

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 Ejeregbe Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Twelfth Sunday of the Year 21st June 2015 (p. 98 of Mass book)

‘Who can this be?’ is the question posed by the disciples at the end of today’s Gospel passage from St. Mark. As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter piece, our Faith is about an encounter with a person - Jesus Christ. Our joy as Christians is that of getting to know him, love him and serve him. Our mission is to share him with others. Our challenge is to keep believing especially when times are tough!

The boat tossed about by the rough waves is an image of how life can be at times. Our plea to the Lord can often be an echo of the disciples’ words: ‘Master, do you not care?’ We pray hard and we put our trust in him. Yet we can feel let down as if he is asleep. Sounds very negative? St. Mark wants us to experience the Good News of Jesus Christ! Jesus is with us. Jesus understands suffering. Jesus reveals the power and love of God. What storms do you see in our world? in our own country? in our community? in your personal lives? How do you think people in those situations might encounter the Person of Christ? What gives you the strength to keep on persevering? Jesus’ command is emphatic: ‘Be calm!’ Can you hear that clear voice? Do you feel his peace? Do you have faith - even just a little? The poor disciples are described by the Lord as having NO faith!

In the coming week, take time to reflect on moments when you feel his presence very close to you: the place, the time, your mood, the experiences of the day. Also, stop and ponder instants when his absence is more pronounced: when you are alone or something has gone wrong? Does anything change this feeling for you? Does his light break into the darkness? Pray hard that the power of your faith will be transforming for someone you encounter too! God bless you in this challenge.

Fr. Norbert

HAPPY FATHERS DAY to all fathers. May God bless you in every way.

SAMUEL The Rector of the Seminary has recently informed us that pastoral placements of seminarians will finish with the end of the Allen Hall term. This means that next Saturday and Sunday are Samuel's last weekend with us in Welwyn Garden City. At the end of each Mass next weekend there will be a 'Farewell' to Samuel. There will also be a gift to him from each church. As Samuel's placement comes to its conclusion we want to thank him for his presence here in our Garden City: the welcome at each Mass, his involvement in sacramental preparation, the visits to the schools, to homes, to the sick and housebound. Samuel has shared in the life of our community and we have appreciated especially his big smile and warm heart. May God bless him!

FR. GERARD'S FAREWELL will be on Saturday 18th July beginning with Mass at 6pm at Our Lady's and followed by a reception in the Hall. More details to follow.

BISHOP JOHN has been celebrating Masses in each parish of our Deanery and so here in WGC he will celebrate 8am Mass at St. Bonaventure's, 9.30am Mass at Holy Family and 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 26th July.

MINISTRIES The commissioning and re-commissioning of people involved in the various ministries will take place next weekend (27th/28th) at all Masses (including the Thanksgiving Mass at 3pm). Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians and Singers, Welcomers, Altar Servers and all Catechists (including Children's Liturgy) will be invited to recommit themselves to their ministry.

EUCCHARISTIC MINSTERS have a meeting on Monday 22nd June 7.30 - 9.00pm at Holy Family.

CATECHISTS have a meeting on Monday 6th July 7.30 - 9.00pm. This includes Catechists involved in Children's Liturgy.

THANK YOU to our local Society of St. Vincent de Paul and to all the many volunteers who made the Mass with the Anointing of the Sick such a prayerful and profound experience. The reception afterwards provided a wonderful opportunity for people to meet, catch up on news and make new friends. A huge amount of hard work went into the celebration; for this we are so grateful.

MARY DOWNEY RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 30th June at 12.30pm. Her body will be received into the church on the Monday at 4.30pm.

FR. NORBERT'S DAD has moved from Stoke Mandeville Hospital to a nursing home in Harrow Weald. It is a year since he had his accident. He is still very grateful for your prayers.

JUNE MINIBUS OUTING for anybody with limited mobility. This Tuesday 23rd June to The Gardens of the Rose in St. Albans. £6 entrance fee. Telephone Kay on 01707 335633 if you would like to go.

