

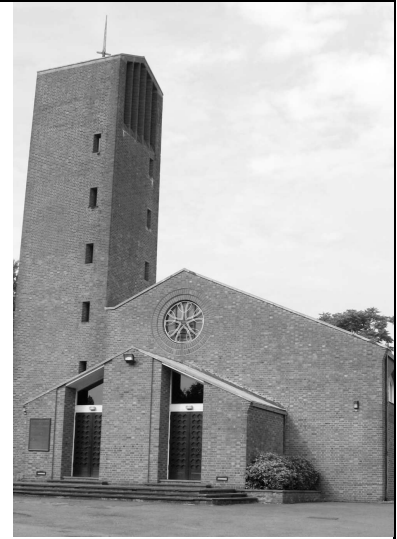
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent 17th March 2013 (page 176)

‘Habemus Papam!’ These were the words we finally heard after the white smoke issued from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel last Wednesday. And after another wait we caught sight of our new Holy Father - Pope Francis I. I have been struck by the warmth, humility and charm of this Pontiff who spans continents, languages and customs in terms of his experience. Little did I know last week when in Rome that the future Pope was staying in the same hotel as me and my companions! We are told he went back after being elected to pay his bill and collect his luggage.

As Catholics we hold the firm conviction that the election of a pope is guided by the Holy Spirit. While the press and many others may speak purely in human, secular terms, we trust that God will give us a holy father to call us to a life of holiness and to watch over us with care - truly the Holy Father! The special charism (gift) bestowed by Christ upon the Pope as the successor to St. Peter is to be for the Church a foundation of unity and a source of sound teaching. Pope Francis is now the one chosen to have that role and to be inspired in guiding us into the future. He has asked us to pray for him. Let us be generous in our intercession on his behalf and for the Church as the Gospel is proclaimed and lived out in every part of the world.

We have to get back to Lent, don't we?! Today's Gospel reminds us of how generous Jesus Christ is with his mercy and how challenging he is with us in our attitudes. There was no way that he would throw a stone at the sinner caught in the act. Rather he forgives and sends her away in peace. Surely that is what we ask of him? Whether it is the big things that weigh on our consciences or those small sins which seem insurmountable, he is always waiting patiently for us to come to him, to talk to him and to hear the power of reconciling love. May God support our Lenten efforts this week.

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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Happy St. Patrick's Day! May the example, faith and prayers of this great saint spur us on in the final weeks of Lent and in this Year of Faith.

CONFIRMATION FUNDRAISING The young people preparing for Confirmation will be doing a fundraising event today after the 9.30, 10.30 and 11.30 Masses in our respective churches. They have decided to send the proceeds to KISS, a charity which supports needy children in Uganda. Please be generous!

JEFFREY Last week the Diocesan Orders Commission met at the seminary and Jeffrey has been formally told that he will be ordained priest at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 29th June at 10.30am together with seven others. Jeffrey has asked that his First Mass should be in Welwyn Garden City. This will take place at 12noon on Sunday 30th June at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the hall. We offer Jeffrey our congratulations and promise many more prayers. So it is now all systems go!

YEAR OF FAITH This week one San Damiano Cross will be with Linda Finn (4 Barnswood, Digswell, Welwyn AL6 0EU [top end of Harmer Green Lane]); she invites parishioners to join her in prayer on Friday 22nd March at 3pm. Any parishioners wishing to host one of the San Damiano Crosses should let Fr. Norbert know.

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

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 26th March from 3.45 - 5.30pm. Come and help plant our outdoor Easter Garden, make your own garden, make some Easter things, join in an Easter egg hunt, prepare for our Way of the Cross, have a 'Happy Easter Tea' and listen to an Easter story. We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover some of our costs. Please bring a small amount of food. Parents are welcome.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will sign forms for Nursery as follows: 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.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Congratulations to the children who have made their First Confession in the last few weeks.

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 Saturday 10.30 - 11am. 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.

TAIZE PRAYER on Good Friday evening at 7.30pm in Holy Family. This will be a meditative service with short passages of Scripture, Taize chant and silence to reflect on the events of Good Friday.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS On Palm Sunday (24th) the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's will be a joint Special Needs and Children's Mass. There will not be a social afterwards, however. The practice for any who wish to take part will be on Saturday 23rd March at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

JUSTICE AND PEACE Parishioners are reminded that on NEXT Saturday the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission is holding a **Networking day**, for the whole of Hertfordshire at Our Lady's parish centre, starting at 10am and going through to 3.30 pm. In the morning, Bishop Sherrington will talk on the subject of **Solidarity & My Neighbour** and the afternoon session will have speakers on **Asylum Seekers** and **Alleviating Poverty in Our Communities**. All are invited, including non-Catholics and, if you would like to attend, please let Adelheid Smith (the Herts Justice & Peace representative, tel' 01727 855931, e-mail) know, for catering purposes. There is a charge of £5, to cover costs

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 are now in each sacristy. Please 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. Names need to be sent in as soon as possible.

LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION THROUGH LECTIO DIVINA The sixth session will take place this Thursday 8pm in 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.

FR. NORBERT'S 25TH Just to remind you that Fr. Norbert will be celebrating his Silver Jubilee on Tuesday 11th June at 12noon at St. Anthony's, Edgware (where he was ordained a priest) and in Welwyn Garden City on Saturday 15th June at 6pm at Our Lady's with a reception in the hall. If anyone would like to help him with the celebrations on the Saturday, there will be a meeting on Tuesday 30th April at 8pm at Our Lady's.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH 'Are you fed up with hearing all the bad news?' Meet in the Park Lounge, Campus West on Tuesday 19th March 7.30pm. Deacon Jeffrey has been invited to chair the event.

FUNERAL MASS for Frances Andrews is at 9.30am on Tuesday 19th March in St. Bonaventure's. We offer our prayers and sympathy to family and friends.

LENTEN LUNCHESS in Our Lady's Family Centre Saturdays, 12noon until 1.30pm.
WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE We will go by coach to Walsingham on Saturday 18th May. That day there will be the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf and so we will join them for some of their programme which will include the Rosary at 12 noon and Mass at 3pm in the Chapel of Reconciliation. More details soon!

THANK YOU Ama, Aku and friends extend their heart-felt thanks to you all for your generous contributions and donations during last Sunday's 'cake sales' fundraising. They were able to raise £201 for Motor Neurone Disease and the Tiplyang project.

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 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	Funeral Mass
	7pm	Our Lady's	St. Joseph
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
21 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
22 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Palm Sunday

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.*

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