

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Third Sunday of the Year 24th January 2016 (page 130 of Mass book)***

Today we enter the Synagogue in Nazareth with Jesus and we hear him telling us who he is and what he is going to do: he is God's Anointed One, the Christ, the Messiah and he has come to bring into our lives the time of Jubilee - the Year of the Lord's Favour - when the poor receive Good News, captives are liberated, the blind given new sight and the downtrodden set free. Wow! The Lord tells his audience that this is happening today - NOW - even as they listen.

WE are listening! Is this happening in our day? Who are the instruments Jesus uses to usher in this time of grace and blessing? Surely we are his instruments? Are we ready and willing to co-operate with his grace? As our passage continues (next week) Jesus proceeds to speak about God working in pagan territories through people outside of the Jewish faith. His audience changes! They cannot accept this teaching of the reality of God's grace crossing boundaries and being made manifest in a different way. Are we deep down the same? Can you think of someone you have met this week who has revealed God's transforming grace to you when you least expected it? We must thank God for being God and acknowledge that we are not God so we do not always understand his ways. Trust is paramount.

Pope Francis has called us to enter a Jubilee Year of Mercy. The last Jubilee was in the Year of Our Lord 2000. Mercy is about God reaching out to us through his Son in the power of the Spirit. God radiates compassion, enters our lives and shares with us forgiveness. God's grace heals us and builds us up. God's Spirit sends us forth to be merciful just as the Father is merciful. To understand this we must imitate Jesus who cannot help but show the Father's merciful love. We must forgive; we have to set people free and lift up the downtrodden; our way of living should open up the eyes of our brothers and sisters to a new vision of a world redeemed by God in Jesus Christ. Entering a church through Doors of Mercy is not a mechanical gesture but the willingness to be open to God and to discover anew the power of the Gospel message in action. It means wanting and yearning to receive the joy of the Jubilee and knowing that Christ is present NOW in our personal lives.

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

**STAINED GLASS** To commemorate the Year of Mercy and the Doors of Mercy at Our Lady's Church, new stained glass windows representing the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been commissioned. The windows on the right of the church sealed up in the 1980's will be opened up and the new stained glass put in and back-lit. The preparation work and installation should be completed by the end of the week. They will be blessed on 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas - at the 7pm Mass.

**CARDINAL NICHOLS** will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 13th March at 10.30am to mark the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone. *A date for your diary!* **NEW BISHOPS** Parishioners are most welcome at Westminster Cathedral for the Episcopal Ordinations of Canon Paul McAleenan and Mgr. John Wilson on Monday 25th January at 12noon. You need to be in the Cathedral by 11.30am.

Bishop-elect Paul moved into St. Bonaventure's Presbytery last week. *Let us pray that his time in Welwyn Garden City will be blessed by God.*

**BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON** has written to Fr. Norbert: 'As I come to leave Welwyn Garden City, I thank you, and the parishioners of the three parishes. I have really enjoyed living amongst you, sharing in parish life, and celebrating feasts with you. Please convey my thanks and appreciation to the members of God's Holy People.' *Let us pray for Bishop John as he takes up his new responsibilities in North London. May God be with him in every way.*

**CONFIRMATION** The next session will be today (Sunday 24th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Next Sunday the Group will have a retreat afternoon at the Focolare Centre from 2.00 to 5.30pm. **RCIA** There are 9 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter this year. The next session is on Monday 25th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS** of our three churches have their next meeting on Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

**WEEK OF PRAYER** for Christian Unity - Joint Service this Sunday 24th January at 3pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles 141 Woodhall Lane. Last 'daily' service at 12noon on Monday 25th at Christ Church Peartree, Tewin Road with light refreshments.

**CANDLEMAS** Tuesday 2nd February. Masses at 9.30am in St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's (by candlelight). This is the 40th day after Christmas when we remember Simeon calling Jesus 'The Light of the Nations' and so bless and carry candles in procession.

**ST. BLAISE'S DAY** Wednesday 3rd February. There is a special blessing of the throat on this day which will be given at the end of 9.30am Mass at Holy Family.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** There is not long to go until Valentine's Day! Our Parish Marriage Preparation Day will be the week before on Saturday 6th February 10.30am until 5pm. There will be a Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass that day. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married either in WGC or elsewhere in 2016/17 so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged and so that you can be part of the day. This week Fr. Norbert will be sending out details of the Day to couples who have already made contact.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY** is on Wednesday 27th January. The day is intended to ensure that the horrendous crimes against humanity during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides are never forgotten and that its relevance for each new generation is understood. This year the commemoration will take place at the Links in Hatfield. All are welcome. The theme is 'Don't stand by'.

