

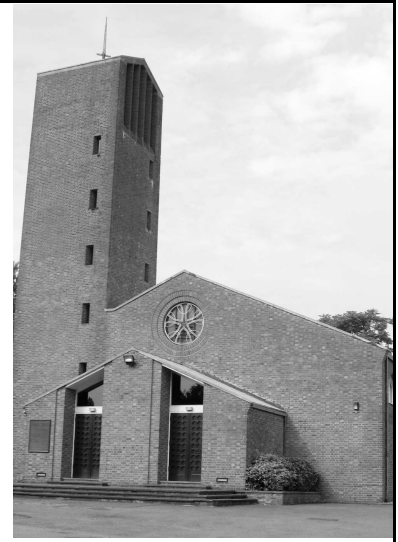
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Twenty-first Sunday of the Year  
23rd August 2009***

Today in our Gospel reading we return to the final section of John Chapter 6. Jesus had taught the people that he is the Bread of Life and that the food he gives is his flesh - real food - and the drink he offers is his blood - real drink. Now is the crunch moment: many cannot stomach this kind of teaching and they part company with the Lord. The sadness of this scene comes from the fact that those who leave are the Lord's followers and not his adversaries. The question Jesus puts to the Twelve is so poignant: 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Peter is the spokesman for the Twelve and articulates faith: 'You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' Well done, Peter! Choice is an amazing gift from God. To have the freedom to opt for God or to turn away from him is incredible. God never forces himself on anyone though he might find ways of prodding someone non-stop! Today we are asked to consider again the choices we made or renewed at various stages in life. The decision we make in faith is truly for Jesus Christ. He speaks words to us which are spirit and life. As these words are welcomed into our hearts, they take root, spread and affect our way of living. The food and drink offered by the Lord, once eaten and drunk, are incorporated into our very being and become a part of the person that each of us is. However, WE must say 'Yes!' to Jesus and then live out the full impact of the choice we have made in the every day as well as in church, in good times as well as when facing the darkness of uncertainty.

As the summer months continue to unfold, let us pray for the Christians of Welwyn Garden City and the surrounding villages, that our faith and love may be a clear sign to those around us of what commitment to Jesus Christ really means and may draw them to a real, living experience of the Lord. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**FR. MEAZA SAYS ‘A BIG THANK YOU’** It is about eight weeks since I came to your beautiful WGC for parish supply from Belgium, Leuven Catholic University, where I am doing my graduate studies. (As you know I am from the Archdiocese of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and a priest of Ge’ez, (Ethiopian) rite.) I have been serving in all the three Catholic parishes of WGC. It was a very good experience to me having this chance to know you, to pray and to spend 2/3rds of my summer vacation with you. Fr. Norbert Fernandes, your parish priest was so good to me in many ways. Many of you prayed with me in Masses which is one of the most important values in our Christian faith, some had invited me for meals and even had given me a tour, some share your life (situation) and many of you expressed your love and appreciation in various ways. As I am on my way to leave on the coming Monday, 24th of August right after Mass, what can I say better than your English “THANK YOU” which I am hearing from you every single day. Indeed, I would like to take this chance to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH and may God bless you all. United in prayers, **Abba (Fr.) Meaza Woldemichael** Meazayesus@yahoo.com

*The parishioners of WGC would also like to say ‘Thank you’ to Fr. Meaza for his ministry to them and we wish him well as he returns to his studies.*

**WEEKDAY MASSES IN WGC** At present St. Bonaventure’s has been able to have morning Masses Tuesday to Saturday. This has been due to the generosity of Fr. McCoy who has offered his services in this way. Unfortunately at present he is unwell and so these Masses are being covered as best we can. Hopefully, he will feel better soon and so the schedule will start up again as normal. However, we need to think about Holy Family once Fr. George Buleya has returned to Malawi at the start of next month. My suggestion is that from 31st August, on Mondays there will be Mass at Our Lady’s at 9.30am, Tuesdays at Our Lady’s at 7pm, Wednesdays at Holy Family at 9.30am and Fridays at Holy Family at 7pm. Thursday is usually my day off and I am assuming that the supply priest for when I am away may want to keep to this. Friday’s Mass at Holy Family will be followed by half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during which Confessions would be heard; there would be a simple Benediction at 8pm. I hope that this would be a quiet, gentle end to the week with silence and time to think. For now Saturday morning Mass at Our Lady’s at 9.30 will continue. I would urge those with cars who at present attend daily Mass to give lifts to those who usually come on foot. Apart from Thursdays there would NOT be Services of Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Services). Thank you for your co-operation and support. **Fr. Norbert.** *(This week’s Mass times are on back page)*

**CAFOD LUNCH** This Friday at St. Bonaventure’s from 12noon - 1.30pm. £3.50.

**CAFOD GROUP BBQ** There will be a BBQ in aid of CAFOD on Sunday 6th September at 48, London Road, Welwyn (01438 717806) from 1pm. £6 adults, £3 children.

