

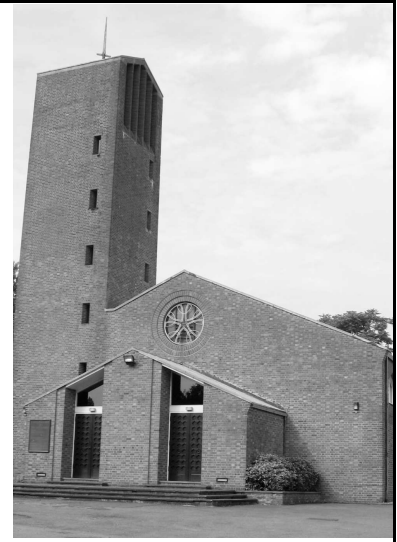
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

***Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year
13th September 2009***

Meekness is not Weakness.

The world God created out of selfless love and saw that it was good is often depicted as being pervaded by sin. It is a world where the shrewd, the 'hard-nosed' and the 'pushers' appear to thrive - at the expense of the poor and the weak. In various ways our own choices in life subscribe to this vision of the world. 'Son, to survive in this world you gotta be tough,' a common advice given by parents preparing their children to face 'real-life' situations. The world being the way it is, who can blame them? Whereas honestly hard-earned success is praiseworthy (parable of the talents), success leading to insensitivity against the needy at our doorstep (the rich man and Lazarus) is blameworthy.

What can we do to turn things around in favour of Gospel values (the beatitudes)? How can we credibly practise the faith we profess in the manner in which St James challenges us (2:14-18)? Our 'heroes' in modern life are those who have made it, the strong, the clever, and not the weak or the 'losers.' The hero the scriptures present to us on the contrary is a man at the mercy of his adversaries; humiliated, trampled upon, he will not raise a finger to defend himself or accuse his enemies. What parent would present such a 'weakling' to his children as a role model? And yet, this is the way God chose to restore our broken relationship with Him:

... God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong, (1 Cor. 1:27).

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But is this really about weakness? Is this not rather about meekness? In the beatitudes somebody suggested to replace the words *the meek* with *the cool* – to go by modern language. The verse would then read: *Blessed are the COOL, for they shall inherit the earth* (Mt. 5:5). Behind being COOL lies profoundly measured and considerate resourcefulness unparalleled by sheer might. It means being under control. A COOL person is no weakling, but rather one whose strength is controlled for use in a constructive manner. 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 CHILDREN’S TUESDAY GROUPS Both groups meet this Tuesday, we will do some preparation for our Children’s Mass on Sunday. Come and get to know other parish children. 3.45pm - 4.45pm. All welcome.

CHILDREN’S MASS (ST. BONAVENTURE’S) Next Sunday we have our Children’s Mass at 6pm The theme of the Mass is ‘Putting others first’ which is based on the Gospel of the day. Children’s Mass takes place every third Sunday of the month at 6pm.

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. Preparation begins on Saturday 3rd October and you will receive a letter prior to that date.

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.*

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS If you find you are now attending a different church and would like to exercise your ministry there please sign the list at the back of the church for Our Lady’s. For St. Bonaventure’s please phone Peter Bell on 01707 322579 if you would like to be on the Eucharistic Ministers rota, likewise if you would like to read please phone Kathryn in the office. Those attending Holy Family should also phone St. Bonaventure’s if they would like to read, be a Eucharistic Minister or welcomer and your details will be given to the co-ordinators of those groups. Thank you.

EXTRA GARDENING SESSION Due to the lush growth around Our Lady’s an extra session of garden maintenance is much needed. This will be on Saturday 19th September commencing at 10 am. Many thanks to all who helped on 5th September. Please come along and help with this essential work to prepare the grounds for the 50th anniversary celebrations on 4th October. *Many hands make ...!*

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 27TH SEPTEMBER A pilgrimage of reparation and prayer for the Sanctity of Life. Leaflets at the back of churches. Coach pick up point - Our Lady’s Church at 8am on 27th September.

WINNIE MCKAY R.I.P. It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Winnie McKay R.I.P. Winnie died peacefully in the hospice on Thursday evening. Winnie will be known by many in our three parishes. We offer our sympathy and prayers to her husband Patrick and all the family and friends.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER. Fr. Norbert meets with all parents who will need a 'Priest's Reference' on Sunday 27th September in St. Bonaventure's at 7.15pm. 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!

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.

Our Lady's boxes can now be brought into Our Lady's church for counting, please take them in to the sacristy for counting. We await information with regard to Holy Family boxes.

HOLY FAMILY MASS INTENTIONS Holy Family parishioners are reminded that they need to phone through or email Mass intentions to St. Bonaventure's, Mass envelopes can be put in the collection if you wish or they can be put through St. Bonaventure's letter box.

OUR LADY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS There are forms at the back of Our Lady's Church for anyone intending to attend the celebration on Sunday 4th October. Filling in a form will help with the catering arrangements. Forms should be returned in the box at the back of the church by next weekend

THANK YOU Phyllis McKeogh would like to thank all those who supported the CAFOD cake sale at her home last week. A very special thank you to Kate and Tony Worley for their invaluable help, before, during and after the event. £100 was raised through the sale of cakes and donations.

SVP REQUEST If you have a chest of drawers, a wardrobe and unwanted, but new, single and double mattresses please contact Janet Lewis. 01707 326456

ST. BONAVENTURE'S MOTHER AND TODDLER This group meets every Wednesday in the Parish Hall from 10am. Lots of toys to play with songs to sing and other activities. All are very welcome, do come along.

400 CLUB Results of the 400 Club August Draw: 1st £100 (no. 171) A. Carolan, 2nd £50 (no. 350) M. Moore, 3rd £25 (no. 367) P. Ryan. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contribute to Our Lady's Church through this monthly fundraising event.

CAFOD John Fogarty has entered the Great North Run as part of a CAFOD team. If you would like to sponsor him go to the website www.justgiving.com/John-J-Fogarty or send a donation to 23 Duncan Close AL7 3XP.

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

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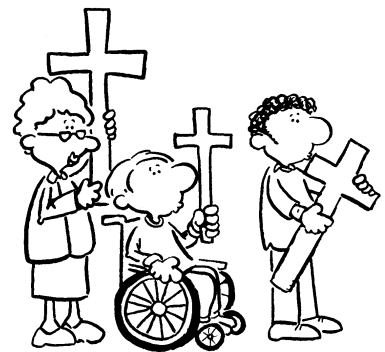
MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

SUNDAY MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
Tuesday	9am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
Thursday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
Friday	9am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Holy Family + Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession	
Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions 10.30am - 11am



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