

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*

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sundays of the Year 24th (p.114) 31st July (p.118)

So another year draws to a close! Time to take stock and be refreshed by the summer weeks filled with sunshine, we pray. We have had a busy time with the Year of Mercy, St. Bonaventure's 90th and now Holy Family's 50th to prepare for. We have welcomed many visitors and had a chance to venture further afield. Now hopefully a few weeks of rest will make a huge difference.

I would like to express my gratitude to the myriads of people who keep our parishes alive. In the Liturgy: through music, singing, serving and exercising vital ministries. Inside and outside our churches: so many who clean, maintain the grounds and decorate our churches so that they are worthy of the Divine Liturgy which we celebrate. Through formation: there are dozens of catechists who bring the Scriptures to life for our children Sunday by Sunday, as well as those who support adults, young people and children in their preparation for the Sacraments. Through outreach: we see scores of people bearing witness to the Gospel by care for the poor, the lonely and marginalised, those who keep us alert to important matters in other parts of the world. Behind the scenes: those who open up and close our churches, those who prepare what is needed and are available to help in any way. With administration, there is Kathryn, our Parish Secretary, and others who keep the finances in order; we have excellent Finance Committees and a very committed Parish Advisory Council. THANK YOU! I would like to thank Fr. Martin for all that he does. He is now reaching the end of his first year in the Garden City.

Every parish needs people to support what is taking place, ready to deepen their faith, love and reaching out; every community relies on the power of prayer and the generosity of its members. I am so grateful to you all for all that you do to support me as your Parish Priest. Our Gospel reading today from St. Luke reminds us to pray, to be like Jesus, especially by using the Lord's Prayer. Let us allow the summer to recharge our batteries and inspire us to find ways of deepening our life of prayer. God bless you and your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

MISSION APPEAL Next weekend the Columban Fathers will be here to preach a Mission Appeal at all Masses. This means there will be a retiring collection after each Mass. We will welcome Fr. Denis Carter who has worked in Pakistan and Fr. John Collins who has worked in the Philippines.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FEAST Thanks to all who helped with the refreshments at the two Masses last Sunday. The sun certainly shone upon us.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert writes: It is important for parents to go to school open days/evenings with their children in September/October and see the options. Read the admissions criteria carefully to ensure you have a good chance of getting into the school if it is oversubscribed. Get hold of your child's Baptismal Certificate in good time. Think about the environment in which your child will flourish. In terms of the Certificate of Catholicity, the form will be given by the schools and will have to be signed by Fr. Norbert. The Certificate of Catholicity is a statement that the child comes from a practising Catholic family which means there is attendance at Mass every week. To facilitate this, Fr. Norbert will give out an 'extra' form for WGC parishes for parents to fill out for him. Meetings will be scheduled in early October when parent/s and child will come to meet with Fr. Norbert. These dates of the meetings will be published after the holidays.

SUMMER NEWSLETTERS There will not be a newsletter next weekend. The newsletter for 6th/7th August will cover the whole month of August so that the next one will be 3rd/4th September.

FUNERALS Margaret Hurst died recently; we are waiting for confirmation of the Funeral details. Stan (Thomas) Griffin has also died; his body will go back to Ireland for Funeral and burial. May they rest in peace.

CYCLE RIDE On Sunday, 31st July, John Beckett, a parishioner of Holy Family and President of the SVP Conference in Hatfield will be taking part in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 mile cycling event. He is riding to raise funds for the SVP to purchase cold weather clothing for the homeless in England & Wales. The clothing will go into 15,000 Vinnie Packs at a cost of about £3.15 a pack. If you would like to sponsor John please donate via: www.virginmoneygiving.com/JohnBeckett1 or you can send your donation to Vinnie Packs, PO. Box 72264, London, SW1P 9EZ. Cheques should be made payable to SVP. Thank you for your support.

SEMINARIANS Fran Trigo and Alfonso Pascual from the Seminary in Seville left us on Friday. They had a brilliant time and really enjoyed the experience of being with us.

