

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*

First Sunday of Lent 14th February 2016 (page 153 of Mass book)

TEMPTATION! To eat chocolates? To cheat? To do something which won't hurt anyone else? The list is endless. Jesus is led by the Spirit out into the wilderness for a time of testing - temptation. The period is forty days and three particular temptations are mentioned.

Firstly, to turn stones into bread. Wouldn't that be wonderful - the end of hunger as we know it! Jesus must have felt the pangs of hunger in the midst of the desert heat. In the wilderness he would have been surrounded by so many stones. How easy to end the suffering with such a miracle? Are there times when you have to say to yourself or someone else 'No!' even when what is being suggested is a good thing in itself?

Secondly, Jesus is offered power beyond measure if only he will worship the devil. Wow! To have power - this is something the oppressed yearn for and the rich think they already have. But at what price? The Lord's heart is focused totally on his Father - nothing and no-one will get in the way of this relationship of divine love. What do you face in your life which undermines your relationship of love with God? What can you do about it?

Finally, Jesus is encouraged to throw himself off the parapet of the Temple trusting that the angels will catch him and save him. Is this real faith or is it just a manipulation of a loving, compassionate Father? 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test' is Jesus' response. How does faith really touch your life and allow you to trust in God no matter what?

The devil is exhausted and unsuccessful! He will return at the appointed time when the Cross is imminent. As we journey through Lent will it be as easy for us or will the devil's temptations overcome us? Even if we feel we are getting somewhere, we must be ready to face the Cross and embrace the power of suffering revealed in God's Son's Death and Resurrection.

May God help each one of us!

Fr. Norbert

ST BONAVENTURE'S 90TH Cardinal Vincent 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. Altar Servers will have a rehearsal in the church on Saturday 12th March at 12.30pm. It is essential that their names are put on the list in the sacristy and that they come to the rehearsal. Musicians and singers will have a practice on Thursday 10th March 7.30 - 9.00pm in the church. The Reception will be in the Focolare Centre. We need parishioners to bring finger food to share. Please sign your name on the list at the back of the church.

CAFOD FAST DAY This Friday (19th) is a Cafod Fast Day when we have the opportunity to ensure that girls living in the world's poorest countries are free to change their lives by getting an education. Cafod is working with local expert organisations around the world to bring water to family homes, so girls who used to spend hours collecting it every day, will now have time for school, study and to play with their friends. There are special Cafod Fast envelopes available and a chance to GiftAid your contribution so that the tax paid can be reclaimed. Also this year the UK Government has promised to match every pound and penny you give this Lent! Please make a sacrifice this Friday and bring your money back next weekend for a retiring collection. Thank you.

DEANERY MASS OF WELCOME for Bishop Paul McAleenan on Wednesday 2nd March at 7pm in St. Hilda's Church, Shephall, Stevenage (9 Breakspear, Stevenage SG2 9SQ) . All our parishioners are welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards. This will be referred to as a 'Station Mass' which comes from the tradition in Lent of the Pope celebrating Mass in various churches in Rome.

MISSION OF MERCY Week beginning Monday 6th June. Each evening (Monday to Friday) there will be a Service in Our Lady's Church led by the priests of the Stevenage Deanery.

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.

CONFIRMATION The Group has a Retreat Day at The Friars, Aylesford Kent on Sunday 28th February with the coach leaving from Our Lady's at 9am sharp.

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 Mass will be in 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 12.30pm. **KATHLEEN MURPHY RIP** Kathleen's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's on Wednesday 9th March at 9.30am.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS of our three churches have their next meeting on Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

PRAGUE 2016 Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches for the October Pilgrimage to Prague in the Czech Republic. The highlight will be a visit to the statue of the Infant of Prague. The dates are Saturday 22nd - Wednesday 26th and the price £599.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Brochures and booking forms are at the back of the churches. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?! Any questions - ask Fr. Norbert! If any parishioners would like to sponsor a young person going or part sponsor, please let Fr. Norbert know. (The cost of a place is £750).

EASTER TRIDUUM Bishop Paul will be with us in the Garden City for the Easter Services.

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: 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*

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. Also, the old carpet is going to be removed and a new one ordered so it is possible that for a couple of weeks there might not be a carpet.

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.

400 CLUB Results of the January Draw: 1st £100 No.077 P Relph. 2nd No 202 M Skinner. 3rd £25 No. 010 N Patterson. Congratulations to the winners and our thanks to all the members who's contributions make the draw possible. Collection of subscriptions for the February Draw will take place after the Masses at Our Lady's on February 27th and 28th. Any one wishing to enter the Draw can see one of the helpers at the back of the Church at that time. The subscription is £1 per month and £175 are distributed in prizes every month.

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.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC. More details in due course.

RCIA There are 9 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter this year. They were at the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday. The next session is on Monday 22nd at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy. Please keep them in your prayers.

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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

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 Apologies for incorrect information on the back of last week's newsletter about Wednesday evening's Mass.

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

MASS TIMES

15 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
16 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	3.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
18 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
19 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
Second Sunday of Lent				
20 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family	

<p>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</p>
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