

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*

Fifth Sunday of Easter 3rd May 2015 (p. 264 of Mass book)

Last Wednesday evening many of you had a chance to attend the hustings organised by the Christian Churches of Welwyn Garden City. There were questions, responses, listening, heckling, interventions AND prayer! Now the General Election is almost upon us! Thursday is a crucial day in the life of our country and its result will have an impact on each one of us personally and upon world affairs.

Our Bishops have written: 'Politics is a vital and necessary vocation. It carries important responsibilities not only for policy decisions but also for shaping the hopes and aspirations of people. Political leaders can choose to appeal to our sense of hope or fear, to our desires to care for others or for ourselves, and to our sense of solidarity or to our selfishness. We expect politicians to be committed to the common good. We also each have a responsibility to be involved in the democratic process. It is important that we vote. It is a duty which springs from the privilege of living in a democratic society. In deciding how we vote, the question for each of us is then: How, in the light of the Gospel, can my vote best serve the common good?'

The Bishops urge us to pray before casting our vote: *Lord, grant us wisdom that we may walk with integrity, guarding the path of justice and knowing the protection of your loving care for all.*

May God's Spirit guide us in the choices we make. May we work hard to build up his Kingdom so that on earth we may have a taste of heaven.

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

BANK HOLIDAY Monday's Mass will be at 10am at Our Lady's. This will be followed by Marian Devotions.

FIRST COMMUNIONS First Communion Masses will be as follows: Holy Family - Sunday 17th May at 12 noon; Our Lady's - Sundays 31st May, 7th and 14th June at 11.30am; St. Bonaventure's - Sunday 21st June at 10.30am.

CONFIRMATION Bishop John Sherrington will confirm our young people at Our Lady's on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 9th May at 6pm followed by a reception in the hall. All welcome. Please bring food to share.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Chamberlain Family baptised today at Mass, to Austin, Yunmi, Victoria and Alexandra.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE on Saturday 16th May. A coach has been booked. You need to be at Our Lady's for 7.45am and we will leave Walsingham at 5pm. We will be joining the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf. The day will include the Rosary, Walk along the Holy Mile and Mass. Hopefully the weather will be good for a picnic lunch. If you would like to join us on the coach, please sign your name on one of the sheets at the back of our churches. Cost: £10 for adults and £5 for children payable in advance or on the coach. If you have never been before, why not come?

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for **Brian Maguire R.I.P.** is at 2pm on Friday 8th May in St. Bonaventure's. The Funeral Mass for **Mary Ottaway R.I.P.** will be on Tuesday 12th May at 9.30am at St. Bonaventure's. (Burial will be in Sheffield.)

The Funeral Mass for **Thomas Reddy R.I.P.** will be at Our Lady's on Friday 22nd May at 11.30am.

PARISH MEETING Fr. Norbert would like the Parish Pastoral Council and the Growing in Faith Committee to meet on Thursday 14th May at 7.30 - 9.00pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's Church. It will be an opportunity to reflect on all that has happened in the last couple of years and to look ahead to the plans for the new Parish Centre - our Growing in Faith project for Welwyn Garden City.

VOLUNTEER VISITORS WANTED! Friends of Welwyn Care Homes seeks to bring the community into the local care homes for the frail elderly, by building friendly links between local people and the residents and staff. Have YOU a couple of hours to spare a month when you could join a small team to chat over a cup of tea, or join in other activities with residents? For further information please contact: Anne Horsman, anne.horsman@btinternet.com; 01438840566.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP The CAFOD group will be meeting on Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm in the Parish room at Holy Family. Please do come along if only for a cup of tea. You will be very welcome.

The CAFOD group are having a cake sale on Sunday May 10th at Holy Family after the 9.30am Mass. Please be generous in your support.

The Holy Family CAFOD group will be hosting a concert which is going to be given by the Herts Constabulary Choir on Monday 1st June in Holy Family Church at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each no concessions light refreshments will be available during the interval. Please support this very popular fundraising event.

COMMISSIONING AND RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS in our three churches the weekend of 27th/28th June.

CAFOD NEPAL APPEAL CAFOD has launched a £3m emergency appeal following the recent earthquake in Nepal. Thousands of people in this already impoverished country have been killed and many thousands more are in urgent need of food, water, shelter and emergency supplies. 8 million people are affected. CAFOD is responding with Church partners and has deployed a team to provide specialist support. Next weekend there will be a retiring collection for this purpose. Please be generous. Thank you. (We will have special envelopes for GiftAid donations).

MIGRANTS' MASS The Annual Migrants' Mass will be held at St George's Cathedral, Southwark (150 St. George's Road, London SE1 6HX) on Monday 4th at 11am, marking the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. Gathering for the Mass begins at 10.30am. Mass will be followed by an international reception, supported by some of the fifty ethnic chaplaincies in London, in Notre Dame High School.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be on Saturday 6th June at 12noon at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the hall. More details to follow.

OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE There are just two places left. Brochures are at the back of each church. Contact Pax Travel as soon as possible.

READERS Fr. Norbert would like to have a meeting with all our readers on Monday 15th June at 7.30 - 9.00pm in Holy Family Church. The purpose is to have continued formation of those who exercise the Ministry of the Word in our three churches. Also, we would like to recruit more readers and this will be an opportunity for them to have training and meet others involved in this ministry.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Fr. Norbert would like to gather all our Eucharistic Ministers to have a time of reflection on their ministry in our three churches. The meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd June in Holy Family Church at 7.30 - 9.00pm. In all three churches we are in need of many more to exercise this ministry and so we hope that new ministers will be trained at this meeting.

MINISTRY OF WELCOME It is a number of years since the welcomers of our churches have gathered to reflect on their ministry and the practical dimension. Fr. Norbert would like existing welcomers from our three churches to meet at Our Lady's on Tuesday 16th June at Our Lady's Church 7.45 - 9.00pm. New welcomers would be much appreciated.

2015 AFRICAN MASS will take place on Sunday, 12th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's. The first planning meeting with Father Norbert is set for Sunday, 17th May at 8.00pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. All African Parishioners are welcome.

OUR LADY'S Church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds will take place on **Saturday 9th May at 10am** for ONE hour. All are welcome to come along and help.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP The Architecture of Places of Worship on Tuesday 19th May at The Friends Meeting House, Handside Lane, 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Also the Women's Interfaith Group meets on Tuesday 12th May in the Parish Room of St. Francis' Church.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP Rotas are available at the back of church.

ROSARY On Saturdays during the month of May The Rosary will be prayed in the Day Chapel next door to the Parish Centre. The time for this special May devotion to Our Lady will be 10.30am. Parishioners from across Welwyn Garden City will be welcome.

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

SYNOD ON FAMILY LIFE - The Call, The Journey, The Mission - are due back and should be sent to Mr Edmund Adamus, our Director for Marriage & Family Life, by Pentecost Sunday, 24 May at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN, or on line to edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk. All our views on marriage and family life are valuable. Any assistance with this, please contact Fr Gerard.

OUR LADY SCHOOL SUMMER FETE Saturday 16th May 11.30am - 3.30pm. There are lots of stalls including Raffle 1st Prize £150 cash. Other stalls include bottle tombola, jolly jam jars, cakes and a barbecue. Lots of fun to be had. All welcome!

CONFESSIONS

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

MASS TIMES

04 Monday	*10am	Mass	Our Lady's	The English Martyrs
05 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
07 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
08 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	2pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	Brian Maguire
	*7.30pm	Confirmation Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
Sixth Sunday of Easter				
09 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 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 you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463