

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fifth Sunday of the Year 9th February 2014 (page 133)

Last week the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time was superseded by the Presentation of the Lord. We lit candles which were then blessed and rejoiced in Simeon's words describing Jesus as the 'Light of the Gentiles/pagans'. We now find ourselves in Chapter 5 of St. Matthew's Gospel in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. Last week's passage would have been the Beatitudes initiated by Jesus going up the hill with his disciples and the crowds and teaching them about God's Kingdom: there is an invitation/place for everyone; there is a turning around of what people might expect; God's grace can be very challenging!

Now Jesus looks out at the people and says to them: 'You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.' YOU! He's talking about US and he knows what's possible. We can bring out the very best just as he draws riches from us. We can shine brightly in as much as he shares with us his light. Why does he single us out? What does he expect us to do with our limitations, fears and disappointments? Therein lies the challenge! If we do not heed his voice and allow his aspirations for us to be realised, we become like salt which has lost its very purpose - to give taste; we will be like lights hidden away, preventing others from seeing Christ's light. Nothing must get in the way of his Mission at work in us for the sake of the world. As the Sermon on the Mount continues the challenge will increase as he asks us to be perfect as his heavenly Father is perfect.

Perhaps this week, each of us might ponder the difference we can and should make to those around us and to our world. Let us think of ourselves as salt poured into a cooking pot bringing out the flavours of all the ingredients. Let us allow the light of Jesus to be reflected in the way we live and how we treat others.

God bless you and your efforts. *Fr. Norbert*

EDUCATION SUNDAY Thank you to children and staff of our schools who led last Sunday's Candlemas celebrations so prayerfully and beautifully.

CONFIRMATION Today (Sunday) our young people for Confirmation will be presented at Mass in our three churches. Please keep them in your prayers.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION If you are planning to get married in 2014 or 2015 either here in Welwyn Garden City or in another parish in this country or abroad, please let Fr. Norbert know. There are Church papers which have to be prepared as well as civil requirements. The Marriage Preparation Day for our parishes will be on Saturday 15th February (the day after Valentine's Day!) in Our Lady's Hall. Just a few more days to go!

FUNDRAISER Stand up comic (and star of ITV's Splash!) Patrick Monahan is bringing his 'Cake Charmer' Tour to us in WGC on Saturday 22nd February. Fun, laughs and cakes guaranteed as Patrick helps to raise money for YMCA Space centres in Hatfield and WGC. Tickets for the gig at Gosling Sports Centre are £12 from <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/242784>- but hurry - tickets are going like....well, hot cakes really!

CARDINAL NICHOLS There will be a Mass of Welcome for Cardinal-designate Nichols on Friday 28th February at 5.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Parishioners are welcome. Come early to get a seat!

THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE Archbishop Nichols will be inviting to the Cathedral couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversaries. This year's Mass will be on Saturday 7th June at 3pm. Please give your details to Fr. Norbert (names of husband and wife, wedding date, full postal address and email/phone number) who will then pass on the names to the Archbishop's Office; in due course invitations will be sent out. In recent years many couples from Welwyn Garden City have gone to this Mass and had a wonderful, prayerful experience.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN We meet again next Saturday (10.30am) when we learn about the Gift of God's Forgiveness. Parents are reminded that we have a short meeting on this day at 11.15am.

CHILDREN'S MASS Next Sunday 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's. The theme is 'Love God and love one another'.

WOMEN'S INTER FAITH SOCIAL GROUP The next meeting of the group is at 12.30pm on Tuesday (11th February) at Space – opposite Sainsbury's.

ST DAVID'S DAY On Saturday 1st March there will be refreshments with a Welsh flavour after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. All welcome.

HOLY FAMILY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS Over the next six months the charity coffee mornings will be collecting for a local charity Dekamile (www.dekamile.co.uk) founded and run by husband and wife Rod and Mandy Unger. It helps a village (Agome Sevah) in Togo, West Africa, with the aim of enabling the villagers, once they have basics (such as clean water, health-facilities, a school and employment), to be self-sufficient and not to have to rely on outside help, in order to live meaningful and good lives. Please support their efforts by coming along for a coffee after mass and giving as much as you can. Many thanks.

ST. ALBANS CHAMBER CHOIR Saturday 1st March at 7.30pm - 'Pole Stars', music from Polish composers - Gorecki, Szymanowski, Lukaszewski and Borkowski. Leaflets giving details are at the back of church.

400 CLUB Many thanks to all those who answered last week's appeal for new members. The 400 Club is viable again, but there is room for still more new members, a sheet at the back of the Church has more information. The next draw will be on the weekend of 22/23 Feb. Results of the Draw on Monday 3rd February: 1st £100 No.248 P. Cafferty, 2nd £50 No.116 K. Hunter, 3rd £25 No.100 B. Taberer. Congratulations to the winners.

LECTIO DIVINA at St Francis Church, Church Road, WGC, this Sunday, 9th February at 6pm. Please take this unique opportunity to join fellow Christians in a service of contemplation and quiet Biblical reflection led by Curate Josh Young.

CWL meeting on Tuesday 11th February at 8pm in Our Lady's church hall. Our speaker this month is Nick Noonan who will be talking about 'Films'. Everyone welcome.

LOURDES DVD If anybody requires a copy of the Lourdes DVD or is still waiting for a copy could you please email martin.moore94@btinternet.com or phone Martin on 07768650660.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS' MEETING The second Parents' Meeting for our three parishes will be this Wednesday 12th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

DOG WALKING If you would like to help an elderly parishioner by walking her dog then please phone Nora on 01707 321432.

JOHN McSHANE RIP Details of John's Funeral were not available at the time of printing the newsletter. An announcement will be made in due course.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH The Role of Women in Different Faiths at The Jim McDonald Centre, Hatfield. Wednesday 12th February 7.30pm. See flyers at the back of church.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Tuesdays from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. Come and learn a little more about your faith in a fun way with other children from our three parishes.

MOTHER AND TODDLER Wednesdays 10am - 11.30am approx. Come and join this relaxed and friendly group, lots of toys to play with, time to chat and get to know other mums, carers and grandparents.

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

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson
 01707 377442 or 07790 135458
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

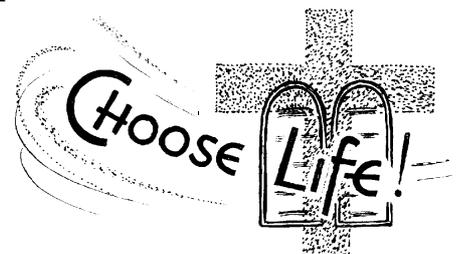
CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30am - 11am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

10 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Scholastica
11 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Lourdes
	7pm	Our Lady's	
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
13 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
14 Friday	9.30am	SS Cyril and Methodius	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
15 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

Sixth Sunday of the Year

15 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
16 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463