programme will include Mass, spiritual input, activities for children and a shared lunch. £2 charge per adult. Everyone very welcome.

RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITY Please sponsor these parishioners.

- Jacqueline McCallum is running the Royal Parks Half Marathon on Sunday 6th October to raise money for UNICEF, who are currently very active in Syria supporting those families affected by civil war. She would be grateful if you could sponsor her: <http://fundraise.unicef.org.uk/MyPage/Jacqueline-McCallum-Jacqueline-McCallum>

- Please sponsor Kevin Brennan on his bike ride with a difference. Kevin had to have the bottom of his left leg amputated following a hit-and-run incident, but recently had a state-of-the-art prosthetic leg fitted. In a bid to raise money for two charities (YMCA and Help The Heroes) that have helped him through some tough times he has had to teach himself how to ride a bike again. The 80km bike ride will include YMCA sites across Herts and Tottenham Hotspur's ground. It will end at the Olympic stadium where Kevin will be joined by other riders young and old. Sponsorship forms can be found at the back of the three churches or if you would prefer to give electronically please go to Kevin's fundraising web-site: uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KevinBrennan80km. Thank you.

BLESSING OF GRAVES 2013 Hatfield Hyde Cemetery on Saturday 2nd November at 11am. Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Cemetery on Sunday 17th November at 2pm. Welwyn Cemetery on Sunday 24th November at 2.30pm.

DEANERY DAY FOR CATECHISTS on Saturday 28th September. There is still room for catechists to sign up. The day will begin with coffee in Our Lady's Hall at 10am, followed by input from Fr. John Hemer on 'What is faith?' and 'The Mass'. There will be Mass at 12noon and Lunch will be provided at 1pm. In the afternoon there will be a sharing of resources and good practice according to the various catechetical groups. We will finish at 3.30pm with tea. It should be a very worthwhile day. Those coming are asked to bring their Bibles.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Sunday 6th October at 11.30am at Our Lady's followed by a Barn Dance in the Hall. Come and share in the gifts of adults and children with Special Needs and Learning Difficulties and have some fun afterwards as well! For those who have never been to a Barn Dance, no skills are required! You just listen to the caller and respond.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY 2014 has been set for Saturday 15th February in Our Lady's Hall - the day after Valentine's Day! It will start with coffee at 10.30am and end with Mass with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6pm in the church. Couples who are marrying in 2014 or 2015 are especially encouraged to keep the day free and come. Couples who wish to marry in one of our churches in Welwyn Garden City should contact Fr. Norbert; six months' notice is required in this Diocese. Many couples obviously wish to get married in their home area, be that in this country or abroad. It is important to establish exactly what is needed elsewhere in regard to the paperwork.

JUSTICE AND PEACE The Justice and Peace Commission will hold its Annual Day on Saturday 19th October, in conjunction with the J & P Commissions of the dioceses of Brentwood and Southwark. It will be at The Salvation Army Regent Hall, Oxford Street. Talks from Bishop Lynch (of Southwark), Bruce Kent, Bishop Kevin Dowling (from South Africa) and the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. If you would like to attend the event, please contact John Fogarty (tel' 01707 327771, e-mail john.fogarty@ntlworld.com) for more information.

MISSIO - APF - Red Boxes (St. Bonaventure's) Once again it is time to collect and count the money in the Red Boxes. Hand your box to your promotor or bring to church. Thank you.

AUTUMN FLOWER WORKSHOP Tuesdays 1st & 8th October 7pm in St. Bonaventure's hall. After a successful year of classes Connor is running a short Autumn Workshop looking at flower arranging with seasonal flowers. Open to all levels of ability. First session is £6 - to book your place please call 07791226819.

BINGO AT OUR LADY'S Thank you to the Monday Evening Bingo group who meet at Our Lady's Family Centre. Through their generous support another £200 has been contributed to the upkeep of the centre. Anyone wishing for a game of Bingo, just turn up at the Centre at about 8pm on a Monday. The Bingo is in the Pomegranate Café area, entry is free.

400 CLUB August Results 1st £100 M. Skinner No. 202 2nd £50 Currell No 153 3rd £25 A. Keller No 088. Congratulations to the winners and our thanks to all who continue to support this church fund raising effort. Numbers are available for £1 per month for anyone wishing to join.

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OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings **01707 327434**
 should be made with Phil (Philomena) Johnson **Holy Family Church**
 01707 377442 or 07790 135458 **194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

23 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Pius of Pietrelcina
24 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Walsingham
	2pm	Funeral Mass	Karen McAuliffe R.I.P.
	7pm	Our Lady's	
25 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
26 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	SS Cosmas and Damian
27 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Vincent de Paul
	7pm	Our Lady's	feria
28 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Matthew

		Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year	<i>Lord, Let me see your face, Know your heart and experience your love in my life. Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith. I believe Lord; Help my unbelief. Amen.</i>
28 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
29 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	

CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463