

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Deacon: Rev. Jeffrey Downie Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard

Third Sunday of Lent 3rd March 2013 (page 160)

Our Archbishop Vincent Nichols has asked every parish in the Diocese to think about Reconciliation today. In this Year of Faith his hope is that our Catholic community will renew its understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He really feels that through this reflection we will have a greater confidence to approach this Sacrament in the season of Lent as we journey to the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and enter the mystery of perfect Love.

None of us is perfect! Sometimes that can be a reassuring thought. At other times we can be frustrated by the fact that we don't always get it right. Admitting we've done what is wrong requires humility. Finding the right words to express what has gone wrong can be difficult. Making peace with others takes a real determination. Trying not to do the same thing again tests our humanity! The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Christ's gift to his Church. We are offered a tangible way of speaking about what has gone wrong - the sins committed; we hear we are forgiven by God and receive grace to help us in the future. Sin diminishes us and can undermine a community. Forgiveness and Reconciliation sow seeds of life, joy and healing. Perfection does not often come in one go; however, Christ's forgiveness perfects us in his love.

For a number of weeks our children (with their parents) and RCIA candidates have been preparing for their First Confession or renewal in the Sacrament. It is not easy to do something for the first time. It can be testing going back after a long time. Jesus through his priest does not judge. He waits patiently to restore us to right relationship with his Father. The Gospel passages this week and for the next two speak of repentance, God's unconditional love and the compassion of his Son. Why not resolve in these remaining weeks of Lent to prepare to celebrate this Sacrament? There are the scheduled times each week and the Service of Reconciliation on Monday 25th March. If these will not work for you, why not make an appointment? Don't put it off! Let the Year of Faith give us the resolve to avail of Reconciliation. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

YEAR OF FAITH This week one San Damiano Cross will be with the Owusu-Afryie household (5 Purdom Road, WGC AL7 4FH); the family invites parishioners to join them in prayer on Friday 8th March at 8.15pm. Another will be with Virginia Rees (89 Harmer Green Lane AL6 0ER [between Harmer Green and Burnham Green, next to Barnes Wood Drive]); she invites parishioners to join her in prayer on Tuesday 5th March at 2.30pm. Any parishioners wishing to host one of the San Damiano Crosses should let Fr. Norbert know.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD NEWS There will be a CAFOD meeting in the parish room at Holy Family on Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The CAFOD group are holding a cake sale in Holy Family church after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 17th March.

Please browse at the table at the back of the church for Mother's Day presents.

CONFIRMATION Please pray for our young people and their catechists who are on retreat today in Aylesford, Kent.

FIRST CONFESSIONS This Saturday (9th Mar) the children from St. Bonaventure's Church will be making their First Confession at 10.30am. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers as they get ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The following Saturday will be Holy Family's turn (at 11am).

LENT During the Season of Lent, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's on Mondays 10-10.30am, at Holy Family on Thursdays 10-10.30am and at St. Bonaventure's on Saturdays 9.30 - 10am for the next two weeks because of First Confessions. There will be Stations of the Cross at Holy Family on Wednesdays 10am, St. Bonaventure's on Fridays at 10am and at Our Lady's on Fridays at 7.30pm.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE The coach, as far as we are aware, is now full. Any more booking forms sent into Pax Travel will go on a waiting list.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will sign forms for Nursery as follows: Friday 15th Mar. 3.30 - 5.30pm at St. Bonaventure's, Tuesday 19th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Holy Family Church and Monday 25th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents are asked to ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment time. Parent/s should come with their child and the appropriate forms (obtained at school) already filled in; they should wait in the church. Come on whichever is the most convenient day! It does not matter if the meeting is not at the church you usually attend.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION for our three parishes will be on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S COFFEE GROUP Your new rotas are at the back of the church. New helpers are very welcome. Contact Jenny 01438 717798.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S MASS The next Children's Mass will be held on Sunday 10th March at 9.30am. There will be a quick practice after 9.30am Mass this Sunday, 3rd March for all those children wanting to take part - and for the band too.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Tuesday 3.45pm. This week we are thinking about our mothers.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is next weekend. Don't forget!

OUR LADY'S CHURCH - Many thanks to all who came to help with cleaning the church and maintaining the gardens.

MUSIC PRACTICE FOR THE EASTER VIGIL Music practice for the Easter Vigil: Friday, 22nd March, 8pm, at Our Lady's. This is a rehearsal for all singers and instrumentalists who wish to be involved in the Vigil Service.

