

# 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*

***Fifth Sunday of Lent  
21st March 2010***

What a Gospel reading we are presented with today! The woman caught committing adultery is hauled before Jesus by a baying crowd which wants to stone her. Their merciless hostility is met by pure love in Jesus who does not point a finger at her but rather shows her compassion and total forgiveness. Such a contrast! The opening of the scene is filled with noise and a desire for destruction. We are left at the end with a deep silence as the woman realises she has been given a fresh chance by Jesus and leaves with his words ringing in her ears: 'Neither do I condemn you; go away and don't sin anymore.'

When we come to the end of our Lenten journey, Jesus wants us to know that he is ready to forgive totally. He asks us to reflect on what we have done and to turn to him in a spirit of sorrow and trust. We should take time to think about our own attitudes to others. Are there stones in our hands which we are ready to thrust at someone else? Do we judge those around us without giving a fair chance or a hearing? Do we offer others the possibility of making a fresh start? Challenge and more challenge!

In no time we will arrive at Holy Week and then enter the Sacred Triduum. One of the great treasures given to the Church by Jesus is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. NOW is the time to avail of the opportunity of going to Confession before Easter either at the scheduled times on Thursday or Saturday or at the Service of Reconciliation which we shall celebrate on Monday 29th March. If it has been a long time, do not worry. If you have been putting it off for ages, come now. If there is something which weighs heavily on your conscience, take courage and place the burden in the Lord's hands. Let us pray for one another too!

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

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S COFFEE GROUP SPRING BRING & BUY** for Chile after the 8am and 6pm Masses today.

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

**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. John Fogarty has a fresh supply of merchandise from CAFOD, which includes Romero crosses (three sizes available at £30, £15 and £2.50 each) and Frugal Food by Delia Smith (selling at £15 per copy, with all royalties from the sales, going to CAFOD). These will be on sale during the refreshments on Wednesday.

**PLANNED GIVING** Offertory envelopes are ready for collection today by those who already contribute in this way. Members of the Finance Committees are available to give advice about Planned Giving. 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 today. Envelopes etc. will then be ready for you by next 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 Holy week and Easter. **CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP** As part of our children's involvement in the Holy week and Easter liturgies there will be an Easter Workshop for all children on Tuesday 30th March from 4pm - 6pm at St. Bonaventure's. Come and add some plants to our outdoor garden, make a garden of your own, make some Easter things, join in an Easter egg hunt, prepare for our Way of the Cross, play some games and have a 'Happy Easter Tea'. We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover some of our costs. Please bring a small amount of food. Parents welcome.

**SOUL MATTERS** A day meeting (10.30am - 3.30pm) at the Focolare Centre, organised by the 'World of Health', a group which meets to consider spiritual and moral aspects of health. At this meeting, Dr. Mabel Aghadiuno a GP and author of 'Soul Matters - The spiritual Dimension within Healthcare', will be speaking. For further information and booking see poster on noticeboard.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES CARD** Please take home a card giving details of all the Holy Week and Easter Services in our three churches.

**RCIA** Please pray for the adults preparing for the sacraments at Easter. On Sunday they are having an afternoon of retreat at All Saints, London Colney.

**CALLING ALL ALTAR SERVERS!** It would be lovely to have as many as possible taking part in the Easter Triduum Services. The practices are as follows:  
**HOLY FAMILY:** Practice for Maundy Thursday (7pm Mass) and Good Friday (3pm Service) on Saturday 27th March 3pm- 4.30pm.

**OUR LADY'S:** Practice for Maundy Thursday (8pm Mass) on 1st April at 7.30pm and for Good Friday (5pm Service) on 2nd April 9.30-10.30am.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S:** Practice for Maundy Thursday (6pm Mass) on 1st April at 5.30pm and for Good Friday (3pm Service) on 2nd April at 2.30pm.

**JOINT EASTER VIGIL** (8pm on Saturday 3rd April): Practice at Our Lady's on Saturday 3rd 11am - 12noon. *Please would servers sign up for the various services on the lists in each sacristy.*

**HELP WITH THE EASTER VIGIL** We will need help with setting up Our Lady's Hall for a celebration after the Easter Vigil. If you can provide refreshments and/or would be willing to serve them, please let Fr. Norbert know.

Also, if there are any who will need lifts to the Easter Vigil at Our Lady's or who would be willing to offer transport, please give your names and contact details to Fr. Norbert

**POST-CONFIRMATION GROUP** A number of young people from last year's Confirmation Group met at the Focolare Centre on Friday 5th March and have agreed to meet there again on Sunday 18th April 7.30 - 9pm to plan events for the coming months. Any who missed the meeting would be most welcome on the 18th.

**ALTAR SERVERS' MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL** will be on Saturday 24th April. All our servers are most welcome to attend; they will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. They will need to bring their vestments. We will meet at WGC Station at 12noon and take the 12.20 train. Mass will be at 2.30pm and then we'll go for something to eat. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are coming.

**TRIP TO INDIA** Fr. Norbert is hoping to organise a trip to India next year 2nd - 16th February. One week in the north - Delhi, Jaipur and Agra and a week in Goa. If you are interested or would like more information, come to a meeting in the lounge of Our Lady's Hall on Sunday 25th April at 4 pm.

**VISIT TO ST. JOHN'S, DIGSWELL** Reverend Carl Garner, the Vicar of St. John's, Digswell has kindly invited the Catholic community to visit his church, part of which dates back to the early Middle Ages, on Sunday 27th June. The visit will start with a tour at 3.30 pm followed by tea and will finish with a time of prayer. Keep this date free!

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will be celebrated on 3rd July at 11am at Our Lady's. The Mass and Reception will be organised by the SVP. Another date for your diaries!

**BRITISH SUMMERTIME** Don't forget, clocks go forward next weekend!



## **‘GIVING IT UP LENT 2010’ - the ways in which you can and do help:**

Clean drinking water for a family - £4, cost of a water filter (and training someone to use it) - £33, a bicycle for a volunteer carer - £50 (the bicycle doubles as an ambulance in many areas especially in Sudan), Community water supply - £750.

**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**

**Fr. Norbert 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
**Our Lady’s**  
**141 Woodhall Lane**  
**AL7 3TP**  
**Website:**  
**www.ourlady-parish.info**

**Kathryn Hubbard 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
**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 Confessions 5pm - 5.30pm</b>
<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</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 + Confessions 10.30 - 11am</b>

**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