

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

First Sunday of Lent 17th February 2013 (page 153)

Nearly eight years ago Pope John Paul II was dying and our Lent was spent journeying with the Pope through his suffering to his eventual death. It was a unique period in the Church's life as Catholics united themselves with Christ in sacrificial love at Easter and watched the Holy Father's life ebb as he struggled to keep going. Now in 2013, we enter Lent with another unique situation for the Church.

With the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI's resignation, we will this Lent be watching historic events unfold in Rome as one Pope relinquishes office as another is elected with a puff of white smoke and the prayer of the Church. Where will he be from? What name will he choose? How will he exercise the Petrine ministry? Who would have thought a week ago that we would probably have a new Pope by Easter?

A great deal of prayer is needed! Firstly for Pope Benedict, that God may grant him peace in the decision he has made, and contentment as he lives out his remaining years. Secondly, we should pray for the Cardinals who will gather in conclave to elect a new Pope. God's Spirit works in amazing ways; none of us can predict the result. May the Church be enriched through the ministry of the new Pope.

Meanwhile Lent does continue! The Temptations in the desert remind us of our human condition and the sins we can fall into if we listen to the voice of evil. Jesus Christ stood firm; he knew his mission and never stopped carrying it out. Jesus' path took him to the Cross and after dying to take away our sins, his victory shone out in the glory of the Resurrection. That is our destiny. Jesus has blazed the trail. His footsteps mark out the way. His love makes up for what is lacking and his mercy brings forgiveness. May our lives be focused on him all the way to Easter and eventually to the eternal Easter of heaven.

God bless you! *Fr. Norbert*

CAFOD Hungry for Change campaign calls on the UK government to champion a fairer food system where power is shared justly between rich and poor people alike. We are asked to take the special **CAFOD Fast Day envelopes** and go without food or some luxury this Friday and return the money saved next weekend. Of course, these envelopes can be used throughout Lent. Please be generous and make a genuine sacrifice for the sake of the poor in developing countries. Thank you.

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 10.30-11am (except when First Confessions are celebrated, in which case 9.30-10am). 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 There is still time to book for the autumn pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes and Nevers 26th October - 1st November. There are more brochures and booking forms at the back of our churches. 43 places of the 49 on the coach have now been snapped up! Fr. Norbert has asked Pax Travel for a larger coach!.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms for Nursery as follows: Friday 15th March 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.

YEAR OF FAITH from the recent Parishes' Advisory Council Meeting a few dates for your diaries - some details still to be firmed up.

Catholicism Course by Fr. Robert Baron - 10 Monday evenings starting 22nd April.

Saturday 18th May Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Sunday 22nd Sept. Procession from Our Lady's after 11.30 Mass to St. Bonaventure's for picnic lunch in grounds to Holy Family for Benediction and outdoor tea.

Saturday 28th September Deanery Day for catechists with input by Fr. John Hemer and time for catechists to share good practice and concerns with each other.

Saturday 16th November Year of Faith dinner - at a venue to be decided.

Monday 18th November - Year of Faith Concert in Holy Family Church with Police Choir.

Saturday 23rd November - 4pm Children's Mass and party/disco to close Year of Faith.

SAN DAMIANO CROSS OF ST FRANCIS Households are needed to host the Crosses in the coming weeks and months. Please let Fr. Norbert know when you would like to host one. Thank you.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Palm Sunday 24th March at 11.30am, Saturday 11th May 6pm, Sunday 6th October 11.30 Harvest Mass with Barn Dance, Saturday 30th November 6pm at Our Lady's.

RITE OF ELECTION Today 20 adults and 7 children, who are preparing for the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, will be presented to our Bishops at Westminster Cathedral at the Rite of Election. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey through Lent.

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 to the couples.

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 second session will take place this Thursday between 8 and 9pm at the Holy Family Church Parish Room. Sessions continue on Thursdays up until Holy Week. Parishioners from all three parishes are most welcome. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to Spencer or Jenny White or contact them on 01707334896/ 07425137469 / . spencer.white4@gmail.com.

'DIALOGUE IN THE HOLY LAND: an option or a belief?' *A daily challenge of living the Gospel in a situation of conflict, discovering the richness of a dialogue of life beyond the headlines.* This Sunday, 17th February, 3.30pm – 5.30pm in the Focolare Centre for Unity. You are warmly invited to attend an open afternoon with Margherita Karram from the Focolare community Jerusalem.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION will be in Our Lady's Family Centre on Saturday 16th March. Details to follow.

LENTEN LUNCHESES in aid of CAFOD in Our Lady's Family Centre every Saturday in Lent. 12noon until 1.30pm.

QUIZ NIGHT Friday 22nd February, for HCPT, raising money to take children with disability to Lourdes. £5 per person with a max of 8 people a table. Start time is 7:30pm bring your own drink. To book a table contact Hayley on 07751 239501 or just turn up.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT February the 25th to March the 10th: to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, the Justice & Peace group is holding a Coffee morning, on **7th March** (10.30am to 12.30pm), in the **Pomegranate Cafe**, at Our Lady's. All are welcome. There will be cake and coffee (free), and a film-show as well. Also, during the fortnight, the **Welwyn Hatfield Fairtrade group** will have a stall at the University of Hertfordshire (25th Feb) in Sainsbury's (2nd Mar) and in the Howard Centre (9th Mar), all from 10.30am to 2pm. Please support these events and also buy more Fairtrade products, particularly as (during Fairtrade Fortnight) some of the supermarkets have "offers" on Fairtrade products.

WOMEN PRODUCERS on the **22nd March**, at 16 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City, the local Oxfam group is going to hold a **Coffee morning** (10.30am to 12noon) to raise funds to support Women producers, around the world. All are welcome..

SVP Donations of small electrical appliances have been given to the SVP. They need PAT safety checks. If any parishioner is qualified and willing to help please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday, 1st March, at Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, W.G.C. Time: 1pm. Theme: *I was a stranger and you welcomed me.* Praying for France. All welcome.

CONTACTS

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

Our Lady's
 141 Woodhall Lane
 AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourladys-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

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

MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
21 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
22 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	The Chair of St. Peter
	7pm	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Second Sunday of Lent

23 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
24 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.*

<p>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</p>
