

# 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 Ejerege    Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***The Baptism of the Lord 11th January 2015 (p. 119 of Mass book)***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We gather today to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and to bring the Christmas Season to a conclusion. At Christmas we celebrated God becoming a human being like us in all things but sin. God chose to enter time and space in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit continues to be with us. It is mind-blowing to ponder the fact that in One Person could be present the fullness of God and the totality of humanity. How could Jesus cope with both? Many scholars hold that the Baptism of Jesus is a defining moment in his life and ministry: he comes from Nazareth in Galilee to the Jordan and is baptised by John; he sees the heavens torn open, the Spirit coming down upon him like a dove, and hears the Father's voice announcing: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' In a moment Jesus is aware of the life of the Trinity and is caught up in the riches of the Father's Love and the power of the Spirit who will work in him; he truly is God and yet is one of us.

I am sure that each of us experiences moments when something amazing happens to us, opening us up to what we never thought possible or the revelation of who we truly are. This stays with us always and we cherish the memory. Through his Baptism, Jesus unites himself with the whole of humanity and gives us a glimpse of how our sins are washed away through his Death and Resurrection and shows us that we too are beloved children of God on whom his favour is bestowed. We are truly human beings but because of Jesus Christ we are taken into the heart of God and his life-giving grace recreates us in the image of his Son making us divine. That also is mind-blowing!

As we journey through 2015, let us allow every day to offer us fresh ways of remembering that we are children of God. Let us seize the opportunities which come our way of letting God's grace work in us and through us in the lives of others. Let us see the face of God in our neighbour and pray that our words and actions speak eloquently of Jesus himself. God bless you and your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

**SCHOOL FORMS** Any parents who haven't made an appointment to see Fr. Norbert for a Priest's Reference for their child's entrance into Reception Class may come to Our Lady's Church this Monday 12th January between 5.30pm and 7pm with their child and completed forms (be prepared to wait). It will be the last opportunity for these forms to be signed by Fr. Norbert.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** 18th - 25th January. The main service of the week will be at Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout at 4pm on Sunday 25th January. Bishop John Sherrington will give the address; it would be great if many of you could keep the date free and come.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** On Sunday 1st February, Holy Family School will lead the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and Our Lady School will lead the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's Church.

**DATES FOR 2015** Filipino Mass Saturday 22nd June at 6pm, African Mass Sunday 12th July at 11.30am, Polish/English Mass Saturday 17th October at 6pm. Special Needs Masses: Saturday 14th March at 6pm (with St. Patrick flavour afterwards), Saturday 9th May at 6pm, Saturday 10th October at 6pm and Saturday 28th November at 6pm (with Curry Night afterwards).

**PILGRIMAGE** Pax Travel is arranging for us a pilgrimage to Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures should be available in the New Year.

**WALSINGHAM** We will have a day in Walsingham on Saturday 16th May and will join the National Deaf Pilgrimage as we did in 2014. More details to follow.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** on Saturday 7th February in Our Lady's Hall. All couples getting married in WGC or elsewhere in 2015 and 2016 are invited to this day which will start with coffee at 10.30am and end with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. It is important that couples make contact with Fr. Norbert soon so that the paperwork and all the necessary preparations can be made, especially if you are marrying outside of WGC.

**FUNERALS** The Funeral Mass for **Mary Shields R.I.P.** will be this Friday 16th January at 12.30pm in Our Lady's Church, the body will be received into the church on Thursday 15th at 4.30pm.

The Funeral Service for **George Downing R.I.P.** will be at Harwood Park on Monday 19th January at 12.30pm. The Funeral Service for **Ann O'Halloran R.I.P.** will be for family and neighbours at Harwood Park.

The Funeral Mass for **Pat Crawley R.I.P** will be on Tuesday 27th January at 10.30am in Our Lady's Church. The body will be received into the church at 4.30pm on Monday 26th. The Funeral Service for **Margaret Goodhall R.I.P.** will be on Wednesday 28th January at 2.45pm at Harwood Park.

The Funeral Mass for **Mary Shields R.I.P.** (wife of Peter) is at Holy Family Church on Friday 6th February at 10.15am. The body will be received in to the church at 4.30pm on Thursday 5th February.

Funeral details for **Colette Maslen R.I.P** are not yet available

Funeral details for **Brian Sturt R.I.P.** are not yet available.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the deceased.

**OPEN BETHLEHEM** Due to overwhelming demand, the film documentary ‘**OPEN BETHLEHEM**’, which exposes the current crisis and plight of Christians in the city, is to return for an extra screening at WGC cinema (Campus West) on **Wednesday 14 January** at 6pm. Early booking advised (Tel: 0300 3039620 or [www.gardencitycinema.co.uk](http://www.gardencitycinema.co.uk)). The film presents the current situation through the experience of a leading Catholic Palestinian family and their daughter, film director Leila Sansour, who may also be returning for another Q & A session after the screening (to be confirmed).

**HOLY FAMILY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS after 9.30am Mass** Thank you to those who support our coffee mornings. We have recently donated to 'Dekamile' and 'Dolphins' both run by parishioners. If you are involved in a local charity and would like us to donate the proceeds of the next 6 months to your cause please let Sally Kee know on 01707261394 or [sallyamkee@gamil.com](mailto:sallyamkee@gamil.com). (We also need some more volunteers to help with coffee mornings so if you can spare some time after Mass once every nine weeks then please let me know using the above contact details.)

**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).

**CONFIRMATION** preparation begins on Sunday 18th January. Please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible if you missed out on the enrolment meeting.

**FIRST COMMUNION** Preparation for parents and their children at Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church begins in January. Again, if you missed out on the enrolment meetings, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** We are very grateful to all who came to clean the church and dismantle the crib on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We meet again this Tuesday 13th January. All are welcome to come and learn a little more about their faith and get to know other parish children.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION (S.B's)** We meet this Saturday when we will learn about the gift of Friendship. **CHILDREN'S MASS (S.B.s)** Sunday at 10.30am - 'Jesus is our Special Friend'.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP** The CAFOD group at Holy Family Church will meet on Tuesday 13th January at 7.30pm in the Parish Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**CWL** There will be a meeting this Tuesday at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall. All welcome.

**TALK** Evangelisation and Contemporary Society: the Challenge of Pope Francis - a talk by Bishop John Sherrington for all WGC parishioners. Tues 3rd February at 7.45pm in the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, WGC. Keep this date in your diary; further details to follow.

**GREETINGS CARDS FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE** Very many thanks to those who before Christmas, took part in signing 32 cards to Prisoners, their Support Groups and Persecuted Christians. Your kind donations of £78.00 have been sent to Action by Christians against Torture to offer support throughout the year to those who suffer on account of their beliefs. May you be blessed in 2015. *Anne Stapleton.*

**THANKS** A belated thank you for the help given in the pre Christmas church cleaning at Holy Family and thanks to Father Gerard who kept us supplied with home made mince pies. Welcome to Eileen as a new member of the cleaning team (many hands make light work). *Sandy.*

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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  
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

**MASS TIMES**

12 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Aelred of Rievaulx
13 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Hilary
	7pm	Our Lady's	
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
15 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
16 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12.30pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
	7pm	Our Lady's	
17 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Anthony

**Second Sunday of the Year**

18 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
21 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