

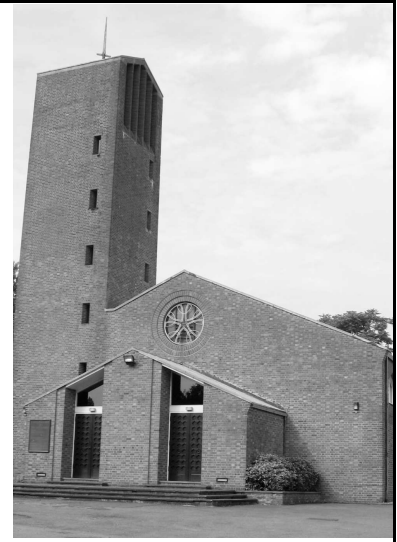
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

The Ascension of the Lord 16th May 2010 **Builders of Eternity**

*Isn't it strange that princes and kings
and clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
and ordinary folks like you and me
are builders of eternity.*

*To each is given a bag of tools,
an hour-glass and book of rules:
and each must build, ere time is flown,
a stumbling block or a stepping stone. Anonymous.*

Christ stumbled on the way to Calvary, due to the weight of the Cross and the burden of redemption. His undying love is our stepping stone to Paradise.

He steps back into the infinite love of His Father and the Holy Spirit. He blesses us with courage. With joy, He ascends and beckons us to join Him in the eternity that He has opened for us.

In the beautiful story 'The Selfish Giant', by Oscar Wilde, we hear the Child talking to the very old and happy giant. 'You let me play once in your garden, today you shall come with me to my garden, which is Paradise.'

Lord, bless us with the courage to trust ourselves - as you are trusting us.

Fr. Michael Mannion

REDCAP FUNDRAISING Our Redcaps are fundraising today at St. Bonaventure's. You are 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 will be given the same amount in a more manageable form!

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE The coach is now full. All those going need to be at **Our Lady's Church next Saturday at 8.20am** ready to leave promptly at 8.30am.

AN INVITATION TO PARISHIONERS to leave any petitions you wish to be taken to Our Lady in Walsingham in any of the presbytery letter boxes by Friday morning at the latest. The group will pray for everyone.

PAPAL VISIT Next weekend there will be a retiring collection to raise funds for the Catholic events which will take place when Pope Benedict comes to this country in September. The Bishops have made this request of all parishes throughout the land. Please be generous.

TRINITY SUNDAY On Sunday 30th May there are five adults who will complete their initiation into the Catholic Church at 12 noon Mass at Our Lady's. One will be baptised, one received into the Catholic Church and they and three others will be confirmed. Please pray for them.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We all meet this week when we learn about Pentecost and celebrate the birthday of the Church. Come and decorate your own Pentecost cake. All welcome 3.45pm - 4.45pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FAMILY RETREAT A reminder to all First Communion parents that next Sunday we have our Retreat at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney from 1p to 5pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

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!

FUNERAL The Funeral Mass for Dymphna Alcock R.I.P. is at 10.30am on Monday, 17th May, in Holy Family Church.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES will be presented at Mass next Sunday: 10am at Holy Family, 12noon at Our Lady's and 6pm at St. Bonaventure's.

PENTECOST has been chosen as the day to mark the feast of Our Lady Queen of Apostles as she was gathered in prayer with the apostles waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. So next weekend will be Our Lady's feast.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS St. Bonaventure's Finance Committee meets at 7.30pm on Monday 24th May in the presbytery, and Our Lady's Finance Committee meets at 7.45pm on Tuesday 25th May in Our Lady's presbytery. Holy Family Committee meets on Friday June 18th at 10am.

SVP REQUEST Do you have a washing machine you no longer need? The SVP would like to hear from you if you do. Contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

THE CELLAR CLUB is a meeting place for anyone who would like somewhere friendly and relaxing to chat and enjoy a snack and cup of tea. It meets on Thursday afternoons in the United Reformed Church in Church Road from 4.15pm to 6.30pm. Helpers are on duty to prepare drinks and light snacks such as baked potatoes, sandwiches and beans on toast, and to chat and provide 'friendly ear'. They would like to recruit new members - if you are interested please contact Vicky Woodcraft on 01707 326109 or email vicky_woodcraft@hotmail.com.

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.

MEETING GOD IN FRIEND AND STRANGER This is a teaching document from the Catholic bishops of England and Wales. It outlines how essential it is for Catholics to be in dialogue with those of other faiths. There will be a Study Evening, based on this document, in Marychurch Church Hall, Hatfield at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th May. All welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS The Deanery is arranging a reflection morning for Eucharistic Ministers on Saturday 9th October at St. Thomas More Church, Knebworth starting at 9.30 am. Please put the date in your diaries.

RE-COMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS will take place the weekend of 16th/17th October (after the reflection morning) at whichever Mass is attended. This year it will not happen on Pentecost Day.

**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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Fr. Michael 327434
Holy Family Church
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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
	10.30am	Funeral Mass (for Dymphna Alcock)	Holy Family
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