

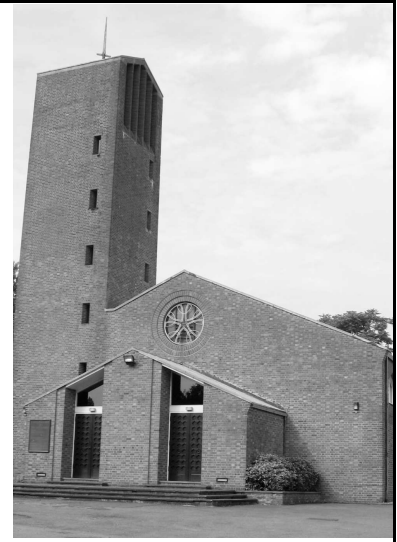
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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 Lent
14th March 2010***

Today we have reached the half-way point through Lent. The Church cries out ‘Laetare! Rejoice!’ and in this country we celebrate Mothering Sunday. We are afforded a slight breather before we continue on our journey towards the Easter Triduum, the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. If Lent has been going well, then realise that you need to keep the momentum going for another few weeks. If your Lent has not quite taken off, this is a good opportunity to be kick-started into action!

In our Gospel parable from St. Luke, Jesus calls us into an experience of God’s unconditional love which is revealed in forgiveness and celebration. The Prodigal Son ‘comes to his senses’ and makes the long journey home only to discover that his Loving Father is looking out for him and runs to embrace him and restore him. The Older Brother has to make a journey too. He must learn to accept this love of his Father who also comes out to meet him and wants him to join in the celebration. We are given a taste of the love we will experience at Easter.

The all-embracing love of God is the hallmark of the Easter Triduum: on Maundy Thursday as Jesus washes his disciples feet and gives us the Eucharist, on Good Friday as we solemnly proclaim the Passion of Jesus and venerate the Cross, at the Easter Vigil, Light, Scripture, Water and the Eucharist put us in touch with the Lord’s Risen Life. What Love is offered to us by God! This year Bishop George Stack will lead us in our celebration of the Easter Vigil. He is pleased to have been invited and encourages as many as possible to come. There are eleven adults for the sacraments and their loving response to the Faith will enrich us as we renew our own personal commitment to Christ.

May God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

MUSIC PRACTICE 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 next 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.

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO The 30th Anniversary of the death of Archbishop Romero will be marked with Mass at Holy Family Church at 9.30am on Wednesday 24th March, followed by CAFOD Stations of the Cross and then refreshments in the Parish Room. You are all most welcome. Oscar Romero was brutally murdered in El Salvador when celebrating Mass.

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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION There will be a get-together after Mass at 7pm this Wednesday for St Patrick's Day at Our Lady's. Tickets are £3 and will be on sale after each Mass.

PLANNED GIVING Offertory envelopes will ready for collection next weekend by those who already contribute in this way. Members of the Finance Committees will be available to give advice. If you would like a set of envelopes, would like to Gift Aid your donations (at no extra cost to yourself) or pay by Standing Order please indicate this on the form that will be available in each church next weekend. Envelopes etc. will then be ready for you by the following weekend. We have noticed that the amount of loose cash has increased in the collections each week, so if you donate in this way please consider using the numbered envelopes and signing a Gift Aid form as the parish can claim back the tax. Thank you.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet on Tuesday from 3.45pm - 4.45pm when we will be thinking about forgiveness and reconciliation We will also prepare for our next Children's Mass.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN We meet again next Saturday 10.30am when we learn about the Gift of Peace.

CHILDREN'S MASS Next Sunday 6pm at St. Bonaventure's. The theme is Forgiveness.

MANY THANKS - to all those who came last week to Our Lady's to help clean the church and maintain the grounds. Your work is greatly appreciated.

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 this Friday **19th March at 7pm** in St. Bonaventure's parish hall.

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.

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for Mrs Lena McConalogue R.I.P. takes place at Our Lady's Church at 11am this Monday.

The Funeral Mass for Austin Beck R.I.P. is on Friday at 11am in St. Bonaventure's Church. The Body will be received into the church on Thursday at 10.45am.

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

OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY Last week we had a fantastic 45 children attend Children's Liturgy! In view of our growing numbers, we would welcome more adult volunteers to either help with the liturgy or become full Children's Liturgy team members. We know we have many wonderfully talented parishioners! The Children's Liturgy team will be available at the back of the church after this Sunday's midday Mass to provide more information if you are interested. We look forward to welcoming you.

OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY FORTHCOMING EVENTS • Palm Sunday. We invite the children to take part in acting out the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday (28th March) at the 12noon Mass. If you wish to take part, please come to the rehearsal on Saturday 27th March at 11am for one hour in the church, where parts will be allocated and a full run through will take place. We look forward to seeing you. • Children's Stations of the Cross – We will be praying the Way of the Cross with the children again this year on Good Friday (2nd April) at 12noon. For children wishing to play a key role in announcing the station or reading one of the prayers, please arrive at 11.30am.

TARGET STAMPS From the Welwyn Hatfield Times are being collected for the Danesbury Hospital by Holy Family Church and **SCHOOL TOKENS** are being collected by St. Bonaventure's for Holy Family and Our Lady's schools.

HOLY WEEK Would welcomers, readers and ministers at Our Lady's please let us know their availability for the Holy Triduum and Easter Sunday? There is a sheet at the back of the Church for you to enter your names. Please note that the rota for April and May will be made up shortly, you are asked to advise your coordinator any dates when you are not available to minister. Many thanks.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP A cake sale will take place this Sunday after the 10am Mass. There will also be a “Guess the Number of Eggs in the Jar” ticket sale starting from 21st March (though excluding Palm Sunday).

WASHING OF THE FEET (St. Bonaventure’s) Please fill in the list if you are willing to have your feet washed during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday at 6pm.

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
	11am	Funeral Mass Lena McConalogue (Our Lady’s)
Tuesday	9am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady’s
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family + Stations of the Cross
	7pm	Our Lady’s (St. Patrick’s Day celebration Mass)
Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family + Exposition + Confessions
	10.45am	Reception of the body of Austin Beck (St. B)
Friday	9am	St. Bonaventure + Stations of the Cross
	11am	Funeral Mass Austin Beck (St. B)
	7pm	Our Lady’s + Stations of the Cross
Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure Exposition + 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