

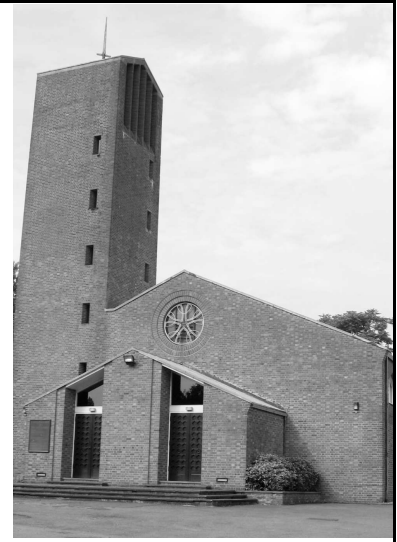
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

***Twenty-third Sunday of the Year  
6th September 2009***

After having been appointed parish priest of Holy Family in 2003, Fr Bill McConalogue (RIP) also decided to extend his pastoral care to St. Bonaventure in 2005, counting on the help of an assistant priest. However, his expected assistant could only be free to come some seven months or so later. In the meantime I presented myself to him through the diocesan service as a Supply Priest. I was to help mostly in St. Bonaventure's church, occasionally in Holy Family and in the following consecutive summers I supplied in Our Lady's Parish. In our general conversation I came to understand that in spite of his apparently frail health this little church of St. Bonaventure's where he was baptised, received his First Holy Communion, and got confirmed could not remain without a priest while he was the next-door parish priest. To achieve this he got the help of two retired priests, Fr. Joe for Sunday Masses and Fr. McCoy for weekday Masses. Three priests for two parishes, a rare occurrence nowadays.

When Fr. Norbert took over from Fr. Peter last summer my name was suggested to him as a possible Supply Priest, should the need arise. Before I arrived the Lord had called Fr. Bill to his eternal reward and his two assistants had gone on complete retirement leaving Fr Norbert to look after the three parishes alone.

On my arrival Fr. Norbert had so many things to explain to me about the 'new reality' of the Welwyn Garden City Catholic community before leaving for his holidays. He showed me the newsletter for which he asked me to make a small introductory reflection (which is what this is supposed to be). He pointed out to me the pictures of the three churches of WGC and the care that was taken to respect the particular corresponding communities by following the chronological order in their layout on the front page.

Three days later, at the end of Mass in Our Lady's church I heard one parishioner encouraging another with the words, "You should volunteer to read or distribute Holy Communion. After all, your people are also coming to our parish". To which the other replied, "My people? Your parish? There is no more such thing as our parish in Welwyn Garden City, we are all one now!" I was tempted to give an image of this being 'one now' - 'one family' This would be inappropriate; the new reality of the churches in Welwyn Garden City, together with their respective communities, cannot be created from without but must come from within. It cannot come from a pre-existing model but from one that will have to be forged through the good will and participation of all, most probably over many years to come. Yes, there are fears about what might happen in the near future, but why not look to forward with hope as we are encouraged by the words of this Sunday's first reading: *Thus says the LORD: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, ... he comes to save you.* Is this not the time for us to be even more heedful to the words of St James: *My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?* Or, are we going to resist Christ's effort to open our ears so that we can hear his Word and to loosen our tongues so that we can proclaim his Glory? May God bless you. *Fr. Felix*

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP** 'Autumn Festivals' A description and discussion on the current festivals for Faith groups: Christian - Harvest, Islam - Ramadan, Eid, Hindu - Divali, Jewish - Rosh Hasanah, Yom Kippur. Wednesday 30th September 7.30pm in the Park Lounge, Campus West.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR** We meet again on Thursday from 8pm - 9pm. If you enjoy singing just come along to the church.

**HOLY FAMILY CHOIR** Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join the choir at 10am Mass, simply come upstairs and make yourself known or contact Sally Kee 01707 261394.

**CWL** The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th September in Our Lady's. The 7pm Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of Elizabeth O'Sullivan, a well known member who died earlier this year. The meeting follows on at about 7.45pm. Any ladies who would like to come will be welcome.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUPS** We meet again this Tuesday 8th September for all groups. All children from our three parishes, are welcome to attend from 3.45pm - 4.45pm (in the parish hall) to learn more about their faith in a relaxed and fun way. Come and get to know other parish children. If you haven't been before just turn up.

