

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Fourth Sunday of Lent 6th March 2016 (page 172 of Mass book)***

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis sees a special place for the Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession. The Holy Father has written the following (I have highlighted certain words and phrases): 'So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, **living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives**. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people **to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands**. For every penitent, it will be **a source of true interior peace**. May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy. **God never tires of reaching out to us. He is always ready to listen to us...** All one needs to do is **to accept the invitation to conversion...**during this special time of mercy offered by the Church.'

These are such powerful words! Lent is the season to make the decision for this rich encounter with God's mercy. Maybe your experience long ago left you hurt or confused? Perhaps when you were younger it felt like the thing children did and there was the game of making up something to say to keep the priest (or your parents) happy? Has it been so long that you can't remember why you stopped going? Just think of the younger son in today's Gospel parable of the Prodigal Son. He was not told off when he returned. The Father was delighted to have his son back. There was a great celebration. The Father never stopped loving his older son who had been faithful and yet was so resentful at his Father's merciful, forgiving heart. *This parable reminds us of God!* The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a joyful meeting where we have the opportunity to express what we know we have done which is wrong and to hear that we are forgiven. What a great gift from God through his Church!

Our parishes' celebration of Confession - our Reconciliation Service for Lent - will be on Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm in Our Lady's. There will be a number of priests. Why not make the decision to come? Put the date and time in your diary, on your mobile phone or on the calendar! It does take courage. Why put it off for some other time? At the back of our churches there are purple leaflets to help you prepare for, and celebrate, this Sacrament of God's rich mercy. Take one, reflect with it **AND COME!!!** May God bless you this week. Fr. Norbert

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** to each mother and honorary mum. God bless you!

**EASTER VIGIL MUSIC** There will be a practice for all singers and musicians who would like to take part in the Easter Vigil for our three parishes. The rehearsal will be on Monday 21st March 7 - 8pm at Our Lady's.

**ALTAR SERVERS' LISTS** for Easter are now in each sacristy. Please sign up and note when the practices will take place. Thank you.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S 90TH** Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's next Sunday -13th March at 10.30am to mark the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone. You are all welcome! There will be extra seating in the Parish Hall with a video link. Altar Servers will have a rehearsal in the church on Saturday 12th at 12.30pm. Musicians and singers have a practice on Thursday 10th 7.30 - 9.00pm in the church. The Reception will be in the Focolare Centre. We need parishioners to bring finger food to share. Please sign your name on the list at the back of the church.

**ST. DAVID'S DAY** Our thanks to all who helped with last Tuesday's reception. The Welsh goodies were delicious!

**FIRST CONFESSIONS** Please pray for our children who will be making their First Confession on Saturday 12th: St. Bonaventure's at 11am and Holy Family at 2pm.

**POLISH BLESSING OF FOOD** Tradycyjne Swiecenie Pokarmow odbędzie się w kościele Our Lady's, Welwyn Garden City, w Wielką Sobotę 26.03. o godzinie 16.00 Serdecznie zapraszamy. The traditional Blessing of Easter Food will be in Our Lady's on Holy Saturday (26th March) at 4pm. Baskets of food are placed around the sanctuary and blessed. Last year around 250 people came. The Service lasts half an hour and you do not need to be Polish to attend!

**YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGES TO OUR LADY'S** St. Helen's Parish, North Watford will come this Friday (11th) entering through the Doors of Mercy at 6.30pm, attending Mass at 7pm with their Parish Priest, Fr. Pat Foley. After Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm, they have asked for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions until 9pm when they will depart. 57 have signed up to come! St. Philip Howard Primary School will be coming on Tuesday 15th March. Holy Rood Watford's Ascent Group will come on Tuesday 3rd May. Holy Family School will choose a date after Easter.

**LENT** There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes on Mondays at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass, at Holy Family on Thursdays after 9.30 Mass (during Confessions) and at St. Bonaventure's on Saturdays after 10am Mass (during Confessions). The Stations of the Cross will be at Holy Family on Wednesdays after 9.30 Mass, at St. Bonaventure's on Fridays after 9.30 Mass and at Our Lady's on Fridays after 7pm Mass. The Lenten Reconciliation Service will be on Tuesday 22nd March at 8pm at Our Lady's.

