

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes*  
*Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Summer 2015 (covering 2nd - 30th August)***

This is the last chance I have to write to you for a while. I, firstly, want to wish you all a wonderful summer. If you are going away have a great time and come back renewed. If you are a visitor in Welwyn Garden City, I hope you enjoy your stay and feel revived by the beauty of our town and the welcome in our churches. If you are not going away, I trust the summer will be a time of refreshment with special moments to cherish.

Here in our three churches there will be a time of 'rest' from many of the usual meetings and events. It does not mean that our faith is put on hold...certainly not! However, everyone needs to slow the pace down, take stock and draw fresh energy for a new phase in life. As we reach the summer break, please reflect on what has helped you to grow as a Catholic Christian, about people, things and experiences which have drawn you closer to Christ and have strengthened you in his service. Think about the contribution you have made to our community through the help you have given, the ministries undertaken, the prayers offered up or simply by being there! What is the 'extra' you are looking for in our Catholic community? Is there a way you could make it happen? In the coming year, we will celebrate the Year of Mercy and mark St. Bonaventure's 90th Anniversary. In 2017 it will be Holy Family's turn. Our Lady's has already had its 50th. Time moves on and these important milestones should be marked in memorable ways. Do you have any ideas?

St. John in Chapter 6 of his Gospel offers us some important insights into who Jesus is: he is the bread of life; those who come to him will never be hungry; those who believe in him will never thirst. How profound and thought-provoking! Jesus invites each one of us to enter into a bond of love with him; he nourishes us with his very life and brings us life. What do you hunger for in the depths of your being? What do you thirst for? This summer take time to enter even more intimately into this mystery. Contemplate what the Lord is wanting to do for you. Let him be the source of refreshment and life for you. God bless you always. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

**FR. GERARD** We received the sad news that Fr. Gerard's younger sister, Bernadette, was found dead in her flat on Monday. Let us pray for the repose of her soul and for all the family as they mourn her loss.

**BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON** is celebrating 8am and 10.30am Masses at St. Bonaventure's today (2nd August). The Bishop has written to say how much he enjoyed last Sunday in our three churches.

**SUPPLY PRIESTS** During the summer period Fr. Frank Leonard, Fr. Frank Johnson from Focolare and Fr. Bruce Burbidge from East Anglia Diocese will be helping with weekday and Sunday Masses. We are grateful to them for their support.

**JOAN KINGSTON RIP** Joan's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 5th August at 12.30pm.

**PAULINE JARRARD (nee CAMPBELL) RIP** Pauline's Funeral Mass will be at 12.30pm on Friday 7th August at Our Lady's.

**ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY** this year falls on a Saturday so in this country it will be transferred to Sunday 16th August (with the Saturday evening Mass).

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016** Parents from St. Bonaventure's are asked to come to an enrolment meeting in the church on Saturday 12th September at 11am. Preparation for children at St. Bonaventure's begins the following Saturday (19th) and takes place once a month on a Saturday morning. Our Lady's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.45pm in the church. Preparation will begin in January and takes place on a Sunday morning. Holy Family's parents will have their enrolment meeting on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

**BANK HOLIDAY** Mass on Monday 31st August will be at Our Lady's at 10am.

**RCIA** The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults - for adults who wish to join the Catholic Church or Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger - begins on Monday 5th October in the Sacristy of Our Lady's at 7.30pm.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people who wish to be confirmed next year should come to an enrolment meeting together with their parents in Holy Family Church on Sunday 18th October at 7pm. They should be at least in Year 9 at school.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES** will be on Saturday 10th October and Saturday 28th November both at 6pm at Our Lady's with receptions in the Hall afterwards.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** on Saturday 17th October at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** will soon be celebrating its 50th Anniversary - Congratulations! Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass in Holy Family Church on Wednesday 16th September at 10.30am (so no 9.30 Mass that day) and there will be a Reception in the School itself afterwards. Former pupils, parents and staff as well as parishioners are invited and would be most welcome. To facilitate seating arrangements and catering, please let Fr. Norbert know by Friday 4th September if you wish to attend in church and at the Reception. Fr. Norbert will pass on the information to the School after the holidays.

