

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year 18th October 2009

In his recent Pastoral Letter, Archbishop Vincent Nichols spoke of the importance of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Each of our churches has a tabernacle in which is reserved the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus really and truly present in the consecrated hosts. As I have sometimes mentioned, the principal purpose of the tabernacle is so that Holy Communion may be taken to the sick who are unable to get to Mass. The second - and very important - reason is so that the faithful may come and pray, knowing that the Lord is there in this most unique way. Using the consecrated hosts from the tabernacle for the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass is convenient and quite practical but not a priority.

There are two things I would like you to reflect on: firstly, how can we keep our churches open more often so that people can come and pray in the silence and peace of the Lord's House? Have you ever wanted a few moments of prayerful silence and were not sure how to get into the church? Secondly, in response to Archbishop Vincent, when would be the best times to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in each church and how regularly *so that people will come*? The Love poured out on Calvary when Jesus was victorious over sin and death, is Love held before us in the Sacred Host placed in the monstrance. We are given time to rest in the Lord's Presence and to bring before him our needs. The silence is a great blessing and his Real Presence a gift to be treasured. At present there are times of Exposition at St. Bonaventure's and Holy Family. Can and should these be extended? Our Lady's Chapel (near the Parish Centre entrance) is open all day and St. Bonaventure's each morning. Would anyone be willing to open and close the churches in a more extensive way *so that people might visit, light candles, pray and hallow these sacred buildings even more*? Everything cannot happen at once, but let us think about the way forward. I look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you. **Fr. Norbert.**

FR. ONDREJ WRITES: I'd like to express many thanks to everybody here in the three parishes of Welwyn Garden City for your welcome and care during my visit. I spent a really nice time here. It was a great opportunity to participate in Christian life and to feel the universality of the Church, to get know more about your culture and improve my English as well. I will bring you in my heart to Slovakia. God bless you.

Father Ondrej from Slovakia

COMBONI MISSIONARIES APPEAL Last Sunday's appeal at St. Bonaventure's by Fr. Benito of the Comboni Fathers raised the sum of £855. 40. Thank you for such a generous response.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Fr. Norbert will be available to bless graves at Hatfield Hyde Cemetery on Sunday 1st November at 3pm and at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway, on Sunday 8th November at 3pm. There will be a short Service of Prayer at the cemetery entrance and then people can take him to graves they wish to be blessed. This is a great tradition here in the area and a wonderful way of honouring our beloved dead in the month of the Holy Souls. Please let others know about it.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN SCHOOL Fr. Norbert will be celebrating Mass at the School on Friday 23rd October at 12.15pm. It is a 'Voluntary Mass' in the lunch break and he would love to see many pupils from Welwyn Garden City at the Mass if they are free at that time.

HERTFORDSHIRE AREA DAY Archbishop Vincent Nichols has invited the clergy of Hertfordshire to gather in Our Lady's Hall on Thursday 22nd October at 11am. He wants to share with the priests and deacons of the Area his thoughts and hear their response. So we look forward to welcoming many on Thursday to the Garden City. Please pray that all goes well.

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. 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!

THE CLIMATE BLOCKBUSTER FILM "The Age of Stupid" will be shown at the Free Church, Church Road WGC on Wednesday 28th October at 7.15pm. Free entry but donations towards costs welcome. See poster on noticeboard.

CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN Cards that have not been returned to CAFOD can be returned to any of our 3 churches and they will be taken to CAFOD HQ.

PETER LATCHFORD R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Peter Latchford R.I.P. will take place at St. Bonaventure's this Monday 19th October at 10.30am.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP This Tuesday both groups meet from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. All welcome.

SCHOOL FORMS Those parents who have appointments this Monday should wait in the church prior to their meeting with Fr. Norbert.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING The average weekly contributions for September for St. Bonaventure's came to £807.37. This includes standing orders, planned giving envelopes and loose. Thank you.

WORLD MISSION DAY This Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the APF (Overseas Missions) at Holy Family and St. Bonaventure's.

RED BOXES If any of Our Lady's parishioners haven't yet returned their Red Box these need to be in before the end of the month, also if you would like to make a donation that needs to be given in now. Thank you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: **Holy Family** Finance Committee meets on Friday 23rd October at 10.30am. **St. Bonaventure's** Finance Committee meets on Monday 26th October at 7.30pm and **Our Lady's Finance** Committee meets on Tuesday 27th at 7.45pm. **OUR LADY'S PARISH FORUM** Meets on Wednesday 28th October at 7.45pm in the Sacristy.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S LITURGY It has been lovely to see so many children attending the Children's Liturgy Group especially those from other churches. All children are welcome at our Mass, regardless of their age, and we understand that very young children can sometimes be noisy. However, our liturgy group is intended specifically for children between the ages of 3½ (when most children attend some kind of nursery and can go to the toilet by themselves) and 8 (when most children make their First Holy Communion and are mature enough to be able to cope with the structure of Mass). Our liturgy sessions are designed to make Mass a more meaningful experience for parents and children alike, therefore it has been the tradition that children attend the sessions by themselves to enable parents to concentrate fully on their own worship. However, if you are new to the Church and your child/children are nervous about going into the Liturgy Sessions on their own for the first time then by all means you are welcome to accompany them for their first session. Thanking you in anticipation for your understanding.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES There are more leaflets at the back of the churches advising you about what can be included in the shoe boxes. If you can't fill a box but would like to donate some items please bring them to St. Bonaventure's. Sally Kee has kindly offered to co-ordinate the boxes for Holy Family so you can take your filled boxes to the choir loft! There are also knitting patterns at the back of church for those who enjoy knitting. There is no scarf pattern but scarves are needed too. We have already received 6 filled shoe boxes.

SVP NEWS If you need a painter/decorator/ odd job man contact Janet Lewis (01707 326456) who can give you details. There will be an SVP sale after the 8am and 6pm Masses at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 15th November. Contributions for the raffle, bottles (all kinds, including small and inexpensive), small prizes for children are needed. Also 'good as new' items but please no books or jumble.

WINDOWS FUND The stained glass window of the crucifixion of Christ in Our Lady's Church is now repaired and refurbished and in place. The window produces a brilliantly coloured effect in the church. Everyone is invited to visit the church to behold the sheer beauty this window now reveals. We have received further donations in recent weeks and the amount raised to date is **£7395.00** towards this work. Further donations are welcome. **50th CELEBRATION:** A photo gallery of the 50th Celebration at Our Lady's can be accessed on www.ourladys-parish.info, news of the event is also on this website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION There will be meeting for **Our Lady's** parents who wish to register their children for the sacraments of First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion on Tuesday 1st December at 7.45pm following the 7.00pm Mass.

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

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass
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, Benediction + Confessions	
Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	



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