

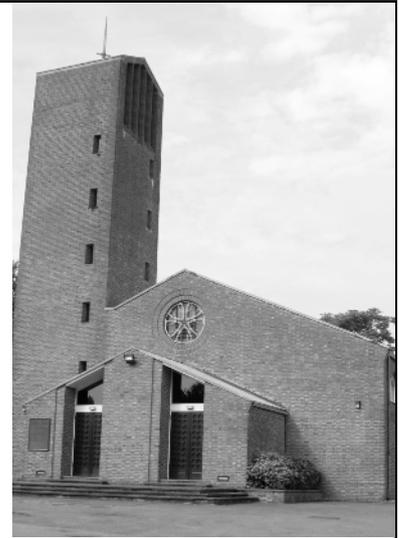
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminararian: Samuel Ejeregbe Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Sixth Sunday of the Year 15th February 2015 (p. 137 of Mass book)

‘If you want to, you can cure me.’ These are the poignant words of the leper in today’s passage from St. Mark’s Gospel as he kneels in front of Jesus. The man obviously wants to be healed of his disease, but so much else will be the outcome of the healing: he will be restored to his loved ones; he will be able to touch them and concretely feel their love; he will be able to share in the life of his community and practise his religion. Jesus’ response is absolutely wonderful! He says: ‘Of course, I want to! Be cured!’ And the miracle takes place instantly.

As you come to Mass today, what is it that you need to ask Jesus for? What weighs on your mind or troubles your heart? How are you or your loved ones affected by illness? As you look out to the wider community and to our world, what do you want the Lord to touch with his healing grace? Now that you have had a chance to reflect on that, what impact would Jesus’ help have on others? If your worries melted away, what would that free you up to do? If illness or infirmity vanished, how would that affect those around you? If disease or war became things of the past, how would nations then behave in creating just situations for others? Would we remember to say: ‘THANK YOU!’? Lots to think about there.

The final area I would ask you to reflect on in the coming days is related to the start of Lent. What do you need to do this Lent which would transform your life? How might your Lent 2015 be different to such a degree that you improve your relationships with others? Which parts of the world do you think might be enriched by the sacrifices you make this Lent? Imagine Jesus saying to you: ‘If you want to, you can...’ Hear yourself responding: ‘Of course, I want to...’ May God bless your Lent!

Fr. Norbert

ASH WEDNESDAY This Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Masses with the distribution of ashes are as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. Please remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

OLD PALMS If you have any old palms from previous years, why not bring them in by Tuesday morning? They will be burned to make the ashes for Wednesday.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE for Lent will be on Tuesday 31st March at 8pm in Our Lady's Church.

LENT There will be Stations of the Cross during Lent as follows: Wednesdays at 10am at Holy Family, Friday mornings at 10 o'clock at St. Bonaventure's and Friday evenings at 7.30 at Our Lady's. There will also be half an hour of silent prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at 10am at Our Lady's, Thursdays at 10am at Holy Family and Saturdays at 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's (except when there is a First Confession Celebration 28th February, 7th & 14th March - in which case 9.30am before Mass)

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FOR NURSERY Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms for nursery on Wednesday 4th March 3 - 5pm and Monday 9th March 3 - 5pm at Our Lady's. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 5-minute appointment. Come with forms filled out and wait in the church.

RCIA GROUP Next Sunday our four adults and three children will go up to Westminster Cathedral to be presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election at 3pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

PILGRIMAGE Pax Travel is arranging for us a pilgrimage to Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of the church.

FUNERALS The Funeral Mass for **Maureen O'Connor R.I.P.** is at 11am on Monday 16th February at Our Lady's.

The Funeral Mass for **Madeleine Sawle R.I.P.** is on Wednesday 25th February at 11am in Our Lady's.

The Funeral Mass for **(Jose) Joe Cassar R.I.P.** is at 10.30am in Holy Family on Thursday 26th February.

The Funeral Mass for **John Laggan R.I.P.** is on Wednesday 4th March at 12.30pm in Our Lady's.

