

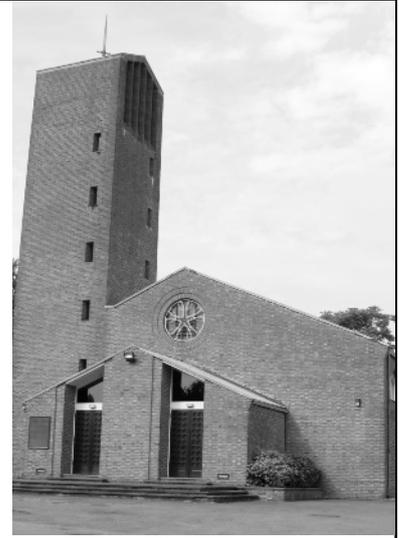
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

First Sunday of Lent 22nd February 2015 (p. 148 of Mass book)

My Lent began in such a unique way this year. I was at the Grotto in Lourdes at 7.15am to pray with my fellow pilgrims and then off to the airport at Toulouse to be back in WGC for evening Mass on Ash Wednesday. Lourdes is having a makeover! The Bishop has decided to try and have works carried out to recreate the original atmosphere of this holy place at the time of the Apparitions. There are bulldozers and fences; all that is left at present is the statue of Our Lady; for me this meant a totally new experience of being at the Grotto. The sun shone for most of Monday but rain fell gently - and quite heavily - the rest of the time! Because we were out of season, there were not any of the large processions or services which most pilgrims take part in during the spring and summer. However, it was a heavenly, prayerful time. Your intentions were posted in the special box now just outside the Grotto and I prayed hard for you all. Cups of hot chocolate and glasses of cognac warmed me up before the start of Lent!

How have these first few days of Lent been for you? Has anything extraordinary happened or have you been opened up to something fresh and novel this Lent? Prayer is such a crucial element of this season. Do you find you have time to pray? Is it that you need longer? Should you be more intense in your prayer? Something to ponder. Almsgiving and charitable works allow us to make sacrifices in union with the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ and to bring light and support into the lives of others who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Perhaps you might find out more about those who are helping abroad through charity? Is there someone closer to home you should make more time for? Reflect on this. Fasting is probably one of the hardest aspects of Lent to get our heads around! Even though St. Mark's account in today's Gospel does not mention Jesus fasting, we know that he spent forty days in the wilderness and was

tempted by Satan. Through his desert experience Jesus was able to say a definite 'No!' to temptation. Fasting helps us also to learn to say 'No!' to things, some of which might be good - or at least not harmful to us. As we are schooled in the ways of the Lord, we ourselves hopefully will be able to resist the temptations which come our way, damaging our relationship with God and with others, resulting in us losing sight of where we should be going. Let's make sure we don't put off this part of the Lenten challenge.

Let us pray that this Lent of 2015 will afford us opportunities to be renewed in the image and likeness of God through prayer, charity and fasting. Thus we will be so very close to Christ as his Passion, Death and Resurrection shine out at Easter. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

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.

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 **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 body will be received into church on Wednesday 4.30pm for 5pm.

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.

The Funeral Mass for **Catherine Clifford R.I.P.** is at 11.45am in Our Lady's Church on Friday 13th March.

The Funeral Mass for **Sarah Sherwood R.I.P.** is at 10.30am on Monday 2nd March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Harpenden.

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

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

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

CAFOD Fast Day Collection Please use the CAFOD Fast Day Envelopes that are available at the back of church for this Friday's Fast Day. These will be collected in a retiring collection next Sunday. The Government has promised to match what you donate via the CAFOD Fast Day envelopes pound for pound between Ash Wednesday 18th February and Sunday 17th May 2015. This will make an enormous difference to the people who most need our help. If you decide you would like to set up a Direct Debit with CAFOD this will be matched for the first 3 months.

LENT Six faith-sharing sessions to be held in the chapel at Our Lady's, 8pm. on Fridays.
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.

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. 70% of the world's food is produced by 500 million farmers, yet many of them can't feed their families. This is an unjust situation which Fairtrade seeks to change by creating fairer marketing opportunities with fewer 'Middlemen'. Watch out for the Fairtrade logo in the food shops during Fairtrade Fortnight, trying to put Justice on your plate and in your cup!

LENTEN LUNCHESES CWL will be providing Lenten Lunches again this year. The Lunches will be in the Family Centre. 12.30pm.

BOOKS FOR LENT Walk with Me for adults - **more** copies have been ordered for all parishes, they should arrive during the week Also calendars. Day by Day for children. All free.

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

REPOSITORY Visit the revamped stall at Our Lady's Church. Cards for all occasions, exclusive bank cards of our three churches available. Usually open after all Masses.

PLEASE NOTE: Because there is a funeral at Holy Family on Thursday there will be no Confessions or Exposition.

VOCATION Discernment Group for adults (18-30's) meets on Friday 27 February, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room next to Westminster Cathedral. Fr Lawrence Lew, OP, will speak on St Dominic's gift to the Church. For more info contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk

MOTHER AND TODDLER meets every Wednesday from 10am - 11.30am in the parish hall at St. Bonaventure's. A good way to get to know other mums, carers etc. whilst your little ones play.

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@gmail.com

MASS TIMES

23 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
24 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
25 Wednesday	11am	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass Madeleine Sawle
26 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
	10.30am	Holy Family	Funeral Mass Joe Cassar
27 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
28 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

		Second Sunday of Lent	
28 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
01 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