ALTAR SERVERS Lists for serving during the Easter Triduum and practices will be in each sacristy next weekend. Please get ready to sign up!

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 18th May at 3pm celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. If you are celebrating this year your 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60+ wedding anniversary, please give your details to Fr. Norbert (names, wedding date, full postal address, email/phone number). These will be sent to Archbishop's House and formal invitations be sent.

LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION THROUGH LECTIO DIVINA During the season of Lent a series of weekly prayer and reflection sessions will be taking place following the prayer method of Lectio Divina. The fourth session will take place this Thursday between 8 and 9pm at the Holy Family Church Parish Room.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP There is a meeting to set the Flower Rota for the next year on Sunday 24th March in the hall after 10.30am Mass. New members to the group are very welcome, phone Monica on 01438 714923.

FULHAM VISIT TO WGC Last April, St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Fulham invited our parishioners to London and shared with us great hospitality. The 'return' visit has been set for Saturday 11th May in the afternoon/evening. We have three churches to share with them and also a great deal of beauty here in this part of Hertfordshire. Obviously we won't be able to show them everything! If you would like to help with welcoming the Fulham parishioners, come to a meeting in Our Lady's sacristy on Friday 12th April at 7.45pm (after 7pm Mass). If you have any ideas at this stage, please pass on your thoughts to Fr. Norbert.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH 'Are you fed up with hearing all the bad news? Then come to the next Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Meeting where people from different faiths in the borough will give stories of hope - Seeds of Hope in an Uncertain World - in the Park Lounge, Campus West on Tuesday 19th March 7.30pm. Deacon Jeffery has been invited to chair the event'.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS St Patrick's Day Celebration tickets are on sale after every Mass in every Church. The price is £5 or £10 for a family ticket. It is on Saturday 16th March at 8pm. Ticket includes snacks.

PALM OIL ISSUES We use it on a daily basis in toiletries and food but in an area of Thailand called Chaiburi, the issue is a matter of life and death. On 19th Nov. 2012, two women were shot dead on their way to the market because they belonged to a Community Organisation in dispute with a land-grabbing Palm Oil Company. Their families continue to live in fear of having homes destroyed and worse. On their behalf a letter has been written to the Thai Prime Minister by members of the J&P Group.(more details on the board at Our Lady's). Please pray for these people. You are welcome to join the letter writing group; contact - Anne 328516.

TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB DRAW: Winners for February are No. 205 A. O'Keefe £100, No. 319 B. Brindley £50 and No. 56 F. McKenzie £25. Thank you to all members for their continuing support.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH 10th - 18th March. The Mill Hill Community prepares for the feast of St. Joseph with a Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on the society and the missionary work of the church as well as the intentions of those who support them. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer, please write to Fr. Denis Treacy MHM, St. Joseph's Missionary Society, Communications House, 12 Craufurd Rise, Maidenhead SL6 7LS, or email: novena@millhillmissionaries.com.

CONTACTS

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234 Jeffrey Downie
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourlady's-parish.info

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE

Bookings should be made with
Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707
377442 or 07790 135458
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:

www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Michael 01707 327434
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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| CONFESSIONS | Holy Family: | Thursday 10am - 10.30am |
| | St. Bonaventure: | Saturday 9.30 - 10am (2wks) |
| | Our Lady's: | Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm |

MASS TIMES

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|--------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 04 Monday | 9.30am | Our Lady's | Lent feria |
| 05 Tuesday | 9.30am | St. Bonaventure | Lent feria |
| | 7pm | Our Lady's | |
| 06 Wednesday | 9.30am | Holy Family | Lent feria |
| 07 Thursday | 9.30am | Holy Family | SS Perpetua and Felicity |
| 08 Friday | 9.30am | St. Bonaventure | St. John of God |
| | 7pm | Our Lady's | |
| 09 Saturday | 10am | St. Bonaventure | Lent feria |

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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| 09 Saturday | 6pm | Our Lady's |
| 10 Sunday | 8am | St. Bonaventure |
| | 9.30am | Holy Family |
| | 10.30am | St. Bonaventure |
| | 11.30am | Our Lady's |
| | 6pm | Holy Family |

*Lord,
 Let me see your face,
 Know your heart and
 experience your love in my life.
 Strengthen in me
 the precious gift of faith.
 I believe Lord;
 Help my unbelief. Amen.*

CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains:
 Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463