

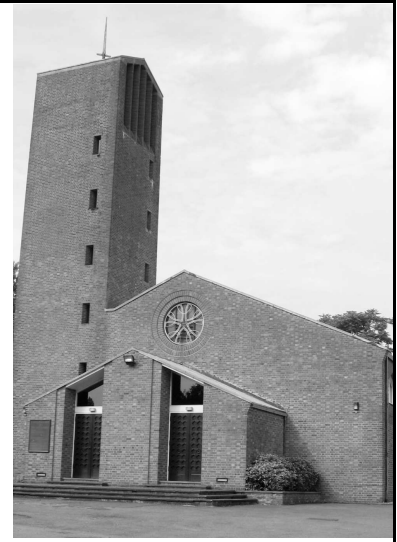
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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 Easter 25th April

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. In our Gospel Jesus speaks of himself as the Shepherd who knows his sheep and who gives them eternal life. The Church invites us to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This year Pope Benedict has taken the theme: *Witness Awakens Vocations*. The Holy Father gives a huge challenge to priests and religious as he asks us to consider three aspects of the witness we give: 1. Effective witness begins with *friendship with Christ*. Our relationship with Christ is what sustains us. 2. The response of a consecrated religious or priest is that of a *complete gift of oneself to God*. This dedication should encourage a young person to become open to a meeting with Christ so that his Word may become a light to their footsteps. 3. The witness of a *life of communion with God* shows others the tender love of God; compassionate love is capable of breaking down barriers and reaching out to those in need. What a tall order Pope Benedict puts out to priests and religious!

In our world, the Church is often misunderstood. There are evils which have been perpetrated by ministers of the Church which brings shame and deep pain, especially to those who have suffered abuse. The healing power of Christ's love can make a difference. You, the People of God, can also be influential by praying for your priests, encouraging them in the enormous task which has been entrusted to them and by fostering vocations so that there may be many more who have the courage to answer God's call.

Soon I shall celebrate twenty-two years of priesthood. I have never regretted going to the seminary after leaving school. I love being a priest and have been amazed at the new ways God calls me to be his priest and the fresh gifts I have to develop in serving you, his people. Please pray for Fr. Michael and for me as we do our best to serve you in God's name.

May God bless you and your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

WESTMINSTER ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION FUND (WEEF)

Please give as much as you can in the retiring collection for the Priest Training Fund which takes place this weekend. Special envelopes are available at the back of the church.

REDCAP FUNDRAISING Last week's raffle at St. Bonaventure's raised £82.60. Thank you for your generous response in aid of our Lourdes Redcaps. The next fundraising will be on Sunday 16th May when you will be invited (at a cost of £1) to guess how much money is in the Quality Street tin which is crammed full of 1p's and 2p's. The prize is what is in the tin but you won't have to take all the coins, the money will be counted and you given the same amount in a more manageable form!

10 MILE SPONSORED WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY Marion Brogan thanks those who have sponsored her so far. She will be doing the walk this weekend so if you would like to sponsor her there is a form at the back of St. Bonaventure's Church for you to use.

TRIP TO INDIA 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 this Sunday 24th April at 4pm.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE There will be a Day Pilgrimage by coach to Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham, Norfolk on Saturday 22nd May. Fr. Michael will be leading the group. There are flyers/booking forms at the back of each church.

FILM ABOUT THE CARMELITE CONVENT NOTTING HILL: NO GREATER LOVE will be showing on the following dates: 23rd April to 29th April at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse Tel: 0871 704 2050. It is well worth seeing and supporting.

CLEANING AND GARDENING will take place at Our Lady's next Saturday 1st May at 10am. Everyone is invited to help clean the church or assist with the maintenance of the grounds for just ONE hour. Refreshments available!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION 4 for Our Lady's children will take place next Sunday 2nd May 10.30-11.45am in the Parish Centre. Children will need their workbooks with them.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS The final meeting for parents is on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. All welcome.

WOODSIDE SERVICE Fr. Norbert will be leading a service with readings and hymns at the Woodside flats on Friday 30th April at 2pm. Everyone is most welcome.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR We meet this Thursday 8pm-9pm. All welcome.

OSTEND/BRUGES TRIP 51 people have signed up so far! This means there are just a few places left on the coach. If you had not got round to booking and would like to come, fill out a form (available at the back of the church). Once the coach is full, a waiting list will be created.

JUSTICE AND PEACE Next Wednesday, 28th April at 6.30pm, the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission is going to hold its quarterly meeting, in Tottenham, and it will be an "open" meeting, so that non-members may go along and see what the Commission is up to. John Fogarty will be going and, if anyone wants to join him, he has space in his car, so either e-mail: john.fogarty@ntlworld.com or telephone him (01707 327771).

WGC BAND will be having a concert in Our Lady's Church on Sunday 23rd May at 7pm. More details to follow.

SECURITY OF PERSONAL VALUABLES Following a number of recent incidents in the Garden City, the police are strongly advising people gathering in public places, including church premises, to ensure the security of their valuables at **all** times. It is good practice to keep your purses, wallets, handbags and car keys with you at all times.

PARKING The Council has asked Fr. Norbert to remind all who come to church to park safely and responsibly. Parking on the grass verges is an offence and will lead to a hefty fine. *So, please do think carefully about where to park! Thank you.*

REQUIEM MASS A Requiem Mass for the late President of Poland and all those who died in the plane crash in Smolensk on 11th April will be take place at Westminster Cathedral at 7pm on Thursday 29th April. The Principal Celebrant will be the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS You are most welcome at Holy Family School this Monday at 11am for the start of term Mass.

FUNERALS The Funeral Service for Tony Goodwin will be at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery on Friday 30th April at 11am
The Funeral Mass for Phelim O'Neill will be on Tuesday 4th May at 9am at St. Bonaventure's. The Funeral Mass for John Brady will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 11th May at 1.30pm.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT To mark the conclusion of the Year of Priests, the Stevenage Deanery will have 40 hours of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the week commencing 7th June. Each of our churches in Welwyn Garden City will have two hours as follows: Our Lady's Tuesday 8th June 7.30-9.30pm, Holy Family Wednesday 9th June 10am-12noon and St. Bonaventure's Friday 11th June 9.30-11.30am. There will be more details available closer to the time.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSION)**

St. Bonaventure	Saturday 10.30am - 11am
Our Lady's	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm
Holy Family	Thursday after 9.30am Mass

CONTACTS

Fr. Norbert 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website:
www.ourladys-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

Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	10am	Mass	Holy Family
	12noon	Mass	Our Lady's
	6pm	Mass	St. Bonaventure
Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
Friday	9am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure



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