

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*

***Third Sunday of Lent
7th March 2010***

We are now in the 'First Confession Season'! Over the course of three Saturdays nearly seventy children will have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The children have received great support from their parents and catechists. We must continue to pray for them as they prepare for First Holy Communion in June.

Confession/Penance/Reconciliation - this is a sacrament which is probably the most misunderstood of all the seven sacraments. *What do I say? I keep saying the same things! Why do I need to speak to a priest?* There is an endless list of questions and comments. And yet it can be one of the most beautiful, profound and liberating experiences. To be able to speak confidentially about what has gone wrong in my life. To have a chance to find concrete words to express my sorrow. To hear that I am forgiven. This is wonderful! It does take courage. It might have been a long time since the last occasion. I might feel quite helpless. Don't worry! God is always ready to forgive and his priest is there to help and support the penitent.

In our Gospel reading today from St. Luke, Jesus twice says: 'Unless you repent..' Repentance is at the heart of the Lenten journey. We are called upon to change our hearts, to admit the wrong we have done and to turn to God. Jesus also speaks about bearing fruit. What are the fruits we expect through our observance of the Season of Lent? Moses encountered God in the Burning Bush and experienced the calling to lead the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we meet God's utterly merciful love which transforms and leads us into a new vision of what is possible for ourselves with God's help. Please think about this sacrament and find the right moment to celebrate it *this Lent!*

May God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

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 a practice on Thursday 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.*

DAY OF RECOLLECTION A reminder to all welcomers, readers and Eucharistic ministers in our parishes that this will take place on Saturday 20th March at Our Lady's. The day begins with Mass at 9.30am in the church and concludes with a Lenten Lunch at 1pm.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Come along on Tuesday when we will be making some things for Mother's Day. 3.45pm - 4.45pm

QUIZ NIGHT There will be a Quiz Night in Our Lady's Parish Centre, this Friday 12th March from 7.30pm for an 8pm start. All welcome. £5 per person, including fish and chip supper. Please book with Derek Kelly on 07710 097122 or via email alburyredfish@sky.com. This is a fundraising event for Holy Family School.

TARGET STAMPS If you get the Welwyn Hatfield Times and do not give the TARGET STAMPS to another charity, could you give them to the Danesbury Hospital? There will be a basket to collect them at the back of Holy Family Church.

SCHOOL TOKENS St. Bonaventure's are again collecting Sainsbury's, Tesco and Morrisons vouchers to be distributed to Holy Family and Our Lady's schools. There is a basket at the back of the church.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTER FAITH The Welwyn Hatfield Inter-Faith Women's Social Group will be meeting at Space this Tuesday 9th February from 12.30 - 2pm, tea/coffee available, bring a packed lunch if you wish.

PLANNED GIVING Offerory envelopes will be ready for collection during the weekend 20th/21st March. In next week's newsletter there will be more information about this scheme - how you can Gift Aid, arrange a Standing Order or receive numbered envelopes.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES This takes place from 25th - 31st July. There will be a meeting for those who are interested in joining this pilgrimage on Friday **19th March at 7pm** in St. Bonaventure's parish hall.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S COFFEE GROUP SPRING BRING & BUY for Chile (note the change of charity) after the 8am and 6pm Masses on 21st March. Turn out your cupboards - donate your unused Christmas presents - bake a cake. Donations gratefully received.

LENTEN LUNCHESES On Saturdays in Lent the CWL, at Our Lady's, are holding Lenten Lunches (from 12noon to 1.30pm) of soup and bread. The cost is £3 for CAFOD. There will be a get-together after Mass at 7pm on **17th March for St Patrick's Day** (at Our Lady's). Tickets are £3 and will be on sale after each Mass. Next CWL meeting is on 9th March with a speaker from Platypus, Swimming for the Disabled.

400 CLUB Results of 400 Club February Draw: 1st £100 - No. 386 K. Lloyd, 2nd £50 No 196 K. Hunter, 3rd £25 No. 351 H. McKie-Mandall. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who continue to support this church fundraising effort. There are numbers available, anyone wishing to join should see Jacqui McKie or Norman Merry. The Draw distributes £175 in Prizes every month and all profits go to the Church.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH SPRING CLEANING WEEK Come along to Holy Family Church at 9am on Monday 22nd March to help 'spring clean' the church. All welcome. Ring Vera Chase 01707 893491 if you want to know more.

LATELY DEAD Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Lena McConalogue R.I.P. (mother of the late Fr. Bill) who died during the week. Lena's Funeral Mass takes place at Our Lady's Church at 11am on Monday 15th March. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Lena's family and friends.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Austin Beck R.I.P. who died last Monday. Austin's Funeral Mass is on Friday 19th March at 11am in St. Bonaventure's Church. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Austin's family and friends.

FUNERAL The Funeral Service (not Mass) for Joe Ryan R.I.P. takes place at 11am this Tuesday 9th March at St. Bonaventure's.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL CLASS MASS This Wednesday at 9.15am, all are welcome.

ST. ANDREW'S CARE HOME Mass will be celebrated for the residents of St. Andrew's Care Home on Friday at 11am. Parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass.

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 and if you intend going return it with your deposit as soon as possible.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR FRENCH STUDENTS Please see leaflets at the back of church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

St. Bonaventure's Saturday 9.30am - 10am (for 1 more week)

Our Lady's Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

Holy Family Thursday after 9.30am Mass

CONTACTS

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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 + Exposition
Tuesday	9am	St. Bonaventure
	11am	Funeral Service Joe Ryan R.I.P. St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family + Stations of the Cross
Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family + Exposition + Confessions
Friday	9am	St. Bonaventure + Stations of the Cross
	7pm	Our Lady's + Stations of the Cross
Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure Exposition + Confessions 9.30am - 10am (on 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