**FIRST COMMUNION 2009 ST. BONAVENTURE'S** If you haven't collected an application form for First Holy Communion in 2009 you will find a form at the back of the church. Please return it as soon as possible.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2009 HOLY FAMILY** If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church please pick up a form from the back of the church and make yourself known to Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172. *Our Lady's application forms available soon.*

**RUTH BAUER-FLYNN R.I.P.** The Funeral Mass for Ruth Bauer-Flynn R.I.P. who died on Monday takes place this Wednesday in St. Bonaventure's at 1pm. We offer our sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER** . Fr. Norbert will have a meeting with all parents who will need a 'Priest's Reference' on Sunday 27th September in St. Bonaventure's at 7.15pm. Personal appointments where he can meet a child and parent/s will be at Holy Family Church on 28th 5-7pm, at Our Lady's Church on 29th 5-7pm and at St. Bonaventure's Church on 30th 5-7pm. If you need a copy of your child's baptism certificate this can be obtained from Kathryn at St. Bonaventure's (for all parishes). We are aware of problems relating to not having the forms to sign at the personal appointments and you will be informed at Fr. Norbert's meeting on 27th as to what is to happen in regard to this - please do not worry!

**THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES** are being re-launched this September and will be known in England and Wales as Missio. Fr. Philip Knights (the new Diocesan Director) and Fr. Ephraim Odhiambo (the Mill Hill mission appeals co-ordinator for Westminster Diocese) invite local secretaries of the APF (the mission 'Red Boxes'), promoters and anyone interested to a meeting at Marychurch, Hatfield on September 14th at 8pm. This is one of a series of meetings in all parts of the Diocese. This meeting is primarily for the parishes in St Albans and Stevenage deaneries but is open to all. More details from Fr Philip Knights philipknights@rcdow.org.uk or 01707 262439.

**APF RED BOXES** (St. Bonaventure's) It's time again for the Red Boxes to be collected so that the money can be counted and sent off to the APF. In the next few weeks holders of these boxes will be contacted by Steve Giblin, Mavis Cleasby or Desi Russell to arrange collection or you can leave your box at the back of the church if you prefer.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** Resumes today. At St. Bonaventure's the 6pm Mass replaces our 10.30am Mass so we have Children's Liturgy during it, we have some Latin on the 1st Sunday and our Children's Mass on the 3rd Sunday.

**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

**HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP AND COFFEE ROTA** If you are interested in being involved in either of the above please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394 or Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172.

**DICK WHITTINGTON PANTOMIME** As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations at Our Lady's Church it was hoped to have a pantomime performed by adults and children. So far the response for adults and children to take part has been very poor which is a shame as it is something Fr. Norbert would like to take place. Adults and children are still needed to take part. If there are no more volunteers by next Tuesday it looks as though this will not be taking place. Please contact Barbara Moore on 01707 333645 or Hayley on 01438 362436 if you would like to take part.

**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.

**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

**Fr. Norbert 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
**Our Lady's**  
**141 Woodhall Lane**  
**AL7 3TP**  
**Website:**  
**www.ourladys-parish.info**

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

**Holy Family Church**  
**194 Knightsfield**  
**AL8 7RQ**

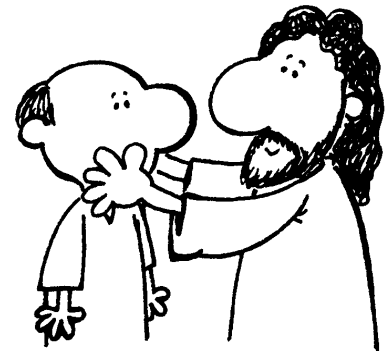
### MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

#### SUNDAY MASSES

<b>Saturday Vigil Mass</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>Confessions 5pm - 5.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>	
	<b>8am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>	
	<b>1pm</b>	<b>Funeral Mass (St. Bonaventure's)</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Funeral Mass (Our Lady's)</b>	
		<i>Eucharistic Services in St. B's 9am &amp; HF 9.30am</i>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Family + Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	<b>Confessions 10.30am - 11am</b>



**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