

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 Easter 2nd May

In our First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we are told that Paul and Barnabas travelled through many towns and *'put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith...they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord.'* Just before Lent, there was the big meeting to review the changes which had been made here in Welwyn Garden City. Bishop George Stack presented his vision of what the Diocese wants and specifically what he had asked me to undertake as Parish Priest. After the meeting he suggested that I gather twelve people, four from each parish, to gather, reflect and take further what had been discussed. At that stage with Lent unfolding and then our celebration of the Sacred Triduum, it was not possible to carry out the Bishop's wishes. *Now* is the right time. Bishop George will come to meet the 'Twelve' on Tuesday 15th June at 7.45pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. (This means that Our Lady's Parish Forum Meeting that night is postponed.) In choosing representatives of the three parishes my aim is to have a diverse group with a variety of backgrounds, ages, views and involvement in the parishes. Each of our parishes will also need to have a group to which the four reps can report back. Each parish needs a body which can reflect on the nuts and bolts of the particular church community.

Please pray that God's Spirit may guide the whole process and that it may be for the good of the wider Catholic community of Welwyn Garden City and the surrounding villages. As we grow and support one another, so may we be an even more vibrant force for good here in this place.

Finally, with the General Election looming, let us pray that God may guide us in the choices we make and bless our country with a Government which will serve the needs of all people, upholding the values of the Gospel which we cherish and promoting the love which our Faith proclaims. There is much to pray about!

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT In response to last weekend's statement from the Bishops of England and Wales, here in Welwyn Garden City in the month of May there will be half an hour of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the victims of child abuse and to make reparation for these sins as follows: Holy Family: Thursdays 10am - 10.30am, St. Bonaventure: Fridays 9.30am - 10am and Our Lady's: Fridays 6.30pm - 7pm. Please come and pray!

REDCAP FUNDRAISING 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 all those who have sponsored her. She completed the 10 mile walk last Sunday and sponsor money can be given to her or put through the letter box at St. Bonaventure's.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S MASS 9TH MAY The next Mass led by the children is on May 9th. Don't forget to bring a small musical instrument to play along with the music of the last hymn. If you would like your child/children to be involved in this Mass or any of the children's Masses which will now be a regular occurrence once a month please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172, Jackie McCallum 01707 328460 or any of the children's liturgy helpers (there is a list of all helpers in the parish room).

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS We currently have 6 teams of helpers who do a fantastic job helping the children and the parents of the parish get the most out of Mass on a Sunday but we do need more help. If you think you could help us one Sunday in six (or less frequently the more helpers we have) please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172, Jackie McCallum 01707 328460 or any of the children's liturgy helpers (there is a list of all helpers in the parish room).

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP A few of the CAFOD group are going to take part in the Rotary sponsored walk on Sunday 9th May in aid of CAFOD. If you should see any of them at the back of the churches after Mass for the next couple of weeks please be generous in your support of them.

The next CAFOD meeting will take place in the Parish rooms at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th May 2010. You will be made very welcome if you come along.

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.

ALTAR SERVERS MASS 23 altar servers from our three churches attended last Saturday's Mass at the Cathedral together with their families. As well as a tour of the Cathedral beforehand, the whole group had a photo taken with Archbishop Vincent Nichols after Mass. The trip was rounded off by a pizza and an action-song! Thank you to all who were able to come.

TRIP TO INDIA Delhi, Jaipur and Agra and a week in Goa organised by *Trailfinders*. Tuesday 1st - Wednesday 16th February 2011. Price per person half-board (for two people sharing a room) £1785. There are leaflets at the back of the church with more information. After last Sunday's meeting 18 people have already expressed a strong interest in going. There is plenty of room for more! A 20% deposit needs to come in by 31st May.

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.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS The final meeting for parents is this 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, this week the lesson is geared towards our younger children but all ages are welcome.

MEETING GOD IN FRIEND AND STRANGER This is a teaching document of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales. Its purpose is to encourage members of the Catholic community to look upon dialogue as an essential part of their Christian witness in Britain today. There will be a Study Evening, based on this document, in Marychurch Church Hall, Hatfield at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th May. All welcome.

FUNERALS 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.

40 HOURS 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	<u>10am</u>	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9am	Funeral 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