

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 the Year 5th February 2012 (p.135)

‘Preaching the Gospel is a duty which has been laid on me...a responsibility which has been put into my hands.’ These are the words of St. Paul in one of our Scripture readings today. They are addressed to the people of Corinth but spring from his experience on the road to Damascus when he encountered the Risen Lord speaking to him. His life was never the same. In our Gospel passage from St. Mark, the sick and the possessed - exemplified by Simon Peter’s mother-in-law - are touched by the power of Jesus and healing is theirs. Simon’s mother-in-law’s reaction is to wait on/serve Jesus. Simon and his companions search for Jesus the next morning and they find him in a lonely place praying and tell the Lord ‘Everybody is looking for you.’ Jesus, the Son of God, is someone who waits to be found. The response is a ministry which continues to reach out allowing many more to find him.

How has Jesus touched your life? What duty or responsibility has he placed in your hands? How do you respond in service to him? Have you helped anyone to find him? Questions and more questions! Today on Education Sunday we think about the talents, gifts and abilities which our young people develop at school; we acknowledge the dedicated teaching which enables them to develop into rounded persons. Teachers, support staff and governors give of themselves to create an atmosphere of learning which is both challenging and fun. Parents are the most important teachers of all because it is through their support, example and encouragement that their children’s appetite for knowledge and learning grows. Through the ethos of our Catholic schools our children see in an explicit way faith put into practice and discover more about Jesus whom they see and experience at home and at church.

Let us pray for all involved in Education and ask God to bless our children and young people that they may find Jesus his Son, be transformed through the experience and learn how to serve him in others. ***Fr. Norbert***

EDUCATION SUNDAY Bishop John Sherrington has written to parishes to express his gratitude to the many people who work in a dedicated way for the good of our children and young people in schools and colleges. He wishes to thank the staff, senior leadership teams and heads as well as governors who work tirelessly for the good of our schools. From recent visits he has made, he knows the handing on of the faith and the building up of community are priorities along with striving to provide excellent learning and teaching. Many young people have spoken to him of their joy and love for their staff and schools. Today we welcome children and parents, staff and governors from Holy Family Primary School (at 9.30am Mass) and Our Lady Primary School (at 11.30am Mass). Let us pray for everyone involved in education as they help our children and young people to develop their full potential.

MASS FOR THE SICK at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 11th February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, at 2pm. Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop and there will be the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

MASS FOR COUPLES WITH SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES will be on Saturday 26th May at 3pm in the Cathedral. If you will be marking in 2012 10, 25, 40, 50, 60 years of marriage, please give Fr. Norbert details of your names, address, date of wedding, e-mail/phone number. In recent years many couples from our three parishes have attended this celebration and had a wonderful time. A number of names have already been sent in. Keep them coming! The deadline is 3rd March. Thank you.

PEACE ICON MEETING The Pax Christi Peace Icon will be here in the Garden City Friday 6th - Friday 13th July. If anyone is interested in organising events, prayer or activities related to creating a Circle of Prayer for the Olympics, come to a meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Friday 10th February at 7.45pm.

CONCERT AT OUR LADY'S Saturday 3 March CJM Music perform "Songs of the Prodigal", an evening of songs and reflections for Lent. The concert will take place on Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm. Tickets, £6 for adults and £3 for children 12 and under, will be on sale after all weekend Masses in February.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED We have been asked if we can find accommodation for the six members (3 ladies and 3 men) of the CJM Music team for the night of Saturday 3rd March. The Birmingham based musicians are giving a performance at All Saints Church in Harrow the day after our concert and need somewhere to spend the night! Please contact Fr Norbert if you can provide a bed.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA An afternoon organised by Friends of Welwyn Care Homes - are you caring for someone with dementia? Come and explore how to recognise and connect with their spiritual needs on Saturday 25th February 1.45pm - 4.30pm in the Focolare Centre. Open to all carers (paid and unpaid), relatives, friends, visitors, pastoral workers etc. Contact Anne Horsman anne.horsman@btinternet.com or 01438 840566 if you would like more information.

