

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Registered Charity 233699

Parish Priest: Father Bill McConalogue

Parish Secretary: Mrs Kathryn Hubbard

(Father Bill can also be contacted on 01707 327434)

First Sunday of Lent 10th February 2008

Lent is a journey of repentance marked by the sharing of sacred stories central to our faith. Today we enter the desert with the Lord. In the weeks to come we will climb the mountain of Transfiguration with him. Soon after, we will witness him with the Samaritan woman at the well. As Lent draws toward Easter we will see the Lord heal the blind man and stand in wonder as he raises Lazarus from the dead. But first we must follow the Lord into the desert of repentance, as our scriptures invite us to do now.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm 50

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.



My dear Parishioners and Visitors,

WELCOME I extend a very warm welcome to everyone. If you have recently moved into the parish, or have started coming to Mass here, please do introduce yourselves to me or Father Joe after Mass.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday 11th Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick
Thursday 14th SS Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe

FATHER MICHAEL GROARKE R.I.P. It is with sadness that we let you know of the death of Fr. Michael Groarke who was a former parish priest of Our Lady's Church. Fr. Groarke would have celebrated 60 years of priesthood this year. May he rest in peace. Details of his funeral will be announced when they become available.

LENT FAST DAY This Friday, 15th February, is Lent Fast day. We are invited to think about changing the way we relate to creation. In many CAFOD-funded projects, poor communities are learning to care for the earth and switching to more sustainable livelihoods. If we believe creation is a gift from God to be cherished, then climate change is a dire warning that we should be treading more lightly on God's earth. Fast Days are one of the key activities in CAFOD's year when we are invited to go without something and give what we save to CAFOD to help them in their work. You will find a donation envelope in the basket next to your newsletter today, please take one, fill it up and return it next Sunday in the second collection. Don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid details if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN We meet again next Saturday at the usual time of 10.30am. Parents are reminded that there will be a meeting for them at 11.15am, attendance at this meeting is very important as the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be explained.

CHILDREN'S MASS Next Sunday 10.30am. Our theme is 'Lent is a time for growing more like Jesus'.

LENTEN ALMS Donations in the Charity Box for Lent will be for Lenten Alms. Each Year we collect Lenten Alms for those both *at home* and *abroad* who are most in need. Within the diocese the money collected will be for newly arrived migrants in the Diocese. Most especially the diocese will be supporting the work of the Brothers of St. John of God in Euston, and the work of the Sisters of Mercy in the Women at the Well House in Kings Cross working with trafficked women. Outside the Diocese our Lenten Alms will be for the relief of the poor in Zimbabwe and for a particular project in South Africa. Please be as generous as you can.

TAMALE The Tamale New Year Sale on Sunday 27th January raised £328.74. Thank you very much for your generous support. A further £500 is being sent to the Sisters of St. Gilda for their work amongst the young people.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTER FAITH GROUP Continuing in this series of Rites of Passage - there will be a panel discussion on how the different faith communities mark 'Marriage' on Monday 3rd March at 7.45pm in St. Francis Church Hall. If you require further details please phone 324828.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES At our 10.30am Mass today our young people who are to be confirmed in April make their Act of Commitment. Please pray for them as they continue in this journey of faith.

CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We had a very successful Pancake Party last Tuesday which was attended by 45 of our children. A big thank you to all the mums who kept us supplied with pancakes, and thank you to the children who behaved so well! We meet again after half-term for both groups. 3.45pm, all welcome.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES If you are interested in coming with the group from our three parishes from 20th - 26th July please contact Kathryn (322579) in the parish office.

ITALIAN CIRCLE 'The Life of St. Francis of Assisi'. An audio-visual presentation by Rev. Peter Louis at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club, Manicotts, High Oaks on Monday 18th February at 8pm. Non-members £5.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FAIR TRADE? There will be a Fair Trade evening organised by the Justice and Peace Group at Our Lady's Church on Friday 29th February in the church and parish hall. The event will begin with Mass at 7pm followed by a reception and film show in the hall. There will also be a guest speaker and stalls selling Fair Trade products. See posters at the back of church.

CATHOLIC PAPERS Please note that all the Catholic papers cost £1. Sales of these are down at the moment so please think about buying one. The cost of the Tablet magazine is £2.30.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you are new to the parish or there are some changes to your circumstances then please fill in a Parish Registration form. They are in the leaflet dispensers at the back of the church (on the wall). If you are updating your form please indicate this on the form. Return forms to the presbytery, thank you.

*May God bless you all,
Father Bill*

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 10TH FEBRUARY

10 Sunday 8am Mark Tomlinson (lately dead)
 10.30am Coral Smith (anniversary)

Weekdays

11 Monday 9am Eucharistic Service
12 Tuesday 9am Bella Larkin (lately dead)
13 Wednesday 9am Mary E. Mackell R.I.P.
14 Thursday 9am Thanksgiving
15 Friday 9am Private intentions (JC)
16 Saturday 10am Thanksgiving - St. Joseph

17 Sunday 8am Wrixon and Gardiner family R.I.P.
 10.30am Private intentions (JC)

Please note: There is Mass at 7pm every Sunday in Holy Family Church

Morning Prayer of the Church begins 15 minutes before Mass on each weekday.
The Rosary is recited on Wednesdays after Mass and the Stations of the Cross on Fridays.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT First Friday of the month from 9.30am concluding with **BENEDICTION** at 12noon.

CONFESSIONS Saturdays 10.30am - 11am.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS are on a page 73 of the Mass Book.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: John Saunders, Nicola Coles, Catherine Conroy, Debrae Betts, Colin Wright, Susan Hughes, Kathleen Campbell, Teresa Mitchell, Charlie Botwright, Maureen Botwright, Phyllis Coughlan, Meg Ansell, Marjorie Davis, Peter Conroy, Nora O'Loughlin, Pat Wells, Ted Evans, Ruth Bauer-Flynn, Mollie Brennan, Patrick Burke, Ruth Williams, James May, Keith Kerrison, Mrs Power, Peter Ferguson, Kitty Stephens, and all the sick amongst our personal friends and relations, those in the Q.E. II hospital and all who are in need of our prayers.

ANNIVERSARIES Please remember James Lee, Isabel Lee, Alfred and Elizabeth Gardiner, Coral Smith, Dr. Ian Richardson, Paddy Winter, Helen Morrissey, Francis Doran, Noel Marshall, Leonard Coyle, Sheila Connaughton, and all those who have no one to pray for them.

<p>CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain, Mrs Bernadette Cassidy, on 07623 897178.</p>