The Funeral Mass for **Kevin Collins R.I.P.** is on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm in Our Lady's.

The Funeral Service for **Valerie Grice R.I.P.** is on Monday 16th March at 11.45am at Harwood Park Crematorium.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the deceased.

SARAH SHERWOOD RIP Sadly we heard the news of the death of Mrs Sarah Sherwood a teacher of Holy Family School who died of cancer. We offer our condolences to the Sarah's family and to the whole school community.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS Next parents' session is on Wednesday 25th February at 7.30pm at Our Lady's

CONFIRMATION Well done to the Confirmation Group on their fundraising cake sales last weekend. They made £435 for Cancer Research UK.

Next session for the young people on Sunday 1st March at Holy Family.

LENT Six faith-sharing sessions to be held in the chapel at Our Lady's: 8 p.m. on Fridays beginning 20th February. If you intend to come, please tell Frances Wall 01707 709017 (there is an answering machine).

ALL SUNDAYS IN LENT Following 8am Mass at St. Bonaventure's there will be a **HOMEMADE CAKE SALE** with proceeds to Cafod Syria Appeal. Cake donations most welcome.

HOLY FAMILY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS Please continue to support our charity coffee mornings after 9.30am Sunday Mass. For the next six months we will be collecting for 'The Mixed Group' a local charity staffed entirely by volunteers. The Mixed Group provide Cream Teas in the Summer and Christmas Dinner for the lonely and elderly within the borough. Last year 114 guests enjoyed dinner, beverages and entertainment, received a bag of food and wrapped presents to take home and in most cases were given a lift to and from the venue. If you pop in to the Parish Room for a coffee after Mass not only will you meet fellow parishioners but you will be helping a very worthwhile charity. Looking forward to seeing you there.

HCPT There will be a **retiring collection** for this year's HCPT group trip to Lourdes, after every Mass **this weekend 14th/15th February.**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER The Service, prepared by Christian women of the Bahamas, will take place at Herts. International Church, Sterling Court, Mundells, WGC. on Friday 6th March at 1pm. See Church Notice-board for further details.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Please keep in your prayers our children preparing for their First Confession: Holy Family - Saturday 28th February, St. Bonaventure's - Saturday 7th March and Our Lady's - Saturday 14th March.

MISSION APPEAL The Xaverian Fathers will be in our three churches the weekend 7th/8th March to make the annual Mission Appeal.

RETREAT DAYS: The Confirmation candidates will be in Aylesford on Sunday 8th March for their retreat. The First Communion children and their families will be in St. Albans the afternoon of Sunday 22nd March. The RCIA Group will at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green the afternoon of Sunday 29th March.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 14th March at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a St. Patrick's celebration in the hall.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 23rd Feb - 8th March Fairtrade is gradually empowering communities throughout the world by helping them organise into co-operatives and improve their negotiating position in the world food markets. Look out for the Fairtrade logo on tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate and bananas when you shop and help the Farmer for the food he produces.

LENTEN LUNCHESES CWL will be providing Lenten Lunches again this year. This will start on Saturday 21st February at 12.30. The first one **ONLY** will be in the Sacristy at Our Lady's Church. From 28th February onward the Lunches will be in the Family Centre.

BOOKS FOR LENT Walk with Me for adults - please take one if you will use it. Also calendars. Day by Day for children. All free.

NEED A CLEANER? Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231.

EDUCATION SUNDAY Our thanks to Holy Family and Our Lady Schools for the beautiful and prayerful ways they led Masses on Education Sunday. It was good to have children and parents, staff and governors present. We hope everyone has a really good, refreshing half-term holiday.

LOURDES Fr. Norbert will remember you all at the Grotto in the next few days.

FAST DAY The Cafod Lenten Fast Day will be on Friday 27th February. Envelopes available next weekend.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Gerard 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
	11am	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
17 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Ash Wednesday
	12noon	St. Bonaventure's	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
19 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
20 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

First Sunday of Lent

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



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463