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2012 in Dublin in June. If anyone would like to join Archbishop Vincent Nichols and the group from Westminster Diocese, there are brochures and booking forms at the back of our churches.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT'S SESSION Wednesday 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

USED STAMPS Please remember to leave a half inch border around the stamp, thank you.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship which runs the Food Bank have written to thank everyone for their support over the past 2 years. They are busier than ever with an average of 50 people in need coming each week. If anyone would like to visit, please feel free to call in any Wednesday morning between 9am and 11am. The church address is 140 Cole Green Lane, WGC AL7 3JE. They are now providing eggs in the food parcels which they buy in bulk and need empty egg boxes (the size that fit 6 eggs). If you can help please leave the empty egg boxes in the Food Bank Basket at the back of our churches.

TEN TEN THEATRE This Catholic theatre company, is looking for more professional actors to join their company. If you are an actor/actress and interested in learning more about the company, please visit www.tententheatre.co.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING organised by the Welwyn Hatfield InterFaith Group on Thursday 23rd February at Howe Dell School, The Runway, Hatfield AL10 9AH. There will be an illustrated talk by a world famous expert, Danny Chivers, 'Adapting to Climate Change', Caring for our Wonderful World. There will be two sessions - one at 5.45 till 7 for children, and the other at 7.15 till 9pm for young people (year 10 upwards) and adults.

WGC PARISHES' FORUM will be meeting on Tuesday evening. The main agenda item is discussion about a constitution for a joint Parishes' Pastoral Council for the Garden City whilst safeguarding the particular needs of each church.

CARNIVAL The Filipino Community will be leading the 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 19th February, the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins. The Mass will have a Carnival flavour to it and there will be a reception for everyone in the Hall afterwards.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD The CAFOD group meets this Tuesday 7th February at 7.30pm in the parish rooms at Holy Family. We would welcome any new comers to the group and we would like to thank all our supporters for all their very valued contributions during 2011.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR Meets this Thursday to learn the new plainchant for the Mass. Come along if you would like to learn it. 8pm.

KISS WEEK at John Henry Newman School in Stevenage. 'KISS' is the Kiddies Support Scheme - a charity supporting children in Uganda. There are events on 6th Feb - 'Stars in their eyes' - 7th - Rock and roll evening. 8th - Uganda Night - An opportunity to learn about the work that KISS is doing in Uganda. 9th - JHN's Got Talent - showcasing some of the finest talent the school has to offer - £3 tickets. All events start at 7pm and tickets can be obtained from Kate Batterbury by email or phone batterburyk@johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk or 01438 314643.

VIVIAN KIERNAN RIP Vivian's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Monday 20th February at 1pm. We offer our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends.

OUR LADY SCHOOL There will be Mass to mark the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Friday 10th February at 9.15am in the School Hall. Everyone welcome!

HCPT Family Race night Saturday 18th February at 7.30pm, at Our lady's church hall. Come and join in the fun (bring your own drinks) all the proceeds go to funding the HCPT Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes. Just turn up on the night and all we ask is a small donation on the door, we will be selling horses for £2 at the back of the church after every Mass, why not buy a horse and come along and place a bet! (and don't worry if you buy a horse and are unable to make the night we will publish the results in the newsletter)

ST.BONAVENTURE'S BRING & BUY & CAKE STALL 19th February after both Masses. Recycle your Christmas Goodies - unused presents - chocolates - biscuits etc. Bake a cake. Donations gratefully received. In Aid of CAFOD
HOLY FAMILY CAKE SALE after 9.30am Mass on 19th February - also in aid of CAFOD.

CONTACTS

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OUR LADY'S CHURCH - many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday 4th February. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

Fr. Michael 327434
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30 - 11am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

06 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	SS Paul Miki and Companions
07 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
08 Wednesday	9.30pm	Holy Family	feria
09 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
10 Friday	9.15am	Our Lady School Hall	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Scholastica
	7pm	Our Lady's	
11 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Lourdes

Sixth Sunday of the Year

11 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
12 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family



CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains:
 Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lytle, on 07884187463