GARDENER Gardening services needed? If your garden is overgrown or in need of a bit of TLC, but you don't have the time or the energy to tend to it, then simply contact Daniel for reasonable rates on 01707 880427 or email him at danielns@ntlworld.com.

GIFT AID The three parishes will shortly be completing their returns to the Diocese to claim the Gift Aid on offertory donations. If you have signed a Gift Aid form in the past but no longer pay income tax can you please advise Fr. Norbert or Fr. Gerard. Also if you would like to join the Gift Aid scheme please contact either priest.

LORETO REUNION 2015 Saturday 27th June 2.30pm - 5.30pm.

PRAY AND FAST FOR THE CLIMATE Pope Francis' Encyclical is quite timely as we get ready to host the gathering on Wednesday 1st July in Our Lady's Hall and the Peace Garden from 7pm - 9pm. There are parishioners from each continent who will speak about the effects of climate change in their own land; we will then pray for that continent and have a song/hymn from that continent. When we have travelled round the world in prayer and reflection, we will have simple food from these continents to round off the evening. The parishioners speaking are from Australia/New Zealand, Ghana, Mexico, United States, Philippines and Focolare Community for Europe. Everyone is invited! If anyone would like to contribute food, they would be most welcome.

FIRST COMMUNION The final First Communion Mass is today (21st) at St. Bonaventure's at 10.30am.

THANKSGIVING MASS All First Communion children from our three parishes have a Mass of Thanksgiving next Sunday (28th) at 3pm at Our Lady's followed by a party in the Hall. It will be a great way of rounding off the preparations and celebrations in the last months as our children and their parents have got ready for First Confession and First Holy Communion. Our thanks to the catechists who have worked so hard.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents of Year 5 children who will need a Priest's Reference Form signed in the autumn should come to a meeting in Holy Family Church on Sunday 5th July at 7pm. The meeting will last about an hour and is principally for parents though children can attend.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents of Year 5 children who will need a Priest's Reference Form signed in the autumn should come to a meeting in Holy Family Church on Sunday 5th July at 7pm.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE will be celebrating their 60th anniversary with a trip to York on the 23rd of September. Any parishioners who would like to join them would be most welcome. The trip will be by train, the cost to be advised later. For more details contact Anne Davidson 01707 327569.

ALSO The Catholic Womens League are having a Tombola stall at the Peartree fun day on the 29th August. We would be grateful for any donations to our stall, all monies go to our various charities.

WORLD YOUTH DAY We will have coach from the deanery going to next year's World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, where it is anticipated that 2 - 3 million young people (16-30 years old) from across the globe will gather with Pope Francis. The dates are Saturday 23rd July to Tuesday 3rd August, 2016 with no overnight travel and the price roughly £770. Obviously we would do fundraising, seek sponsorship and ensure safeguarding guidelines are followed. Do think about it for yourself or someone you know. It WILL be a brilliant experience and will definitely enrich our parishes with the enthusiasm of our young people when they return. The planning and promotion of the trip have to start at this early stage to secure the bookings and to fill the coach. For more information contact Fr. Norbert

AFRICAN MASS The African Mass is scheduled for Sunday, 12th July at 11.30pm at Our Lady's. There will be a meeting on Saturday, 4th July at 4.30pm at the Parish Centre at Our Lady and the following day Sunday, 5th July after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's.

NEED A CLEANER or someone to do your ironing? Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231.

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

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE All present and former students and parents are invited to the Jubilee Mass and celebrations on Sunday 28th June at 11am at the College. This event will mark the College's 75th year of foundation and the 60th year of the coming of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. RSVP 01727 892076.

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

MASS TIMES

22 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	SS John Fisher and Thomas More
23 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Ethelreda
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Nativity of John the Baptist
25 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
26 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John Southworth

SS Peter and Paul

27 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
28 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