

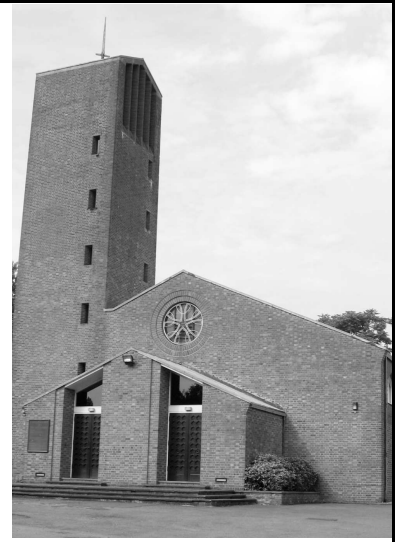
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Sixth Sunday of Easter 9th May

Archbishop Vincent Nichols has written regarding the forthcoming Papal Visit (16th - 19th September): "The importance, and delicacy, of this visit is readily appreciated. We must also be clear about its particular character and the opportunity it represents. When Pope John Paul II visited this country in 1982 he did so in order to confirm our Catholic faith. His journey, centred on the Sacraments, was fashioned with this aim in mind. This visit by Pope Benedict is different. He comes as the guest of Her Majesty the Queen, the first State Visit by a Pope. He comes to address our society at a time of some uncertainty and, we may expect, emerging austerity. He comes as an outstanding and sensitive messenger of the Gospel and of the richness of Catholic teaching. His delicate task is to find ways in which these messages may find a hearing in our society. Our task is quite clear: we must support the Pope in every way we can. We must be with him, alongside him, demonstrating as far as we can the truth of his message to our society. I am sure that he will show his appreciation for the wealth of our national and Christian traditions. He will encourage and invite all people to look for lasting values for our shared life. He will pray with us and lead us all in prayer that we may discover again the importance of silence, reflection and prayer in our lives. In the Beatification of Cardinal Newman he will hold before us an example of a generous, spiritual and outstanding Christian who made a famous journey of faith in a manner which reflects so clearly many of our sensitivities and concerns. All of this is no easy task. Our support is so important. We must pray for the Pope and the success of this visit. We must be ready to talk positively about it, explaining the great opportunity it represents. And we have to be ready to support it financially." (To this end the Archbishop has asked that there be a retiring collection in every parish in the country on Pentecost Day to fund the Catholic events.) Once more precise details of the events surrounding the visit emerge, we will arrange transport etc. As Archbishop Nichols says: "There will be a great welcome for Pope Benedict when he arrives. It is something to really look forward to!" **WATCH THIS SPACE!!** God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

REDCAP FUNDRAISING Our Redcaps will be fundraising next Sunday 16th May at St. Bonaventure's when you will be invited (at a cost of £1) to guess how much money is in a 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 the coins, the money will be counted and you given the same amount in a more manageable form! Our 5 Redcaps will be at the 6pm Mass and some of our other young people will at 8am Mass to ask for your support.

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).

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN We meet again on Saturday when we learn about God's Greatest Gift to us. Children's folders should be up to date. Parents are reminded that we have a short meeting at the end of the lesson.

CHILDREN'S MASS 6pm next Sunday at St. Bonaventure's. We celebrate the Feast of Our Lord's Ascension.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We all meet again this Tuesday from 3.45pm - 4.45pm when we will learn about the Ascension and prepare for our next Children's Mass.

OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS – Introductory Meeting. Thank you to all those who provided their names and contact details to help occasionally with Children's Liturgy at Our Lady's. We will be holding a short meeting prior to Mass on Sunday 23rd May at 11am in the sacristy to introduce ourselves and to prepare the rota. If anyone else would also like to help occasionally, you are also most welcome to attend. No experience needed as full support will be given. We look forward to seeing you.

WELWYN HATFIELD WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SOCIAL GROUP Our May meeting is next Tuesday, 11th May. As usual we will meet between 12.30pm and 2pm at 'Space' (next to Sainsbury's), Church Road, Welwyn Garden City. Tea and coffee will be available; please bring your own picnic lunch if you would like to.

FUNERAL The Funeral Mass for Dymphna Alcock R.I.P. who died last weekend will be at 10.30am on Monday 17th May in Holy Family Church. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Dymphna's family and friends. May she rest in peace.

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.

OSTEND/BRUGES TRIP The coach is now full and any other names will be put on a waiting list. There will be more details about the trip in the newsletter closer to October.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE There are four places left on the coach for Walsingham on Saturday 22nd May. Please fill out a booking form (from the back of the church) and return as soon as possible.

CONFIRMATION GROUP Please pray for our young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation who have a Retreat Afternoon at the Focolare Centre on Sunday.

POST-CONFIRMATION GROUP will next meet at the Focolare Centre on Sunday 23rd May 7.30pm - 9pm. Those who were confirmed last year have already started planning events for the coming months. Watch this space!

PENTECOST CONCERT by the Welwyn Garden City Band on Sunday 23rd May at 7pm in Our Lady's Church. The programme will include *Concerto d'Aranjuez* by Rodrigo, *Memory* from *Cats*, *Dam Busters March*, and hymn favourites such as *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* and *Amazing Grace*. There will be an interval for refreshments in the Hall and the concert will finish at 9pm. Cost of tickets at the door on the day: £5 for adults (including a glass of wine) and £4 for children. It should be an enjoyable evening. Do come along!

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert would like to meet parents of Year 5 children who will be transferring to Secondary School next academic year and will need a 'Priest's Reference'. The meeting will be at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 13th June 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Fr. Norbert hopes to give parents useful information about the process. In the autumn he will arrange to meet with each individual family to fill out the actual 'Priest's Reference' form.

SAVE THE CHILDREN LOCAL BRANCH We are holding a quiz night to raise funds for Save the children in Our Lady's church hall on May 15th at 8pm (doors will open at 7.45pm). (tickets available from Lynn Schindler on 394234 or Sylvie Nichols on 335358 or at the door).

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.

CWL The CWL meets again at Our Lady's this Tuesday after the 7pm Mass. All welcome.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT During this month 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!

**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

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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
	1.30pm	Funeral Mass (for John Brady)	Our Lady's
	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