

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Fifth Sunday of the Year 7th February 2016 (page 136 of Mass book)***

What an amazing account we have in today's Gospel passage! People want to hear the Word of God and there are so many that Jesus has to get in a boat and speak to the people on the shore from the sea. Peter is asked to cast his net for a catch and the result is way beyond anything he expects. Peter acknowledges that he is a sinner and feel he cannot be close to Jesus. The Lord has other plans! It is now people Peter will catch rather than fish. This encounter between Christ and Peter (and his companions) changes his life for ever - AND OURS!

We are about to embark on the Season of Lent. What will help us to encounter Jesus? (More prayer, coming to an extra Mass, Stations of the Cross, quiet time at home or in church?) Where will his Word fit into our lives to nourish, stimulate and challenge us? (Listening more attentively to the Scriptures at Mass and thinking about them later on in the week, picking up a Bible to read and reflect?) Are we ready to heed the Lord's voice and do what he asks? (Reaching out to the poor and needy, making a fresh start even if we did not succeed before?) Will we acknowledge our sinfulness and seek his mercy? (Determining to make this Year of Mercy have a deeper significance by determining to go to Confession, to make up with someone we have fallen out with, to work at overcoming bad habits we've fallen into?) What does he want us to do in these 40 Days? (Learn to make sacrifices and say 'No' so that we can be like Jesus, look at our crucifixes and ponder the love poured out?) Allow today's Gospel reading from St. Luke to be a snapshot of our aspirations this Lent.

Finally, a reminder about the Plenary Indulgence attached to going through the Jubilee Doors of Mercy (at Our Lady's and elsewhere). This is an extra grace which comes from recitation of the Creed, Prayers for the Pope's Intentions (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be), Reception of Holy Communion and going to Confession one week before or after a visit. Pope Francis says: 'Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of sin remain ... sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the Mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him or her from every residue of sin, enabling that person to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.' Remember this is not a mechanical act, it is an invitation to change and share with others the mercy experienced in encountering God. Also, the Plenary Indulgence can be applied to the Holy Souls in Purgatory or to a sick or infirm person who cannot get to church. What a great gift we can offer to others! Have a good week and God bless you! ***Fr. Norbert***

**BISHOP PAUL McALEENAN** will celebrate today's 9.30 Mass at Holy Family.

**STAINED GLASS** To commemorate the Year of Mercy and the Doors of Mercy at Our Lady's Church, new stained glass windows representing the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been installed. If any parishioners would like to contribute towards the £15k cost of the windows, there are special envelopes at the back of Our Lady's. If you are able to GiftAid your donation that would be brilliant! Thank you.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is this week on 10th February. There will be 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church, 12 noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's which will be celebrated by Bishop Paul. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at these Masses as well as in The Holy Family(10.45, 11.15, 1.15) and Our Lady(9, 9.45) Schools at special services to which parishioners are welcome. Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence which means that those over the age of 14 are asked to abstain from meat and those over 16 are asked to go without a meal. The sick, elderly, pregnant and frail are not bound by these requirements.

**LENT** There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes on Mondays at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass, at Holy Family on Thursdays after 9.30 Mass (during Confessions) and at St. Bonaventure's on Saturdays after 10am Mass (during Confessions). The Stations of the Cross will be at Holy Family on Wednesdays after 9.30 Mass, at St. Bonaventure's on Fridays after 9.30 Mass and at Our Lady's on Fridays after 7pm Mass. The next early Mass will be on Friday 4th March at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's. The Lenten Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm at Our Lady's.

**CARDINAL NICHOLS** will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 13th March at 10.30am to mark the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone. A date for your diary!

**CONFIRMATION** The Group meets in Holy Family's Parish Room today at 7.15pm. The next gathering will be a Retreat Day at The Friars, Aylesford Kent on Sunday 28th February with the coach leaving from Our Lady's at 9am sharp.

**RCIA** There are 9 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter this year. Today they will be presented at the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's and sign a scroll which will be taken to the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday at 3pm. The next session is on Monday 8th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy. Please keep them in your prayers.

**CWL** The Catholic Women's League are having their Pre-Lent Fish and Chip Supper on 9th February after the 7pm Mass at Our Lady's Church. If there are any ladies wishing to join us you would be very welcome. The cost is £9. Phone Anne Davidson on 01707 327569. If anybody needs to be collected please speak to Anne. **Lent Lunches** are starting on 13th February from 12 - 1.30 at Our Lady's Family Centre. The cost is £3 for Soup/Roll/Cake. Tea and Coffee. If anybody needs a lift please contact Anne Davidson 01707 327569.

