

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*

Second Sunday of Lent 21st February 2016 (page 156 of Mass book)

Every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we recall the Transfiguration of Jesus. Today we hear St. Luke's account which has its own unique features. Let us take time to reflect on these and think about our own Lenten journey.

Firstly, Jesus goes up the mountain to pray. While caught up in this deep prayer his face's aspect is changed and his clothing becomes as brilliant as lightning. Let us consider Jesus' Baptism: he was at prayer and the Spirit came from heaven like a dove and the Father's voice was heard claiming Jesus as his Beloved Son on whom his favour rested. Jesus never stopped praying; indeed his life of prayer sustained him in so many ways. Prayer is a Trinitarian experience! How does your life of prayer support you on a daily basis? Do you ponder what it means in prayer to be immersed in the life of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Secondly, it is only in St. Luke that we hear the content of the conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah, namely they were speaking about the passing which Jesus would accomplish in Jerusalem; the word is 'exodus'. Immediately this word puts us in touch with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. It takes us back to the people of Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt to the joy of the Promised land. We are pointed forward to Easter in St. Luke when Jesus helps the disciples understand that the Christ had to suffer and that the Resurrection was predicted in Scripture. Do you feel you are getting ready in Lent for an encounter with Jesus who suffered, died and rose? Is your Lenten undertaking helping you with this?

Finally, only St. Luke tells us that the disciples are heavy with sleep but keep awake/wake up. They then see the glory of the Transfiguration. Lent is time of awakening, for our eyes to be open to Christ and a fresh experience of God's power at work in him.

So let us pray that this Lent will be a grace-filled moment in our lives, our community and our world when we truly encounter God and are given a vision of the glory to which he is calling us. God bless you. ***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 Friday was Cafod Fast Day. Please return your envelopes or contribution in the retiring collection today. This year the UK Government has promised to match every pound and penny you give this Lent!

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.

YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGES TO OUR LADY'S St. Vincent de Paul Primary School in Stevenage will come on Monday 29th February (from 10.30am) and Wednesday 2nd March (from 10.45am). Our Lady School will come on Friday 4th March (from 9am). St. Philip Howard Primary School will be coming on Tuesday 15th March. St. Helen's Parish, North Watford will come at 6.30pm on Friday 11th March (After Stations of the Cross there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions until 9pm. Apparently 50 people have already signed up!) Holy Rood Watford's Ascent Group will come on Tuesday 3rd May. Holy Family School will choose a date after Easter. **LOCAL SCHOOLS** Year 2 from Swallow Dell will visit Our Lady's Church on Monday 22nd February at 10.45am.

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. Our Confirmation candidates will lead the Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's on Friday 11th March at 7.30pm.

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. **BETTY FORBES R.I.P.** Funeral Mass is on Thursday 10th March at 11.30am in Our Lady's.

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. Any questions - ask Fr. Norbert! If any parishioners would like to sponsor a young person going, please let Fr. Norbert know. (The cost of a place is £750).

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 this week (beginning Monday 22nd) 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. The old carpet has gone! A new one has been ordered.

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.

CWL LENTEN LUNCHEAS at Our Lady's every Saturday in Lent from 12noon to 1.30pm in the Family Centre. **CWL Project for 2016** The CWL are supporting Women's Refuge and would like anything that people have to offer, e.g. women's clothing, (the size marked and clean please) toiletries etc. Please contact Pat Kennedy, 01707 372097 or deliver to The Pomegranate Cafe, Our Lady's Parish Centre, Woodhall Lane.

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. **RCIA** The next session is on Monday 22nd at 7.30pm.

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

DORA O'MAHONEY RIP Dora, the mother of Rosemary Sherry, was a parishioner of Holy Family and taught in Our Lady School in the 70s and early 80s. She died last week and her Funeral Mass will be at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Milton Keynes on Tuesday.

THE RETROUVAILLE weekend is on Friday the 11th - 13th of March 2016. In brief it's to assist in nourishing existing marriages as well as helping troubled and broken marriages. To speak to someone in confidence please call: 0788 7296 983 or 0797 3380 443 email <http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/> or for more information <http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/>

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Fr. Martin 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

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 Gift Aid your donation that would be brilliant! Thank you.

ST. DAVID'S DAY Tuesday 1st March. There will be refreshments after the morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's. If anyone would like to help with these, please speak to Kathryn Hubbard.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Please pray for our children who will be making their First Confession in the coming weeks: at Our Lady's on Saturday 27th February at 11am, at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 12th March at 11am and at Holy Family on Saturday 12th March at 2pm.

EARLY MORNING MASS on Friday 4th March at 6.30am in St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast. ALL WELCOME!

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

MASS TIMES

22 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	The Chair of St. Peter
23 Tuesday	*9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's *	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
25 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
26 Friday	*9.30am	Mass	Holy Family*	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
Third Sunday of Lent				
27 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 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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