**FUNERALS** **Michael Lee RIP** Michael's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Thursday 28th January at 1.15pm, **Maria Blackman RIP** Maria's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Friday 29th January at 2.45pm, **Brian Carrick RIP** Brian's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday 5th February at 12.30pm. **John Carton RIP** John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 8th February at 1pm.

**YEAR OF MERCY** On the first Friday of the month during the Year of Mercy there will be an early Mass (lasting 25 minutes) at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am followed by a light breakfast. The idea is to give workers, commuters and others the opportunity to come together and make a prayerful start to the day in excellent company. The first such Mass will be on Friday 5th February, then 4th March, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October and 4th November. If anyone would like to help with breakfast, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**HCPT GROUP 183** There will be a retiring collection for this year's HCPT group's trip to Lourdes, after every Mass next weekend 30th/31st January. There will be envelopes at the back of each church for anyone who is able to gift aid their donation.

**CAFOD** The Holy Family CAFOD group would like to invite all parishioners to join them in the parish room at Holy Family on Friday 29th January at 7.30pm for their "Thanks" to you for your great support to them during 2015. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**CATHEDRAL MASS** in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in this Year of Mercy will take place on Saturday 6th February at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. All are welcome. If anyone will be attending in a wheelchair, please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible so that a space can be reserved.

**MASS FOR SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** at Cathedral on Saturday 14th May 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 2016. 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) by the 7th March 2016. Over the years many couples from our three churches have had a wonderful time at this celebration!

**SCHOOL FORMS** Fr. Norbert will be available in Our Lady's Church for signing the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Nursery on the following dates: Friday 12th February 3.30 - 5.30pm, Tuesday 23rd February 3.30 - 5.30pm and Tuesday 15th March 3.30 - 5.30pm. Parents should phone Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come with their child and the necessary form together with the additional yellow form available at the back of our churches and wait in the church until called. *A reminder that the forms can only be signed for practising Catholic families*

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2017** On Tuesday 26th January at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall, Pax Travel will be presenting information on this Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Welwyn Garden City (Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June). All welcome.

**PRAGUE 2016** Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches for the October Pilgrimage to Prague in the Czech Republic. The highlight will be a visit to the statue of the Infant of Prague. The dates are Saturday 22nd - Wednesday 26th and the price £599.

**INTER FAITH** To mark the 50th anniversary of inter faith work following Vatican II there will be a lecture by three eminent speakers at St. Alban's School on Thursday 4th February at 7.30pm entitled 'Brothers and Sisters Under God ... After All. For further information please phone Valerie Skottowe on 01707 324828 or pick up a leaflet from the back of the church.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** Brochures are at the back of the church. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?! Any questions - ask Fr. Norbert! If any parishioners would like to sponsor a young person going or part sponsor, please let Fr. Norbert know. (The cost of a place is £750). **EDUCATION SUNDAY** would have been today. However, last year, the Bishops of England and Wales took the decision to transfer it to September. This means that in 2016 it will be celebrated on Sunday 11th September

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 Holy Family Church  
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

**THE MIXED GROUP** are holding their first fundraising event of 2016. An Italian Evening, at 7pm (for a 7:30pm start) on 29th January at the Terranova restaurant, Stanborough Park. Tickets are £25, which covers a three course meal and a glass of house wine or soft drink. We will also have a tombola there. To reserve a place, please telephone Seán Cox on 01707 325278 by 26th January. We would appreciate your support."

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** It is proposed to have a meeting after 10am Mass on Saturday 23rd April for all those from our three parishes who visit/take Communion to the Sick and Housebound. Details to follow.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231.

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

**MASS TIMES**

|              |        |      |                 |                        |
|--------------|--------|------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 25 Monday    | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady's      | Conversion of St. Paul |
| 26 Tuesday   | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | SS Timothy and Titus   |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                        |
| 27 Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family     | feria                  |
| 28 Thursday  | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family     | St. Thomas Aquinas     |
| 29 Friday    | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria                  |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                        |
| 30 Saturday  | 10am   | Mass | St. Bonaventure | feria                  |

**Fourth Sunday of the Year**

|             |         |      |                 |
|-------------|---------|------|-----------------|
| 30 Saturday | 6pm     | Mass | Our Lady's      |
| 31 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