

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*

First Sunday of Lent 5th March 2017 p. 151 of book

Another Lent has begun! As you think back over the years, have there been 'Lents' which have stood out for you because you were successful, or because of a difficult situation which you were able to overcome? Maybe you managed to heal a rift with someone else or saved huge sums for the poor and marginalised? Perhaps you had an amazing experience of prayer way beyond anything you thought possible? What is the purpose of Lent? What is the purpose of YOUR Lent? What does the Church hope will happen?

This week I heard broadcasters on the radio committing themselves this Lent to giving up crisps - salt and vinegar crisps...the ultimate sacrifice! There was no question about the undertaking nor any explanation of why - it just seemed to be the natural thing to do! Have you made up your mind to give up something? Will it be your favourite food/drink/habit? Have you thought of doing something extra and are sure this addition to your life will enrich you? The Church wants us to bear fruit in charity, prayer and spiritual training. She, as a mother caring for her children, urges us to focus totally on the source of life and salvation - Jesus Christ - and to be renewed by his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Lent is a time of testing as Jesus was tested by the Devil in the wilderness. Lent is a time of growth in our relationship with God just as we see new life spring up in nature. Lent is an opportunity to seize what is best for us in our journey towards the glory of heaven and not to put it off for some other time. We definitely need each other for support and encouragement.

I find that the Lord offers us so many ways of discovering and rediscovering his presence. Let us open our eyes, our ears, our minds, our hearts and our souls. Let us open our hands to reach out to those in need and share from the little or abundance of what we have. Let us commit ourselves to making this a good and holy Lent with the power of God's grace! Have a blessed week! ***Fr. Norbert***

CAFOD FAST DAY CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. CAFOD traditionally holds an Appeal early in Lent. Lent Fast Day is on Friday 10th March when you could consider giving up a meal. Please take a Fast Day envelope today as you leave Mass and return it with your donation on 11th/12th March, or make a pledge to give regularly. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

LENTEN ALMS Should you wish to contribute to the Cardinal's Fund which supports a variety of causes in the Diocese, there are special envelopes available at the back of our churches.

LENT In our churches during Lent, there will be times of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: Monday 10.00 - 10.30am at Our Lady's, Thursday 10.00 - 10.30am at Holy Family and Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am at St. Bonaventure's. There will be Stations of the Cross: Wednesday 10am at Holy Family, Friday 10am at St. Bonaventure's and 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

EARLY MASS During Lent the next First Friday Mass at St. Bonaventure's (followed by breakfast) will be on 7th April.

LENTEN TALKS IN ST ALBANS These are about the Bible and will take place in St. Alban and St Stephen's Church, Beaconsfield Road AL1 3RB at 8pm in March on Wednesday 8th, Thursday 16th, Wednesday 22nd and Wednesday 29th. All are welcome. More details on poster on church noticeboards.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS On Saturday 11th March at 2.30pm in the Cathedral a Mass will be celebrated for all bereaved parents. As parents arrive in the Cathedral that day they will be invited to write the name of their deceased child, which will later be collected and taken to the sanctuary. There are invitations at the back of our churches which give the details.

HCPT GROUP 183 There will be a retiring collection for our WGC Group 183 this weekend (4th/5th). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

WOMEN OF VALOUR is a Prayer Group made up of women who meet every Saturday at 5pm in Our Lady's Chapel (near the entrance to the Hall) to say the Rosary and to share the Word. They would like to invite you to join them and encourage you to bring your children along.

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

ST. BONAVENTURE'S Thank you to all who came and cleaned on Thursday.

MAN UNITED SHIRT Many thanks to everyone for their interest. Sophie has now sold the shirt and has given the £500 cheque to Holy Family CAFOD group for the village it's supporting in Ethiopia.

LONELINESS is a well known contributor to physical and mental illness. On Thursday 16th March at 7.15 at the Jim Macdonald Centre in Hatfield AL10 8HR there will be an opportunity to explore some of the reasons why people feel lonely and to hear of some of the outreach projects from speakers from the county, AGE UK and a member of a local Christian community. This is being organised by the inter faith group and all are welcome.

