

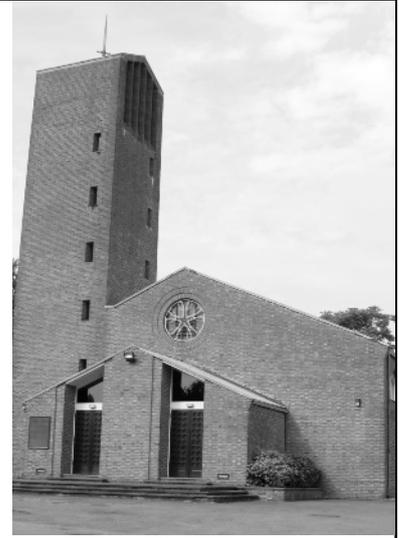
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminararian: Samuel Ejerege Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Second Sunday of Lent 1st March 2015 (p. 151 of Mass book)

We have now entered the 'season' of First Confessions: yesterday the children (and parents) of Holy Family, next week St. Bonaventure's and then the following week Our Lady's. I have had meetings with parents to reflect on the power and beauty of this Sacrament. We pondered what forgiveness really means and how hard it can be to mean it when offering forgiveness. Last Wednesday we spent time in the 'open Confessional' of Our Lady's! Is it easier or better to be behind the grille? What might be the advantages of being 'face to face' with the priest? I tried to share with parents the huge challenge a priest faces when hearing Confessions: how to respond to the penitent; the listening ear which is so crucial; the ability to allow the Confession to be an encounter with Jesus Christ; not judging the person confessing their sins and yet being a source of inspiration and challenge. The whole notion of 'The Seal of Confession' many parents found intriguing - the fact that a priest promises not to let anyone else know the content of a Confession and the complicated situations and sins a priest might have to take on his shoulders. The 'Seal' should give the penitent the confidence to speak honestly.

A key question is 'Why do we have to confess our sins when God is always ready to forgive us if we turn to him with a repentant heart?' Perhaps this is something which bugs you who are reading this piece? A Sacrament always has a tangible, concrete aspect. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we have the opportunity to find words to *express* what we know we have done which is wrong, namely things which have offended God and/or hurt others. We then *hear* that we are forgiven. We do not guess or assume anything. In the Lord's name the priest tells us that we are forgiven as we hear the words of Absolution. Obviously, speaking about deep, personal and perhaps painful things in our lives can be very difficult, but the liberation, peace and joy experienced are beyond compare. This is what God wants us to have a share of in this wonderful way. The light of the transfigured Christ bursts into our lives and makes such a difference.

At this early stage of Lent why not set yourself to go to Confession? Don't worry. Trust in the Lord and trust in his priest! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

CAFOD Fast Day Collection Please place your donations in the retiring collection today.
MISSION APPEAL Next weekend the Xaverian Fathers will be in all three parishes making the annual Mission Appeal. We welcome the priests and ask you to respond generously. Thank you.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE for Lent will be on Tuesday 31st March at 8pm in Our Lady's Church.

LENT There will be Stations of the Cross during Lent as follows: Wednesdays at 10am at Holy Family, Friday mornings at 10 o'clock at St. Bonaventure's and Friday evenings at 7.30 at Our Lady's. There will also be half an hour of silent prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at 10am at Our Lady's, Thursdays at 10am at Holy Family and Saturdays at 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's (except when there is a First Confession Celebration 7th & 14th March - in which case 9.30am before Mass)

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FOR NURSERY Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms for nursery on Wednesday 4th March 3 - 5pm and Monday 9th March 3 - 5pm at Our Lady's. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 322579 to arrange an appointment. Come with forms filled out and wait in the church.

PILGRIMAGE Pax Travel is arranging for us a pilgrimage to Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of the church.

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for **John Laggan R.I.P.** is on Wednesday 4th March at 12.30pm in Our Lady's.

The Funeral Mass for **Kevin Collins R.I.P.** is on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm in Our Lady's.
The Funeral Service for **Valerie Grice R.I.P.** is on Monday 16th March at 11.45am at Harwood Park Crematorium.

The Funeral Mass for **Catherine Clifford R.I.P.** is at 11.45am in Our Lady's Church on Friday 13th March.

The Funeral Mass for **Sarah Sherwood R.I.P.** is at 10.30am this Monday 2nd March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Harpenden.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the deceased.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS Next parents' session is on Wednesday 4th March.

CONFIRMATION Next session for the young people is on Sunday 1st March at Holy Family. On Sunday 8th March the young people need to be at Our Lady's at 8.45am for the coach to Aylesford.

