

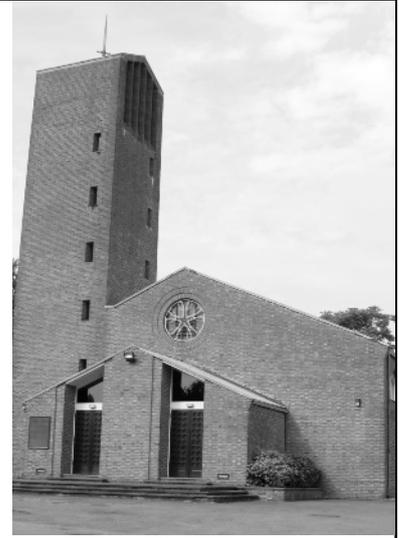
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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*

Third Sunday of the Year 25th January 2015 (p. 129 of Mass book)

‘And at once they left their nets and followed him.’ These are the words used by St. Mark to describe what happened on the shore of Galilee when Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew. Amazing! We take for granted that these brothers (and James and John too) just got on with it; their response was immediate and that was that! There are two aspects of this account on which I would like to focus and ask you to reflect on.

Firstly, Simon and Andrew were in their boat fishing - they were casting their net in the lake - so they would have been a distance from land. Jesus saw them and they must have let his gaze touch them to the core of their being. They heard his voice and it must have resonated within them as they left everything to follow the Lord. Did they have time to get the boat back to land? Did they have to jump into the water to chase after the Jesus? What would those around them have made of this strange sight? James and John must have been affected by the event. How do you let Jesus see you in the every day? What does he see in you? What does his voice sound like? And, importantly, are there things he wants you to let go of and leave behind? Could your example have an even greater impact on someone else?

Secondly, they followed Jesus. Later on in St. Mark’s Gospel, when Jesus chooses the Twelve, we are told that they are the ones he wanted and they were to be his companions. That means they spent time with him sharing meals, conversation, walking on the road and witnessing so much. They sensed that they were special to him and that that entailed being with him. You too have been chosen by the Lord! How can you make yourself his companion? How can you get to know him better and understand his ways? What is the challenge of being identified with him?

Let us pray today that Jesus will help us to hear him, see him and love him with all our hearts! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

UNITY SERVICE at Herts International today (Sunday) at 4pm to complete the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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 20th 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.

Fr. Norbert will be sending emails and letters with the details of the Preparation Day, please let him know if you have not heard from him by Friday.

FUNERALS 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 **Mary Free R.I.P.** Will be at 12.30pm on Monday 9th February at Holy family.

Funeral Service for **John Docherty R.I.P.** Is at 4.15pm on Tuesday 10th February at Harwood Park.

Funeral Service for **Aldo Mazzetti** is at Harwood Park on 11th February at 4.15pm.

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

The Funeral Mass for **Maureen O'Connor** is at 11am on Monday 16th February at Our Lady's.

Dorothy Cameron R.I.P. used to live in WGC. Her family wanted parishioners to know of her funeral Service at St. Joseph's, Bedwell, Stevenage at 3,45pm on Friday 30th January. We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the deceased.

PRAY THE ROSARY Parishioners are invited to join with the Catholic Women's League in praying the Rosary. This will be on Saturday 14th February at 10am in the Day Chapel. All parishioners will be welcome and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Service at the Memorial on Parkway at 11am on Tuesday 27th January. All welcome.

CANDLEMAS On Monday 2nd February we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. As well as 9.30am Mass there will be an extra Mass at 7pm at Our Lady's by candlelight.

CONFIRMATION The young people have their next session this evening (Sunday) in Holy Family's Parish Room at 7.15. Next Sunday they have a retreat afternoon at the Focolare Centre to reflect on, and celebrate, the Mass 3.00-6.30pm.

RCIA There are four adults for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil; also 3 of their children. Please keep them in your prayers. They will be presented at Mass on Sunday 15th February.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH grateful thanks to the Monday Bingo Group for their kind donation to the church heating fund.

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).

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.

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'S CHURCH Copies of the rota for Welcomers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers from Feb to April 2015 are available at the back of the church.

CAKE MAKERS please can any of you donate a large cake, small cakes or biscuits. We are holding a cake sake on Mon 2nd Feb at Herts County Council to raise money for HCPT. I can collect the cakes either at Masses next weekend or from you direct. Thank you in advance, please ring Barbara 07789743703.

POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL are launching a project called 'Adventures with the Polish Language' Come to the Open evening on 2nd February at 6.30pm in Welwyn Garden City Fire Station, Bridge Road East. If you want to know more contact Michal Siewniak: michal.siewniak1@gmail.com.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS have their next session on Wednesday 4th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 18th February. 9.30 Mass will be at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

LOURDES Fr. Norbert will be in Lourdes for a few days in half-term. If any of you would like him to take intentions to the Grotto, please put them in a sealed envelope - do not put any money inside.

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.

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Fr. Gerard 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
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OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

MASS TIMES

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|--------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 26 Monday | 9.30am | Our Lady's | SS Timothy and Titus |
| 27 Tuesday | 9.30am | St. Bonaventure | feria |
| | 10.30am | Our Lady's | Funeral Mass |
| | 7pm | Our Lady's | |
| 28 Wednesday | 9.30am | Holy Family | St. Thomas Aquinas |
| 29 Thursday | 9.30am | Holy Family | feria |
| 30 Friday | 9.30am | St. Bonaventure | feria |
| | 7pm | Our Lady's | |
| 31 Saturday | 10am | St. Bonaventure | St. John Bosco |

Fourth Sunday of the Year

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|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 31 Saturday | 6pm | Our Lady's |
| 01 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 07884187463