

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Fourth Sunday of the Year
31st January 2010***

Today is Education Sunday, a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of education.

Bishop Malcolm McMahon, who chairs the Catholic Education Service for England and Wales, has written for 2010: 'The elusive factor which often characterises our schools is referred to as *ethos*. This is expressed in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural threads that run through the whole of education. The subjects which are taught and the way they are delivered, the way a school is managed, the behaviour of staff and children; these too reflect what is summed up by the word *ethos*. The relationship which a teacher has with an individual pupil or student is usually a unique forum in which the young person is guided in discovery of the truth beyond the bare facts of the subject to that which is Truth itself. An awesome responsibility! The teacher in a Catholic school has a special role because for him or her, the child or student is not just a person to be trained for life but someone who has been created by God to reach a fulfilment which is beyond our imaginings. For a person to take on responsibility for our young people and become a teacher is more than finding a job which is personally satisfying; it is to become a partner in God's plan for a better world.'

Here in Welwyn Garden City, our two Catholic Primary Schools, Our Lady and Holy Family are leading two of the Masses. We are being given the opportunity to reflect on the importance of education. We welcome children and their families, staff and governors. We thank them for enriching our wider community. We pray for all in positions of responsibility as they lead and guide those entrusted to them. Let us ask God to help our young people grow in faith and love, discovering his presence in their lives and reaching their full potential.

May God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

CANDLEMAS Candles will be blessed and carried in procession on Tuesday at the two Masses. The feast of the Presentation of the Lord is always on the 40th day after Christmas.

ASH WEDNESDAY this year falls on 17th February. We are asking you to bring in your old palms from previous years and these will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. The old palms will be burned in a very simple ceremony after the 10am Mass at Holy Family on Sunday 14th, and after 9am Mass at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's on Tuesday 16th.

REVIEW MEETING with Bishop Stack on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall. Please keep reflecting on these questions: 1. What are some of the **positive outcomes** of the changes? 2. What are the **challenges** we face? 3. What is our **vision** of where we want to be in a year's time or in ten years' time? What will help us to achieve this? 4. What have been the major **disappointments** of the changes?

YMCA NEW SHOP DONATIONS The YMCA is opening a new shop on the first floor of the Howard Centre to help fund their vital work with young people including the Space project in the town centre and local supported accommodation for 125 people each night. The new shop will sell good quality second hand clothes and accessories. If you have any saleable items you no longer require, please bring them along. *Thank you very much for your ongoing prayer & support for the work of the YMCA.*

FOOD BANK A Food Bank has opened in WGC co-ordinated by New Zion Christian Fellowship based at 140 Cole Green Lane. Vouchers are distributed through 'frontline' organisations such as the SVP and these can be exchanged at the church on a Wednesday morning for food which should last for a week. New Zion is very keen to work with other Christian churches in collecting items for the needy and to this end there is now in each of our Catholic churches a big basket for non-perishable goods which might help a person or a family in need. Thank you for your non-stop generosity and consideration.

VALENTINE'S DAY will be here in two weeks time! For those intending to propose to their loved ones, it might be handy for you to know that there will be a **Marriage Preparation Day** for the deanery at Our Lady and St. Andrew's Church, Hitchin on Saturday 8th May. More details on 01462 459126. For those celebrating 10, 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of marriage, the Archbishop is inviting you to a **Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 22nd May at 3pm. If you qualify and would like to receive an invitation, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or phone number). *This must be done by the end of February.*

FR. DAVID WILLIAMSON will be in WGC to give his talk on *What can we know about Jesus from the Bible?* on Sunday 28th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE If you haven't yet given a donation towards the Haiti appeal and would like to do so please put your money in a CAFOD envelope. If you can Gift Aid please fill in your details.

CWL CHRISTMAS QUIZ The quiz has been marked. We raised £193. The winner was Peter Vincent, £40. There were 4 runners up: Tom Hoey, Siobhan Fisher, Phyllis McKeogh and Anne Keller. Each will receive £15. Full result and answer lists will be available at the back of each church. We would like to thank all involved in setting, marking, copying and contributing.

QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 6th February - 7.30pm till 9.30pm A Family Quiz Night at the Focolare Centre (next to St. Bonaventure's). It will be a fun filled evening with all proceeds going to Haiti. There will be cake stalls and a bring and buy, so if you have any odd things lying around please bring them along. Entrance fee - £2 for adults and 50p for children. Phone 01707 339706 for any further information.

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY and Apprenticeship/Training Day on Wednesday 3rd February 10am-2.30pm. Pomegranate Cafe and hall at Our Lady's. The event is being held to promote the local community, showcase training opportunities across Hertfordshire and celebrate success. We are working together to promote learning and community links with the Pomegranate Cafe based in Our Lady's. Local training providers, employers and voluntary organisations will be attending and presenting. Refreshments available, everyone welcome, Please contact Sally Ann Williams at Future Pathways on 01707 258147 should you require any further information. Hope to see you there!

CONFIRMATION 2010 We ask all young people of our three churches who wish to be confirmed to fill out an application form available at the back of each church and return to Fr. Norbert or Fr. Michael by Sunday 7th February. Once we know how many candidates there are, the Preparation Course and its venue can be worked out. Candidates for Confirmation should be at least in Year 9 of secondary school. Please note: The Bishop is unable to make the date of 24th June, we will be able to advise you of an alternative date when the bishops return from Rome.

PARKING AT OUR LADY'S CHURCH Please note that parking on the green verges outside Our Lady's Church is not allowed and against the local byelaws. Drivers can be fined if they park even partially on the verges. If the car park is full you are recommended to park at the Woodhall shops.

CLEANING AND GARDENING Will take place at Our Lady's next Saturday 6th February at 10am. All are invited to help clean the church or assist with the maintenance of the grounds for ONE hour.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION 1 For Our Lady's children will take place next Sunday **10.30-11.45am** in the Parish Centre. Children should bring their books with them. The children will be presented by their parents at the 12noon Mass following this session. **CHILDREN'S MASS** At Our Lady's takes place on Sunday 7th February at 12noon

NEED ANY JOBS DOING? If you have need of a general handyman/gardener who is a skilled tiler and patio layer please contact Janet Lewis who has the details. Phone 01707 326456.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Meets Tuesday 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the parish hall. This week we celebrate the feast of the Presentation in the Temple (Candlemas) by making Christingles. All welcome.

SWIM FOR THE ISABEL HOSPICE Sunday 21st February at Haileybury College Pool, Hertford Heath. Leaflets at the back of St. Bonaventure's Church. The Archer family will be asking you to sponsor them for this event.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

St. Bonaventure's Saturday 10.30am - 11am

Our Lady's Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

Holy Family Friday 7.30pm - 8pm

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MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday	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	
Tuesday	9am	St. Bonaventure	
	11am	Funeral Mass Paddy Cook R.I.P.	Our Lady's
	7pm	Our Lady's	
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
Thursday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
Friday	9.30am	Our Lady's	(for this week only)
	11am	Funeral Mass Bridget Gardiner R.I.P.	St. Bonaventure's
	7pm	Holy Family	+ Exposition, Benediction + Confessions
Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions 10.30 - 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