

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Second Sunday of the Year 18th January 2015 (p. 127 of Mass book)

Today we enter the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our Garden City was founded on Christian principles and the strength of the Christian Faith continues to play a vital part in our town. The Churches work together in projects like SPACE, in Christians Against Poverty (to support those burdened by debt) and especially through the Food Bank. Ministers and Church Leaders meet regularly. This Week of Prayer gives an opportunity to celebrate God's Spirit at work in our midst and to pray hard that the same Spirit will help us find ways of coming closer together in a harmony that proclaims Jesus Christ even better and more clearly to those around us. In the coming days there are lunchtime services in various churches in different districts of our town. On Saturday evening there will be a shared supper at Focolare and then the Week culminates in next Sunday's Joint Service at Herts International Church at which Bishop John Sherrington will give the address. Come to what you can and pray hard for the unity of all Christians.

Today is Peace Sunday in this country. The Pope's message takes as its theme: 'No longer slaves but brothers and sisters'. Pope Francis describes slavery as 'an open wound on the body of the human family – a running sore on the flesh of Christ'. Someone is considered to be in slavery if they are forced to work - through mental or physical threat; owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse; dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'; physically constrained, or with restrictions placed on his/her freedom of movement. The Pope says: 'The Church is charged with showing to all the path to conversion, which enables us to change the way we see our neighbours, to recognize in every other person a brother or sister in our human family, and to acknowledge his or her intrinsic dignity in truth and freedom. This can be clearly seen from the story of Josephine Bakhita, the saint originally from the Darfur region in Sudan who was kidnapped by slave-traffickers and sold to brutal masters when she was nine years old. Subsequently – as a result of painful experiences – she became a "free daughter of God" thanks to her faith, lived in religious consecration and in service to others, especially the most lowly and helpless. This saint, who lived at the turn of the twentieth century, is even today an exemplary witness of hope for the many victims of slavery; she can support the efforts of all those committed to fighting against this "open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ".'

There is much to pray for today. There is lots we can do in practical ways to make a difference. Let us try hard! God bless you. **Fr. Norbert**

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY begins on Sunday 18th January. As has become the custom, there will be daily services (30mins) in a number of churches followed by refreshments.

Monday 19th Panshanger Church, Hardings AL7 2EJ at 12noon.

Tuesday 20th Our Lady's at 12 noon

Wednesday 22nd St. Mary Magdalene's, Hollybush Lane, AL7 4JS at 12noon

Thursday 23rd YMCA in Peartree Lane at 12noon

Friday 24th URC (Free Church), Church Road, AL8 6PS starting at 10.30 am.

Saturday 25th Shared Supper at Focolare Centre, Parkway at 7pm for 7.30pm.

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 and booking forms are available at the back of the church.

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 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.

The Funeral Mass for **Brian Sturt R.I.P.** will be at 12.45pm on Thursday 22nd January in Our Lady's Church. The body will be received into the church at 4pm on Wednesday.

The Funeral Mass for **Colette Maslen R.I.P** is at 12.30pm on Friday 13th February in Holy Family Church.

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

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. (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 today (18th) in the Parish Room of Holy Family.
FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS A reminder that the first session for parents is in Our Lady's Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st.

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

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

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.

THE HOLY FAMILY CAFOD Group would like to invite you to a "get together" on Friday 23rd January from 7.00pm in the Parish Room at Holy Family. The event is intended as a "thank you" to all who have supported our fundraising efforts in recent years. There will be no cost, collection or donation required and there will be light refreshments including wine as well as tea, coffee and juices. We hope you can make it as we really do appreciate the support we receive from the WGC Parish community.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Quiz Night on Friday 23rd January at Holy Family Primary School from 7.30 -10pm. Get together your team of eight adults or you can join up with another team. Bring your own drinks (and food). A raffle will be held during the evening. Tickets cost £5 per person. Please contact Alejandra Kenward for tickets on 07952842012. Thanks for your support!

JUSTICE AND PEACE Annual Open Evening Wednesday 21st January 6pm - 9pm, 4, Vincent Road, London N15 3QH. John Fogarty will be going and offers a lift to anyone who might like to go.

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.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place in the Cathedral on Saturday 7th February 2015 at 2.00pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. All are welcome.

DAY FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS AND SINGERS Saturday 21st February 10.30am - 3pm in Our Lady and St. Vincent's Church, Potters Bar, 243 Mutton lane EN6 2AT. For more information and to book a place email Vicky vdearing64@gmail.com 07934651491. £5 singers and instrumentalists welcome. Bring packed lunch.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

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

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

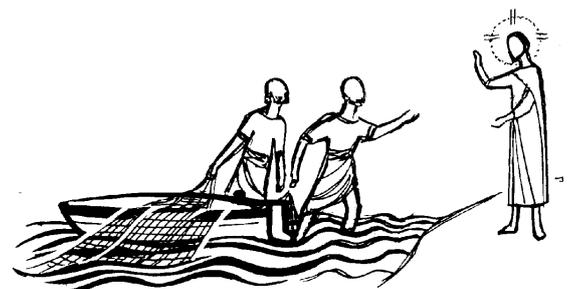
OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

MASS TIMES

19 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Wulstan
20 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Agnes
22 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Vincent
	12.45pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
23 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
24 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis de Sales

Third Sunday of the Year

24 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
25 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