

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*

***Sixth Sunday of the Year
14th February 2010***

Bishop George Stack has asked me, on his behalf, to thank all those who came to the Review Meeting last Wednesday evening. There were over 180 people and many others had sent their apologies and/or given written submissions. He was grateful to Sally McAllister for chairing the meeting so well and to the scribes for taking notes. (The notes will be ready next weekend.) The Bishop commented on the way that people listened to each other as well having an opportunity to air their views. The presence of such a large number and the strength of feeling on a number of issues made an impression on him. He especially noted the timing of, and location of, Saturday evening and Sunday Masses as being of importance and the need to have provision of transport for the elderly in getting to Mass.

The big question obviously is where we go to next. The Bishop has asked me to invite four people from each of the churches to meet with him, Fr. Michael and myself some time in Lent to continue the conversation and to see how we might move forward. As well as the major issues already mentioned, Bishop George is keen that we reflect on our vision for the future for the Catholic Church in Welwyn Garden City and its surrounding villages. Inevitably on Wednesday we ran out of time and this was the crucial area which was not discussed.

I am very grateful to the Bishop for coming to be with us and outlining first hand his thoughts based on the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Westminster. I have always tried to carry out what I was asked to do when appointed to be your Parish Priest. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation. Our shared task is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the wider community and draw them into an experience of his loving embrace. Let us do this together. Please pray for your priests as we pray for you. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY - *A day of fasting and abstinence.*

Masses: 9.30am Holy Family 12 noon St Bonaventure's 7pm Our Lady's

As Ash Wednesday falls in the week of the half-term holiday, we encourage parents to take their children to one of the Masses. It would also be lovely to have our altar servers in action that day. Thank you.

At the end of this weekend's Masses, reflection booklets will be given out and Lenten Calendars. There are booklets specifically for children called *Day by Day* (*one for the younger children and one for the older ones*) and for adults *Walk with Me*. We hope they will prove to be useful tools in supporting you on your journey through Lent. There is no need to give any money for these.

WEEKDAY MASSES From the week beginning 22nd February, Thursday morning's 9.30am Mass will be at Holy Family and on Friday the evening Mass will be at Our Lady's at 7pm. We hope that overall this will be more convenient.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this week on Friday morning at St. Bonaventure's after 9am Mass. From the week beginning 22nd February, there will also be Stations at Holy Family on Wednesday after 9.30am Mass and at Our Lady's after Friday's 7pm Mass.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN LENT at Our Lady's on Mondays after 9.30am Mass for half an hour, on Thursdays at Holy Family after 9.30am Mass (with Confessions), starting 25th February and during Confessions at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday mornings.

FIRST CONFESSIONS will take place in our different churches on 27th February (Holy Family), 6th March (St. Bonaventure's) and 13th March (Our Lady's). Please pray for our children as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. On those Saturdays please note that the scheduled Confessions (with Exposition) at St. Bonaventure's will move to 9.30 am *before the 10 am Mass*.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

For those celebrating 10, 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of marriage, the Archbishop is inviting you to 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.

QUIZ NIGHT The Quiz Night organised by the young people of the Focolare raised £253 for the people of Haiti. Thank you to everyone who gave their help and support.

COLLECTION FOR HAITI The total for this collection from our three parishes came to £4550.27. This will be sent to CAFOD to help the people of Haiti.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES This takes place from 25th - 31st July. There will be a group going from St. Bonaventure's. We will stay at the Hotel Mediteranee. We plan to travel as a group by air at a cost of £725 for the week. Young people who will be 16 years old by the time of travel are invited to come as Redcaps helping the sick and disabled. There are brochures at the back of the churches for those who are interested in coming. A meeting will be arranged at the beginning of March, until then do not fill in any forms. If you would like to know more please contact Kathryn at St. Bonaventure's (322579). If you do think you might come it would be helpful if you could let Kathryn know and then a meeting can be arranged at a time that, hopefully, should suit everyone.

OUR LADY'S PARKING We have now received a letter from Welwyn Hatfield Council concerning 'Parking on Council Grass Verges'. The council is informing us that parking and driving on verges is breaking a local byelaw and people who do this are liable for prosecution and a fine. We urge you to park at the Woodhall shops if the church car park is full and so avoid penalties for illegal parking.

A YEAR COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE Not only for you but also for faith development of hundreds of young people, and all because you decided to volunteer! The Loft is seeking to appoint eight young men and women for a year-out experience working with young people. These full-time volunteers will live as part of the SPEC Community and have a particular focus on nurturing faith in young people aged 7-14 in dynamic retreats, using games, nature, team-building activities, art, storytelling, dance, and much more. Come and discover how helping young people grow in their understanding of faith and community could make a real change to their lives! A Loft open day will be held on Friday 26th February 2010 from 10am to 4pm to experience what Loft retreats are all about. To book a place, contact Mags Clarke on 01727 828888 or magsclarke@rcdow.org.uk For more information about the Loft and the SPEC community, visit www.spec.org.uk. Alternatively, contact Tracy Curran at the above telephone number, or tracycurran@rcdow.org.uk

ST. DAVID'S DAY will be celebrated on Monday 1st March with the 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's and a 'get-together' in the Sacristy afterwards. Virginia Rees has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the celebration. If any other Welsh parishioners would like to help, please let Fr. Norbert know.

CHILDREN'S MASS Next Sunday at St. Bonaventure's at 6pm.

OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY There will be no Children's Liturgy this weekend at the start of the half-term, however we invite all the children to journey with us through Lent starting next Sunday 21st February at the 12noon Mass. Each week we will be focussing on the Gospel with activities, and building an Easter Garden. We look forward to seeing you.

A WEEKEND IN OSTEND AND BRUGES A weekend away in Ostend and Bruges is planned for a weekend in October at a cost of £99. Please take a flyer from the back of church. More details next week.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

St. Bonaventure's Saturday 10.30am - 11am

Our Lady's Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

Holy Family Friday 7.30pm - 8pm

CONTACTS

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Fr. Michael 327434

Holy Family Church

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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	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
Thursday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
Friday	9am	St. Bonaventure's + Stations of the Cross	
	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