**CONFIRMATION** Next session on Sunday 20th March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**RCIA** The next session is on Monday 7th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS** of our three churches have their next meeting on Wednesday 9th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

**KATHLEEN MURPHY RIP** Kathleen's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's on Wednesday 9th March at 9.30am

**BETTY FORBES RIP** Betty's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Thursday 10th March at 11.30am

**WINIFRED GUGAN** Winifred's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 10th March at 3.30pm.

**KATHLEEN (SHEILA) ROBINSON RIP** The Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 18th March at 9.30am.

**HOLY FAMILY'S FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet this Friday at 3.30pm.

**MASS FOR SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** at the Cathedral on Saturday 14th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by the 7th March 2016.

**SCHOOL FORMS** Fr. Norbert will be available in Our Lady's Church for signing the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Nursery on Tuesday 15th March 3.30 - 5.30pm. Parents should phone Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come with their child and the necessary form together with the additional yellow form available at the back of our churches and wait in the church until called. A reminder that the forms can only be signed for practising Catholic families.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** Time is running out! Young people of our parishes aged 16 - 30 are asked to think about joining the Deanery coach to Krakow in the summer (Sunday 24th July -2nd August). 2 - 3 million young people will gather with Pope Francis and it will definitely be a memorable and unique experience. Why not be one of them?! (The cost of a place is £750). Our Finance Committees have agreed to subsidise the first 20 young people by £300 each. Please speak to Fr. Norbert if you are interested in going. Booking forms and brochures are at the back of our churches.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY** There will be an extra Mass at 7pm at Our Lady's on Thursday 17th March to mark St. Patrick's Day. Bishop Paul will be the main celebrant. There will be a 'Get-together' in the Hall afterwards. If anyone would like to help with entertainment, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**HCPT Quiz night** on Friday 11th March 7.45pm in Our Lady's hall. Tickets are £5 per person with teams of up to 8 people. Bring your own drinks, to book a table please call Barbara on 07789743703.

**INTER FAITH GROUP** The next evening meeting of the local inter faith group will be on the topic of 'Education and Faith' which will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, Handside Lane (next to the Barn Theatre) on Monday 7th March at 7.15. One of the speakers will be Pat Whitney - all welcome.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** Many thanks to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

**MISSIO** Our Lady's Missio APF Members - please do collect a copy of the new Spring issue of the Missio magazine from the back of church. Many thanks.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT** 18th March Everyone welcome, tickets £6 or £10 (with food). Contact Gloria for more information on 07951579406. Deadline 11th March. Come and test your quiz knowledge.

**MOBILITY ITEMS TO GIVE AWAY** Scooter and cover, bed and an armchair - all these are suitable for someone with limited mobility. Contact Mavis on 330830 or Kathryn in the office 322579 if you are interested.

**EASTER TRIDUUM** Bishop Paul will be with us in the Garden City for the Easter Services.

**DVD** To all the Padua, Venice & Verona pilgrimage I have completed the DVD of the trip. If anybody would a copy they are £6 each including post and packing £5 without post. Please contact Martin By email at martinmoore452@gmail.com.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES CARD** Please take home a card listing all the services for Holy Week and Easter.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234  
 welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk  
 Our Lady's  
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP  
 Website: www.ourlady-s-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579  
 parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk  
 St. Bonaventure's  
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF  
 Website: www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Martin 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

**CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 22nd March from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. Come and help plant our outdoor Easter Garden, make your own garden, make some Easter things, join in an Easter egg hunt, prepare for our Way of the Cross, have a 'Happy Easter Tea' and listen to an Easter story. We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover some of our costs. Please bring a small amount of food. Parents are very welcome.

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

**MASS TIMES**

07 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	SS Perpetua and Felicity
08 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John of God
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	11.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	3.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure's	
11 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>				
12 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Mass	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