The CAFOD group will meet in the Parish room at Holy Family on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm. Please do feel free to come along.

HCPT BEETLE DRIVE Please come and join our beetle drive at our Lady's Family Centre on Saturday 7th March 2pm till 6pm. Fun for all the family. £2 adults and £1 for children. There will also be refreshments and a raffle. All money raised will go to HCPT group 183. For more information contact Bev on 01707 390065

THANK YOU to the Altar servers and parents representing our parishes, who attended the Altar Servers Annual Mass at Westminster Cathedral. Over 1000 altar servers attended from all over the country. I was really impressed. Looking forward to next year; we will eat together before the Mass. Fr Gerard.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. 26 July – 1 August 2015. Details at back of Church.

LENT Group reflections on sharing in the life and mission of Jesus Christ every Friday during Lent at 8pm in the Chapel at Our Lady's.

CAFOD CAKE SALE Last Sunday's sale raised £63.20. There will not be a cake sale this Sunday but there will be on the other Sundays in Lent.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER The Service, prepared by Christian women of the Bahamas, will take place at Herts. International Church, Sterling Court, Mundells, WGC. on Friday 6th March at 1pm. See Church Notice-board for further details.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Please keep in your prayers our children preparing for their St. Bonaventure's - Saturday 7th March and Our Lady's - Saturday 14th March.

RETREAT DAYS The Confirmation candidates will be in Aylesford next Sunday 8th March for their retreat. The First Communion children and their families will be in St. Albans the afternoon of Sunday 22nd March. The RCIA Group will at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green the afternoon of Sunday 29th March.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 14th March at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a St. Patrick's celebration in the hall. There will be quizzing, Irish dancing and more. Bring an item of food to share (can be left in the hall) ready to be served (no heating, slicing, etc). You can bring whatever you would like to drink and there will be Irish Coffee to end the evening. If you can lend a hand decorating and setting up the hall for the evening, join us at 1pm. It should not take more than an hour.

THE PARISH EVENTS TEAM invites parishioners to join its growing list of volunteers. If you want to get involved with the Parish and require flexibility, helping with the Events may be the answer. Volunteers are contacted two weeks before events by e-mail or phone with requirements for the specific event. Volunteers respond if they are able to help with the event. Contact me (Ann Chappell: ahchappell@aol.com or 01438 714846) to add your name to the e-mail/telephone list. Thanks to all the Parish Events volunteers (men and women) who have helped with so many wonderful events over the past year - Seminarian Barbecue, St Patrick's Day and Special Needs Bring and Share Meal, Diocesan Financial Meeting Coffee, Easter Vigil Breakfast.

DO YOU HAVE A ROOM TO LET? A young lady working in WGC is looking for a room to rent. If you can help please phone the parish office.

HELP NEEDED Fr. Gerard would like some help cleaning the grounds of Holy Family Church. Please phone him on 327434.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH - the monthly cleaning of the church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next **Saturday 7th March at 10am**. This is for just ONE hour, and anyone who is able to help with these essential tasks, will be very welcome. Refreshments are available afterwards.

LENTEN LUNCHESES CWL will be providing Lenten Lunches again this year. The Lunches will be in the Family Centre. Saturdays 12noon .

OUR LADY'S CHURCH REPOSITORY has been restocked. There are cards for most occasions, St Patrick's Day, Mothers Day, Easter, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Also special edition blank cards of Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches are available as well as religious items and gifts. Open after all Masses.

HAPPY ST. DAVID'S DAY to all our Welsh parishioners.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING Why not help 'share the load' by joining our dedicated team of cleaners? Contact Mavis on 01707 330830 if you can help.

The Diocesan Lenten Alms Appeal this year is for CARITAS, which helps the poor, homeless, hungry, lonely & vulnerable in our own diocese. Thank you to those already supporting CARITAS via Growing in Faith. Gift Aid envelopes & leaflets at the back of the Church. Let us continue to pray for the great work of CARITAS.

The Annual Theology of the Body Lecture, entitled *'Facing Difficulties in Christian Family Life'* will be given by Dr Peter Kahn, Director of Studies of the Liverpool University Higher Education Programme -Fri 20th March, 6:45pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. Please register your interest at family@rcdow.org.uk . Tickets on door, £10 or £5 conc.

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Holy Family Church
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OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
03 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
04 Wednesday	12.30pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass John Laggan
05 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
06 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	2.30pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass Kevin Collins
	7pm	Our Lady's	
07 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Third Sunday of Lent

07 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
08 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