

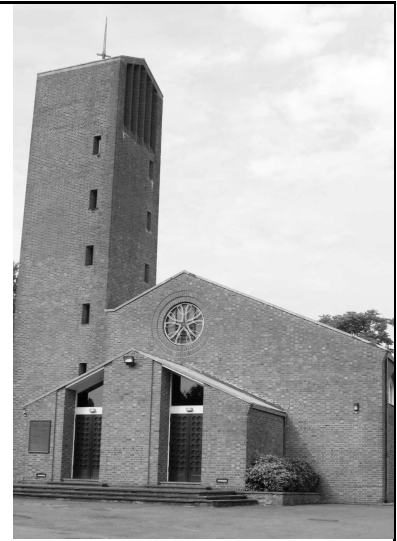
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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

Second Sunday of Lent 24th February 2013 (page 157)

Last Sunday our RCIA Group went up to Westminster Cathedral to be presented to the Bishops of our Diocese; they joined hundreds of others. As Dean of Stevenage, I was on the sanctuary and had the privilege of calling out the names of the parishes of our deanery. I also had the joy of watching the faces of the countless people who approached the sanctuary to be greeted by the Bishops. Such variety in background, race and age. All radiated sheer happiness and deep pride overflowed! After the Service, I spent time showing our own group around the Cathedral, pointing out the fine architecture and exquisite beauty Cathedral. We slipped into the huge sacristy, descended into the crypt and climbed up into the apse where the choir sings and from which there is a lovely view of the full extent to the nave. I am afraid I teased our group by saying there would be a written test at our next meeting (tomorrow)!

In our Gospel reading today we have St. Luke's account of the Transfiguration. Jesus prays. The aspect of his face changes. His clothing becomes brilliant as lightning. He speaks with Moses and Elijah. He hears the Father's voice. Peter's words are powerful: 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here...' Cathedrals are wonderful places to be in - as are our churches. What are some of the other places which raise your heart up to God? What are the experiences or things which make you marvel? Peter and his fellow disciples had the unique vision of Jesus in total glory as his divinity radiated from his mortal body. They encountered the very presence of God. Lent is our opportunity to meet Jesus in sacrifice, in suffering, in forgiveness, in death and in resurrection. Such is the love he shows us that we can reflect it in our daily lives. The Transfiguration - offered to us at this stage of Lent - gives us a glimpse of the glory God wants to share with us now through the Easter Mystery and eternally at the end of time.

May God bless your efforts. *Fr. Norbert*

SAN DAMIANO CROSS will be going to Freda McKenzie this week. She invites parishioners to join her in prayer on Thursday at 3pm (14 Moss Green WGC AL7 3TE). If anyone would like to host one of the Crosses, please let Fr. Norbert know.

CAFOD Money saved from last Friday's CAFOD Fast Day will be collected this weekend in a retiring collection. If you are able to GiftAid the contribution, that would mean more money for those in need. There are special envelopes at the back of each church. Thank you for your generosity.

ST DAVID'S DAY This Friday is the feast of St. David, patron of Wales. There will be refreshments after Friday's 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

CONFIRMATION Our young people have a session this evening at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Next Sunday they will have a retreat day in Aylesford, Kent. Please keep them in your prayers.

FIRST CONFESSIONS This Saturday (2nd March) the children from Our Lady's Church will be making their First Confession at 11am. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers as they get ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The following Saturday will be St. Bonaventure's and then Holy Family.

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 on Saturdays 9.30 - 10am for the next three 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.

Please note: Confessions at St. Bonaventure's will be at 9.30am for the next three weeks.

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.

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.

YEAR OF FAITH DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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.

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

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 third 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.

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.

OUR LADY'S CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE Saturday 2nd March 10am for one hour.

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.

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.

FUNERAL MASS The Funeral Mass for Mary Lynch will be this Friday at 10.30am in St. Bonaventure's. Her body will be received into the church on Thursday at 4.30pm.

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.

TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB - Collection of subscriptions for February will be taken at the end of this weekend's Masses at Our Lady's, at the back of the church. The draw will be made on Monday 25th February. 1st Prize £100, 2nd £50 and 3rd £25. Numbers for just £1 are available for new members.

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

CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 9.30 - 10am (3wks)
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

25 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
26 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
01 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. David
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass
	7pm	Our Lady's	
02 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	Third Sunday of Lent		
02 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
03 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