**CAFOD GROUP CALENDAR** Holy Family CAFOD group are looking for good photos of events in the churches this year for a calendar to be out in time for Christmas. If you have any photos please email them to bob.leys@ntlworld.com.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** (Fr. Norbert writes) After the holidays many parents will be choosing Secondary Schools. For those who apply to Catholic Schools, a 'Priest's Reference' is often essential and so my involvement is very important. I propose to have a meeting with **all parents** who will need a 'Priest's Reference' on **Sunday 27th September in St. Bonaventure's at 7.15pm**. It will be an opportunity to talk in a general way about many of the issues and to offer ten-minute appointments when I can meet a **child and parent/s**. The appointments will be at **Holy Family Church on Monday 28th September 5-7pm**, at **Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 29th September 5-7pm** and at **St. Bonaventure's Church on Wednesday 30th September 5-7pm**. Parents should make sure they acquire from the relevant Catholic School the 'Self-Assessment Form' about religious practice and bring it to the appointment. I will then be able to complete my part of the form and give it back immediately. Please remember that Catholic Schools also ask for the Baptismal Certificate of the child. Parents are asked to make sure that they sort this out well in advance. For children baptised at Holy Family, Our Lady's or St. Bonaventure's, Kathryn Hubbard will issue the certificates and the appropriate parish Baptismal Registers will be held at St Bonaventure's to facilitate this. I want to offer my support to all our children and their parents and I have found this to be one of the fairest and most efficient ways of approaching the process as Parish Priest.

**PRESENTATION TO FR. GEORGE BULEYA** On Sunday 30th August at 10am Mass at Holy Family a cheque for nearly £8000 for a well in Malawi will be presented to Fr. George (donations still welcome). Afterwards you are invited for refreshments in the Parish Room, giving you a chance to bid farewell to Fr. George for another year.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY** Our Lady's Church will be marking the 50th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone on Sunday 4th October with Mass at 11am followed by lunch and a party to which all are welcome. As part of the party afterwards there will be a pantomime, Dick Whittington, being performed. Adults and children are needed to act, and adults and children for the chorus as well. Please contact Barbara Moore on 01707 333645 or Hayley on 01438 362436 if you would like to take part.

**RCIA** Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church - or wanting to find out more - is invited to come to the sacristy of Our Lady's Church, Woodhall Lane on Monday 2nd November at 7.45pm. Also, Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation would be most welcome. There is still some time to go but we wanted you to put this date in your diaries and to start encouraging people to come. Perhaps this might be the right year for them ... or for you!

**OUR LADY'S WEBSITE** is now up and running on a reliable and secure host server and we anticipate a good service from now on. Please enter [www.ourladys-parish.info](http://www.ourladys-parish.info) into your internet browser and you will be taken straight to the site. You may like to save this as a bookmark or favourite for easy access. The Newsletter, Our Lady's weekly diary and rotas can be found from links on the Home page.

**SOPHIE CONSTABLE** I am 18 years old and have Down's Syndrome and diabetes. I am looking for a part-time Personal Assistant/Companion. Flexible hours, pay circa £8-10 per hour. Car driver/owner essential, mileage paid. Must be a non smoker. I love life, I have been an altar server at Holy family for 10 years. My interests include: music, dancing, cooking, shopping, T.V., theatre and all sports e.g. football (watching and playing), netball and horse riding. Please phone 01438 716777 for more information.

**SVP REQUEST** A small fridge is required for a client. If you can help please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER** Items for the newsletter to Kathryn Hubbard at St. Bonaventure's by Friday morning at the latest. You can phone (322579), put them through the presbytery letterbox or email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk.

### CONTACTS

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**Website:**  
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**Kathryn Hubbard 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
**St. Bonaventure's**  
**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**  
**Website:**  
**www.stbonaventure.org.uk**

### THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

**St. Bonaventure** (note changes for this week)

81 Parkway AL8 6JF

**Sunday**                   **8am & 6pm**  
 Mon, Tues, Fri.    9am Mass  
 Wed & Thurs       9am Eucharistic Service  
 Sat                     10am Mass  
 Confessions         10.30am-11am (Sat)



**Our Lady, Queen of Apostles**  
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP  
**Saturday**           **6pm**  
**Sunday**             **12noon**  
 Mon, Wed  
 & Sat                 9.30am Mass  
 Tues & Fri           7pm Mass  
 Thurs                9.30am Eucharistic Service  
 Confessions         5pm - 5.30pm (Sat)

**Holy Family**  
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ  
**Sunday**           **10am**  
 Mon                 9.30am Mass  
 Tues                9.30am Mass  
 Wed                 Eucharistic Service  
 Thurs               Eucharistic Service  
 Fri                   9.30am Mass  
 Confessions       10am - 10.30am (Sat)  
                           5.30pm - 6pm

**CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II HOSPITAL:** If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain, Mrs Bernadette Cassidy, on 07884187463