**OPEN PARISH MEETING** on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. The Parish Advisory Council wants to share with parishioners plans for the new Parish Centre, an outline of events for the Year of Mercy and a structure of Prayer for the Synod on the Family. All welcome. Minutes of the joint meeting on 13th July of the Parish Advisory Council and Growing in Faith Committee are now available at the back of the church.

**NEWSLETTER** Next newsletter will be the weekend 5th/6th September. The list of Mass intentions each week will be on the notice boards and details of Funerals announced.

Holy Family parishioners please note: the Mass intention book is now at St. Bonaventure's. You may phone or email your requests.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD** group meets on Tuesday 4th August at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Everyone welcome, we value your support and generosity.

**MORE CAFOD NEWS** A huge 'Thank you' to Bob and Sandy Leys for opening their house and to all who braved the elements on 26th July for the Strawberry Tea. It was a hugely successful event which raised £286.20 towards the rebuilding of a school in Sebeya. To the Parishioners of WGC who supported the event on such a wet Sunday a huge THANK YOU. Thanks to everyone for donations of money provisions for the event and your time it really is so very much appreciated. We are aware that a few of our stalwarts were unable to make the event due to ill health or mobility problems and we wish you well. **The next WGC CAFOD** event will be the BBQ on Sunday 30th August in Sandy and Bob's garden at 401 Knightsfield. Starts at 1.30 tickets are £7 for adults £4 for children price includes cost of BBQ wine or soft drinks. Please put the date in your diary and we will look forward to seeing you there.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** Pax Travel have confirmed details for Stevenage Deanery to go to World Youth Day next year 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 is £749 with 40 pilgrims on the coach. Obviously we will 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. Brochures are in the process of being prepared and will be at the back of our churches when they arrive. For any further details, contact Fr. Norbert.

**HOLY LAND** There are concrete plans for an Ecumenical Pilgrimage from Welwyn Garden City to the Holy Land in 2017 from Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June. Brochures will be put out when ready.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane on Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm. Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway on Sunday 8th November at 2pm. Old Welwyn Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm on 22nd November.

**NEW ZION CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (FOOD BANK)** thanks everyone in our parishes for their very generous contributions each week.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH** Next year Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass in St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 13th March at 10.30am to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the church. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass the evening (time still to be decided) of Wednesday 14th September (2016) the 90th Anniversary of the First Mass in the church. There are many ways of celebrating the 90th, so come to a meeting in the church on Monday 28th September at 7pm. Bring your ideas and ways that you can make things happen!

**FRENCH SEMINARIANS** David Krupa, Remy Pignal and Deacon Cedric de la Serre will be in Welwyn Garden City the first week of September.

**PETER WEI** will be ordained a priest in China soon. Please keep him in your prayers.

**FR. MARTIN TATE** will start as the new Assistant Priest on Tuesday 29th September and be resident in the Presbytery of Holy Family.

**MINIBUS OUTING FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST** for anybody of limited mobility to midday Mass at St. Alban's Cathedral with time for lunch (cafeteria in cathedral), sightseeing or shopping in city centre. Telephone Kay on 01707 335633.

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**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**  
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson  
 01707 377442

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY** in Our Lady's Hall on Saturday 10th October for couples in strong marriages to be enriched and strengthened further. We have never had something like this and it should be a brilliant and worthwhile experience. Jane Deegan, a colleague of Edmund Adamus, will lead the day as follows:

10.30 Opening prayers and welcome. 10.45-11.30 Spirituality and sacrament of matrimony Q and A. Noon Mass with Renewal of Vows. Lunch.2pm Strengthening Communion Workshop (testimony based). Feedback Forms. General discussion about future initiatives. 3pm Closing Prayers.

**RETROUVAILLE** from the French word for 'rediscovery' is a programme offering tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples in cold, unloving relationships or even divorced have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the programme. The main emphasis is on communication in marriage between husband and wife, providing practical tools to improve marriage. The next weekend in our area will be 18th - 20th September in Hatfield. For more information contact ring Retrouvaille 07887 296983, email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) check the website <http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk>

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

### MASS TIMES

Mondays	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesdays	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Wednesdays	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Thursdays	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Fridays	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Saturdays	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Holy Family