**JOHN CARTON RIP** John's Funeral will be at Our Lady's on Monday 8th February at 1pm.

**EILEEN BURROUGHS RIP** Eileen's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Monday 15th February at 12.30pm. **JEAN WINTER RIP** Jean's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 16th February at 3.30pm. **DELIA MOORHOUSE RIP** Delia's Funeral Service will be on Our Lady's on Friday 19th February at 12.30pm.

**VERONICA WARD RIP** Veronica's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Thursday 25th February at 11.45am. Our prayers and sympathy to family and friends.

**CAFOD FAST DAY** will be on Friday 19th February.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** The next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 5th March at Our Lady's at 6pm. Bishop Paul will preside. There will be a gathering in the hall afterwards.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY** There will be an extra Mass at 7pm at Our Lady's on Thursday 17th March to mark St. Patrick's Day. Bishop Paul will be the main celebrant. There will be a 'Get-together' in the Hall afterwards. If anyone would like to help with entertainment, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**MASS FOR SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** at Cathedral on Saturday 14th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by the 7th March 2016. Over the years many couples from our three churches have had a wonderful time at this celebration!

**SCHOOL FORMS** Fr. Norbert will be available in Our Lady's Church for signing the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Nursery on the following dates: Friday 12th February 3.30 - 5.30pm, Tuesday 23rd February 3.30 - 5.30pm and Tuesday 15th March 3.30 - 5.30pm. Parents should phone Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come with their child and the necessary form together with the additional yellow form available at the back of our churches and wait in the church until called. *A reminder that the forms can only be signed for practising Catholic families*

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH:** Thank you to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** Jenny Owen, Chair of Governors writes: 'The Head Teacher and Governors of Holy Family Catholic Primary School are delighted to inform parishioners that the school has received a report from Ofsted rating the school "Good" in all aspects. The inspection took place on 13 and 14 January. The children's behaviour was exemplary and even the very youngest children could show the inspectors they knew each day why a candle is lit and what this represents. We are all so proud of them. The Ofsted report represents the fruits of a lot of hard work on the part of the school staff. I am sure parishioners will join us in giving thanks and congratulations to each child and staff member. Holy Family School is a truly joyful, prayerful and hard working place.' *Well done!*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Eileen and Ken Firminger of Holy Family Church who celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary this week. Well done!

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOOR** will be sanded and sealed the week beginning Monday 22nd February and completed by Friday 26th. This means that there cannot be any Funerals there that week. Tuesday's 9.30 Mass on 23rd will be in Our Lady's Church and Friday's 9.30 Mass on 26th will be in Holy Family Church.

**CARDINAL NICHOLS** has chosen Our Lady's Church to be one of four in the Diocese where he will preach catechesis on the Year of Mercy. This will be on Sunday 3rd July at 4pm, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions, Mass at 6.30pm and then a social. On that day there will not be 6pm Mass at Holy Family. Please keep this date free and let family and friends know!

**QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY** The Christian Churches in WGC will have an afternoon of tea and cake, stalls and other activities on Sunday 12th June from 3 - 5pm on Parkway. This will coincide with a tea party on the Mall in London to mark the Queen's official birthday. This will be followed by 'Songs of Praise' until 6pm. If anyone would like to help with the organisational side of this event, please let Fr. Norbert know. Again another date for your diaries!

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** organised by the SVP will be in Our Lady's on Saturday 21st May at 12 noon.

**INTERFAITH** next evening meeting will be at the Jim McDonald Centre in Hatfield at 7.15 on Monday 8th February when the subject will be Family and Faith. and then our Ladies Chat Lunch takes place on Tuesday 16th February 12.30 - 2 at St. Francis Parish Room, Parkway.

**DO YOU HAVE** a dressmaker's mannequin that Sophie Constable could borrow? Please ring 01438-716777 / 07956 287130 or see Sophie at 9.30 Mass. Thank you.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234  
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk  
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

Our Lady's  
141 Woodhall Lane  
AL7 3TP

Website: [www.ourladays-parish.info](http://www.ourladays-parish.info)

Fr. Martin 01707 327434  
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk  
Holy Family Church  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

**YEAR OF MERCY** On the first Friday of the month during the Year of Mercy there will be an early Mass (lasting 25 minutes) at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am followed by a light breakfast. The idea is to give workers, commuters and others the opportunity to come together and make a prayerful start to the day in excellent company. Friday 4th March, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October and 4th November.

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579

St. Bonaventure's  
81 Parkway AL8 6JF  
Website: [www.stbonaventure.org.uk](http://www.stbonaventure.org.uk)

**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**

Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442

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

**MASS TIMES**

08 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
	1pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
<b>10 Wednesday</b>	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Holy Family	
11 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Our Lady of Lourdes)
12 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>			
<b>13 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
<b>14 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family	
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	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