OUR LADY'S MISSIO / APF MEMBERS The Spring Issue of "Mission Today" has just arrived. Do please help yourself to a copy from the back of church whenever you are next at Our Lady's.

NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice forms for Nursery entry on Wednesday 8th March 3.30 - 5.30pm and Monday 13th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents are asked to contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 (or email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk with preferred date and approximate time) to arrange an appointment with Fr. Norbert. Fr. Norbert will be giving out his 'extra' form either before or after Mass at weekends. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come into Our Lady's Church with their child and wait to be called. Parents whose children were baptised in one of our three churches in WGC may request a Baptismal Certificate from Kathryn Hubbard.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH The next meeting to continue planning for Holy Family Church's 50th Anniversary will be on Tuesday (7th) at 8pm in the Parish Room (after the CAFOD Meeting).

CARDINAL'S MASS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES will be on Saturday 3rd June at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more, and would like to be invited to this Mass, please give the details of your names and address, email, phone number and date of wedding to Fr. Norbert and he will send them on. Every year many couples have attended this Mass and have come home extremely happy!

FR. MARIUS Fr. Marius really enjoyed his time in Welwyn Garden City. He remarked on the diversity of people gathered for Mass, saying how kind and happy everyone was!

GEORGE PUGH RIP George's Funeral Mass will be at St. Peter's, Hatfield, Wednesday 8th March at 10.30am with his body being received into the church the night before at 7pm. Parishioners are welcome at both services and to a reception for George at Beales Hotel, Comet Way, Hatfield, from 2pm. Please join George's family in supporting The PSP Association, www.pspassociation.org.uk

TRANSPORT TO MASS The next project meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm at HOLY FAMILY'S Parish Room. The Group has reached the stage of researching similar projects established in neighbouring parishes and will be presenting their findings for discussion. If you have any experience or advice on transport, your contribution to help shape the service provided would be welcome. Please come along. For further information contact Joe Galloway 01707 894207 or Desi Russell 01707 371399

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next parents' meeting will be on Wednesday 8th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Congratulations to the children of our three churches who have now made their First Confession. We are very grateful to their catechists for all the hard work they have put in to prepare our children.

CONFIRMATION Next session will be today (Sunday) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family. Next Sunday the young people have a Retreat Day in Aylesford when they will reflect on different ways of praying: through Scripture, the Rosary, before the Blessed Sacrament and Contemplative Prayer. Please keep them in your prayers. The young people will also be leading Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's on Friday 24th March at 7.30pm followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

OUR LADY SCHOOL Our Lady School PTA Quiz Night on Friday 24th March, 7.30pm. Tickets (available from the school) are £10 which includes a Fish and Chips supper and nibbles. There will also be a licensed bar.

RCIA Please pray for the group going up to the Cathedral today (Sunday) to be presented to Cardinal Vincent Nichols at the Rite of Election. The next session will be on Monday 13th March at 7.30pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings
should be made with Phil Johnson 01707
377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL Minutes will be available next weekend.

LOOKING AHEAD We will be having our Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday 10th June at 12noon. We have been asked to host a Mental Health Awareness Day on Saturday 1st July in Our Lady's Hall; MIND mid-Herts will be assisting. Mass led for us by the Filipino Community will be on Saturday 13th May at 6pm at Our Lady's. This year's African Mass will be on Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's. There will be a Day in Walsingham on Saturday 20th May - a coach will be booked.

HOLY LAND (Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017: 46 have booked) and **FATIMA** (Sunday 10th - Thursday 14th September 2017: 24 have booked so far) £689. Contact Pax Travel for more details on 020 7485 3003 or info@paxtravel.co.uk Not many places left!

ST PATRICK'S DAY After 7pm Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 17th March, there will be a gathering in Our Lady's Hall to mark St. Patrick's Day. There will be Irish dancers, a quiz and we ask you to bring food to share.

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

MASS TIMES

06 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
07 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
09 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
10 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Second Sunday of Lent

11 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
12 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 and need a Catholic Chaplain contact Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net