

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Twenty-third Sunday of the Year 6th September 2015 (p. 129 of Mass book)

A 'new' year has begun! For those of you who have come back from holiday, I hope you are refreshed and ready for action! Some might still be planning to go away; I trust the break will come soon. I am going to start my 8th year as your Parish Priest. In the coming year there will be the Synod on the Family, the Year of Mercy will begin on 8th December and plans for our new Parish Centre will continue to develop. Of course, we are awaiting the arrival of Fr. Martin, the new Assistant Priest which will mark another chapter beginning in our community. There is so much to look forward to which will strengthen the bonds of faith and love and be evidenced in our outreach.

At the heart of the Christian Community is Christ whom we encounter in Word and Sacrament every Sunday. He is the One who nourishes us, inspires us, forgives us and helps us bring the Kingdom here on earth. Sometimes the Scriptures are complicated and need quite a bit of unravelling; at other times they are straightforward easy to grasp. We must allow this Word always to be fresh and invigorating, never taken for granted or ignored. Today in the passage from St. Mark, a deaf and dumb man is healed by Jesus as he uses the word 'Ephphatha! Be opened!' The man can then really hear sounds and use his tongue to produce words. We are given an insight into how marvellous it is to be able to hear Jesus' voice and to use our mouths to praise God and spread the message of the Gospel. This miracle leads to great rejoicing and so the Good News stirs up people's hearts with wonder.

Today, let us reflect on what we do every time we come for Mass, about the Word proclaimed and listened to, the Sacrifice offered and received, the Love connecting heaven and earth, the human and the Divine. As we hear Jesus, let us love him, treasure him and share him with others. There is no greater gift than that! God bless you in all you do and are for him. ***Fr. Norbert***

FR. GEORGE LYONS RIP Fr. George, a former Parish Priest of St. Bonaventure's, died suddenly in Ireland while on holiday last week. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for his mother and family. No other details are available at present.

FR. GERARD We still do not know when Fr. Gerard's sister, Bernadette's Funeral will be. He is grateful for all the prayers. **SUPPLY PRIESTS** We are grateful to Fr. Frank Leonard, Fr. Frank Johnson from Focolare and Fr. Bruce Burbidge from East Anglia Diocese who are helping with Masses on Sundays and weekdays.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016 Parents from St. Bonaventure's are asked to come to an enrolment meeting in the church next 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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 8th September. Children from our three parishes are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up. Parents welcome.

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. On 10th October there will be a Barn Dance with a band and a caller. Should be fun!

NEW PARISH CENTRE The Committee will meet in Holy Family's Parish Room on Sunday 13th September at 7pm.

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 be celebrating its 50th Anniversary with Mass celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington in Holy Family Church on Wednesday 16th September at 10.30am (so no 9.30 Mass that day).

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. The Finance Committees of the three churches will also present the accounts. All welcome.

ROSEMARY HILL R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Rosemary Hill R.I.P. will be on Monday 14th September in St. Bonaventure's at 2pm. We offer our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends.

INTERFAITH MATTERS Women's Inter Faith social group will meet at St. Francis' Parish Room next Tuesday 8th September at 12.30 and on Wednesday 16th September at Jimmy Mac's Centre there will be an open meeting on Islam in the Modern World starting at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

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.

CWL There will be a meeting on Tuesday 8th September after evening Mass at Our Lady's, any ladies who would like to join us would be very welcome.

CAFOD There will be a meeting of the Holy Family CAFOD group on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm in the parish Room. All are welcome. Thanks to all who supported the BBQ on Sunday which raised a magnificent £446.80. Special thanks to Sandy & Bob for their garden. Thanks to Linda Bob and Angus for all the cooking. A great time was had by all.

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.

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 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!

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

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 check the website <http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk>

FRENCH SEMINARIANS David Krupa, Remy Pignal and Deacon Cedric de la Serre enjoyed their stay in the Garden City. David and Cedric hope to celebrate First Masses at some stage this time next year. **FR. PETER WEI** has sent a message to say all went well at his Ordination in China. He is grateful for our prayers and hopes to visit some time.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH: Many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds. Your help is much appreciated.

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

ITEMS FOR CALAIS REFUGEES If you would like to contribute to helping the refugees please contact John Fogarty as soon as possible on 01707 327771, john.fogarty@ntlworld.com). A reminder of what is needed; *small-sized jeans (32, 34), toiletries, blankets, books and games, cooking utensils etc.* It would be helpful for goods to be separated and labelled in their bags or boxes. Also, if anyone has a van and would be prepared to help to get the items to London, please let John know.

MINIBUS OUTING last of the season, for anyone with limited mobility. Tuesday 22nd September to Pearce's Farm Shop & Restaurant for lunch (with early pickup). Varied menu from sandwiches for £6.25 to large plates around £12. Telephone Kay 01707 335633 to book.

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

MASS TIMES

07 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
08 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Nativity of Mary
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
10 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
11 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year

12 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
13 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