

# 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*

## ***First Sunday of Lent 21st February 2010***

I was re-reading the piece I wrote for last year's newsletter on the First Sunday of Lent. I emphasised *Spring* (which is what the Old English word *lencten* means). I described the signs of new life in nature and even spoke of the power of the sun's rays warming me up! How different it is this year as we await those pointers which indicate the harsh winter is over. 'How much longer?' you are probably asking yourself!

Whatever is the case with the weather and its effects on the world of nature, the Church has now invited us to begin our *springtime*. By turning away from sin and being faithful to the Gospel, we are opened up to the life-giving grace which will be bestowed on us as the end of our Lenten journey when we reach the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The Church offers us today the passage from St. Luke's Gospel outlining the Temptations Jesus faced in the desert. His loving relationship with the Father highlighted at his Baptism is now put to the test by the Devil in the wilderness. Jesus stands firm and is then ready to begin his public ministry which will eventually take him to the Cross.

As each one of us reflects on his or her own life, what is it that we face as we enter this forty-day period? What obstacles are there which prevent springtime from coming into my life? In my relationship with Jesus, what do I need to work at especially this Lent which will prepare me to renew my Baptismal Promises solemnly at Easter? Lent is also the season in which we pray for the *catechumens* and the *candidates* who will receive full initiation into the life of the Church at Easter. I have read that when Spring arrives, it will come with a bang - an explosion of colour! It will have been worth the long wait. In Lent we have to be patient with ourselves and with God; forty days can seem a long time. However, our patience will be rewarded with the radiance of the Risen Christ breaking into our lives!

God bless you this Lent. ***Fr. Norbert***

**RITE OF ELECTION** Congratulations to the 11 adults presented to Archbishop Vincent Nichols at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 20th. He has formally accepted them for the Sacraments at Easter. Let us continue to pray for them.

**EASTER TRIDUUM** On Maundy Thursday the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at St. Bonaventure's at 6pm, at Holy Family at 7pm and at Our Lady's at 8pm. The Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be at 3pm at St. Bonaventure's and Holy Family; at Our Lady's it will be at 5pm. There will only be one Easter Vigil at which Bishop George Stack will preside. This will take place at Our Lady's at 8pm; at this celebration we want to involve musicians and singers, readers and Eucharistic Ministers and altar servers from all three churches.

**MUSIC PRACTICES** If any one would like to sing or play on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday at Our Lady's there will be practices on Thursdays: 25th February and 11th March 7.30 - 9pm in the church.

There will be a joint rehearsal for the three church choirs at Our Lady's for the Easter Vigil on Thursday 25th March 7.30 - 9pm. *All are welcome.*

**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. *Fr. Norbert delivered items from our Catholic churches and these were gratefully received. Please keep filling the baskets at the back of our churches especially during this season of Lent.*

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE** 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). *Just one week left before Fr. Norbert sends in the names!*

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** For the deanery at Our Lady and St. Andrew's Church, Hitchin on Saturday 8th May. More details on 01462 459126.

**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. Fr. David is an excellent and entertaining speaker. It should be an enjoyable evening.

**LAST CALL FOR CONFIRMATION** Bishop George Stack has informed us that he will come to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people on Friday 9th July at 7.30pm. So far 23 have signed up. Anyone still thinking must decide *this week!* (There are still some application forms at the back of our churches.)

**CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP (St. B's) PANCAKE PARTY** This Tuesday we have our Pancake Party during our usual meeting time. All parish children are invited to come and fill themselves up with lots of pancakes and delicious fillings! 3.45pm. During our time together we will learn about what Lent means.

**WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** This takes place from 25th - 31st July. There will be a group going from St. Bonaventure's. 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).

**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. Whether you have Welsh connections or not, we hope that you will join our celebration and enjoy some traditional treats like Welsh cakes, bara brith and teisen lap. If any other parishioners would like to help, please contact Virginia by email: [virginia.rees@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:virginia.rees@tiscali.co.uk)

**GREAT SOUTH RUN** John Fogarty, who raised £618 for CAFOD, would like to thank all parishioners who sponsored him in this event.

**FAIR-TRADE FORTNIGHT** This runs from 22nd February until 7th March so please be aware of Fair-trade foods and items on sale in the shops.

**CAFOD FAST DAY** This Friday 26th February is CAFOD Lent Fast Day. Please take home a CAFOD envelope as you leave church, read the information inside and fast and pray in solidarity with the poor in the developing world this Friday. Please return your Fast Day envelopes next weekend, your donations will help transform the lives of poor in the developing world through the work of CAFOD and its partners.

**FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS' MEETING** This Wednesday in Our Lady's Church at 7.30pm.

**STAN 'MAC' MACDONALD RIP** Stan died earlier this week. His funeral will be at 11am on 2nd March at Our Lady's Church. We offer our sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. Please also remember **JOE RYAN R.I.P.** who died this week, funeral details are not yet known.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2010** This will take place on Friday 5th March at 2pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Woodhall (next door to Our Lady's Church). The service is open to everyone and is an opportunity to join in prayer with women around the world. Theme: 'Let everything that has breath praise God' which has been prepared by Christian women of Cameroon.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** On Saturdays in Lent the CWL, at Our Lady's, are holding Lenten Lunches of soup and bread. There is also a raffle. The cost is £3 and the profit goes to CAFOD. We are also having a get-together on 17th March for St Patrick's day. There will be soda bread, ham, music for dancing. Tea and coffee provided, (bring your own liquid refreshment), glasses provided. Tickets £3 available later. Next CWL meeting is on 9th March with a speaker from Platypus, Swimming for the Disabled.

**OUR LADY'S FORUM** Meets in the sacristy on Tuesday 2nd March at 7.45pm.

**LAST YEAR'S CONFIRMATION GROUP** There will be a gathering of those who were confirmed last July. It will take place at the Focolare Centre, Parkway, on Friday 5th March 8pm - 9.30 pm.

**A WEEKEND IN OSTEND AND BRUGES** A weekend away in Ostend and Bruges is planned for the weekend of Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th October at a cost of £99 for adults and £64 for children . Please take a leaflet from the back of the church.

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED** Please see leaflets at the back of church.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**

St. Bonaventure's Saturday 9.30am - 10am (for 3 weeks)

Our Lady's Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

Holy Family Thursday after 9.30am Mass

**CONTACTS**

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**Our Lady's**

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**Website:**

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**Kathryn Hubbard 322579**

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**St. Bonaventure's**

**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**

**Website:**

**www.stbonaventure.org.uk**

**Fr. Michael 327434**

**Holy Family Church**

**194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**

**MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

**SUNDAY MASSES**

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Our Lady's + Exposition</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 + Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Family + Exposition + Confessions</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure + Stations of the Cross</b>
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's + Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure Exposition +</b> Confessions 9.30am - 10am (on 28th, 6th + 13th)

**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