LAMPEDUSA CROSS leaves us on Tuesday morning to go to West Green Parish in North London. It has been a privilege and a challenge to have it here in our parishes. The messages written will be sent to Cafod. Thank you.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 18 people from our deanery will be flying to Krakow on Monday 25th July. 8 of the young people (+ Fr. Norbert) are from WGC! Please keep them in your prayers.

EARLY MASSES The next two Year of Mercy early Masses at St. Bonaventure's will be on Friday 5th August and Friday 2nd September at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome!

PRAGUE & HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGES Brochures are at the back of our churches. Please note Pax Travel's new address: Pax Travel Ltd, Second Floor, 102 Blundell Street, London N7 9BL.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY for our deanery will be on Saturday 24th September in Our Lady's Hall led by Edmund Adamus and his team. Watch this space for more details.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's Church on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm the 90th Anniversary of the First Mass. The Mayor will be coming and so will Ursula Howard, the granddaughter of Ebenezer Howard. We are hoping that priests of the Deanery and representatives of the Christian Churches will be there too. Keep the date free and come. All welcome.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH Fr. Norbert invites parishioners to a meeting to plan for Holy Family Church's 50th Anniversary. It will be in the Parish Room on Thursday 15th September at 8pm (after the HF Finance Committee Meeting at 7pm). The Cardinal will be celebrating Mass on Sunday 7th May. What else would you like to happen?

ST. ALBANS Bishop John Sherrington will be preaching at an Ecumenical Evensong at St. Alban's Abbey Cathedral on Saturday 8th October at 4pm for this Year of Mercy. Bishop John would like all the schools of Hertfordshire to lead a procession from Verulamium Park at 2.30pm which will enter the Abbey and prepare for Evensong. Watch this space!

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Monday 19th September at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. You are all invited. Please come and hear what is already planned; make your contribution to the life of our parishes! **ALTAR SERVERS MASS** The annual National Altar Servers Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th September 2pm for 2.30pm start. We will be going for this Mass and it would be great to have many of our servers. We will get the 12.53 train from WGC Station. Every server must be accompanied by a supervising adult and purchase their train tickets. After the Mass we will return to WGC for something to eat which will be on the parishes!

SCHOOLS have broken up this week. We wish staff and governors, children and parents a refreshing summer and every blessing after the successes of another year. Well done to Nicholas Breakspear School on achieving a 'Good' in the recent Ofsted inspection.

EDUCATION SUNDAY will be on Sunday 11th September. Holy Family School will lead 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and Our Lady School will lead 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's Church.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC. We will begin with Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee. The Day will end at 3pm. Please bring food to share at lunchtime. This Day will provide a great time of enrichment for us all but especially Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers. Here in WGC in our parishes we will then have the Recommissioning of Ministers the following weekend (17th/18th September) at all the Masses.

400 CLUB DRAW Regrettably there are no longer sufficient paying members to support the current prizes, therefore the organisers have reluctantly decided the prize monies should be reduced. The first prize of £100 will be retained and the second and third replaced by a consolation prize of £15. The next subscription weekend is 30/31st July. The draw will be on Monday 1st August in the Centre during the Bingo interval. The prize will be 1st - £100. Plus a consolation prize of £15. This alteration will permit the draw to continue, meanwhile we will try to recruit new members and return to higher prizes. We also need help with the collection and draw if you have any interest please contact me Norman Merry on 01707 326089 or e-mail merrynorm@hotmail.com. **SPONSORED 10 MILE CYCLE RALLY** Sunday 4th Sept. Starting at 12.45pm at the Scout Hut in Autumn Grove, W.G.C. proceeding to the Car Park at Hertford Football Club via cycle ways. All the sponsorship money will be used by The Mixed Group to provide a Christmas Day Dinner, entertainment, afternoon tea and presents for over 100 guests. Please contact Seán Cox MBE at 25 Cherry Croft, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7QU, or telephone 01707 325278 or email sean@themixedgroup.org.uk for further details.

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welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Martin 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

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

CONFESSIONS	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	St. James
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Joachim and Anne
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
29 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Martha
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

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	
01 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
02 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
04 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John Vianney
05 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Transfiguration

CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact 01438 285518 during working hours or 01438 314333 out of working hours.