

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*

Seventh Sunday of the Year 19th February 2012 (p.139)

So much can change in a week! When I prepared last week's newsletter on the Friday I never could have dreamed that this week I would be mourning the death of my dear Mum, Teresa. On 9th February we celebrated her 74th birthday with the family together; she really enjoyed her day. Then in the early hours of Saturday morning she was feeling very unwell and taken to hospital. She talked to the family right up to five minutes before she died and then she closed her eyes as if falling asleep. It was a gentle, peaceful and loving death. We could not have asked more of God than that. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was always such a special day to Mum and this was the day God called her to him. We believe firmly in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ which we shall all celebrate at the end of the Lenten journey which begins on Wednesday. Our prayer now is that Mum, united with the Lord in death, will rise with him to the glory of heaven.

Mum's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 21st at 11am at St. Anthony's Church, Garratt Road, Edgware HA8 9AN. This is where I became a priest back in 1988. Mum's body will be received into church at 7pm on Monday followed by a Vigil of Prayer. You are welcome to come on Monday and/or Tuesday if you are able. Thank you for so many messages of sympathy and for all your prayers. My Dad and all our family have felt the power of your support. Of course, it does not take away our deep sadness but it does buoy us up when the pain of our loss strikes us acutely.

Wednesday, of course, is Ash Wednesday - a day of fasting and abstinence - launching us into Lent with our gaze fixed on the Cross. Let us walk with Christ and experience the grace of his loving Sacrifice.

God bless you. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

ASH WEDNESDAY is this week. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church, 12noon Mass at St. Bonaventure's Church and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's Church. There will also be services in our primary schools that day.

BOOKS FOR LENT Today at the back of church there are booklets to take home and use during Lent: *My Day by Day* for children and *Walk with Me* for adults, also Lenten calendars - please help yourselves, they are free.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Wednesdays at 10am at Holy Family, Friday mornings at St. Bonaventure's at 10am and Friday evenings at Our Lady's at 7.30pm.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in Lent: Mondays 10-10.30am at Our Lady's, Thursdays 10-10.30am at Holy Family and on Saturday mornings at St. Bonaventure's during Confessions.

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. Contact Anne Horsman anne.horsman@btinternet.com or 01438 840566 if you would like more information.

LENTEN CONCERT at Our Lady's Saturday 3 March - After the success of their previous concert CJM Music will be making a return visit to Our Lady's to perform "Songs of the Prodigal", a gentle evening of songs and reflections for Lent. The one and a half hour concert will take place in the church on Saturday 3 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. CJM Music is a well known group of Catholic musicians who have appeared on the TV and Radio and also performed for Pope Benedict when he celebrated Mass in Birmingham in 2010.

VISIT TO SALZBURG A short break has been arranged for the three parishes to visit the Austrian city of Salzburg, departing Sunday 21st October and returning on Wednesday 24th October. The visit to this world Heritage Site costs £459 for adults and £239 for children 12 and under. Brochures giving full details of the tour and booking forms are available at the back of church. A meeting will be held in Our Lady's Parish Centre on Sunday 26th February at 3pm to provide some more information about the visit and answer any questions you may have.

'CATHOLICS' The Diocese of Westminster features in a new BBC 4 TV series 'Catholics'. Priests, the first programme, on Thursday 23rd February at 9pm, is a behind-the-scenes portrait of Allen Hall seminary in London. The second Children, Thursday 1st March focuses on St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Chipping, Lancashire and Women, filmed at Westminster Cathedral to be shown on Thursday 8 March at 9pm, focuses on Catholic women and how Catholicism has shaped their lives.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP Meets Tuesday 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the parish hall. We will learn about Ash Wednesday and Lent and we will have pancakes today!

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE - Under New Management. All enquiries concerning the use of the centre should be referred to Phil (Philomena) Johnson. Daytime telephone number 077 901 354 58. e-mail peartreepomegrnatecafe@googlemail.com. or just drop into the cafe and talk to Phil. The cafe is open every weekday from 10am to 3pm.

CONFIRMATION Our young people meet again on Sunday 26th February at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church. Bishop John Sherrington will be coming to this session to meet the candidates.

FIRST CONFESSIONS will be on Saturdays at Our Lady's on 25th February and 3rd March, at St. Bonaventure's on 10th March and at Holy Family on 31st March. Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. On those Saturdays please note that the scheduled Confessions at St. Bonaventure's will move to 9.30am before the 10am Mass.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH FIRST RECONCILIATION: the first group of children will be receiving this Sacrament next Saturday 25th February at 11.00am. Children and their Parents should gather in the Church at 10.45am.

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.

VIVIAN KIERNAN RIP Vivian's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Monday 20th February at 1pm.

JOHN BOLAND R.I.P. John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday at 10.30am. We offer our prayers and sympathy to family and friends.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Pray for Malaysia at the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 2nd March. Venue: Friends Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane, WGC, AL8 6SP. Car Park next door at the Barn Theatre. Time: 1.45pm. All welcome.

FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 2nd March. Envelopes will be given out next weekend and collected the following weekend. The government has promised to match pound for pound all that is raised for CAFOD Fast Day so please do give generously.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS Fr. Norbert will publish some dates for form signing after the half-term break.

MARCH EVENTS

Thursday 1st St. David's Day celebrations 9.30am at Holy Family.

Friday 16th March Altar Servers' 50th Anniversary Mass for WGC at 7pm in Our Lady's Church. Bishop John Sherrington to celebrate.

Saturday 17th March St. Patrick's Day celebration Mass at 6pm followed by a Get-together in Our Lady's Hall.

Saturday 24th March Bishop John will lead a Reflection Morning at Our Lady's for everyone involved in ministries here in our parishes starting with Mass at 9.30am and finishing at 1pm with soup lunch.

APRIL EVENTS

Sunday 1st April 11.30am Mass combined Special Needs and Children's Mass for Palm Sunday (Our Lady's)

Monday 23rd April 9.30am St. George's Day Mass and English Breakfast

Friday 27th April 7.30pm Confirmation Mass at Our Lady's.

Saturday 28th April. Visit (by coach) to St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Fulham. Will include tour of the Pugin church, Special Needs Mass and barbecue.

NEED A WHEELCHAIR? A lightweight (almost new) foldaway wheelchair is available FREE. This has been blessed during a pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you are interested please contact Teresa and Jim on 01707 394314.

CONTACTS

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Our Lady's

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St. Bonaventure's

81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Website:

www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Michael 327434

Holy Family Church

194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS

Holy Family:

Thursday 10am - 10.30am

St. Bonaventure:

Saturday 9.30 - 10am

Our Lady's:

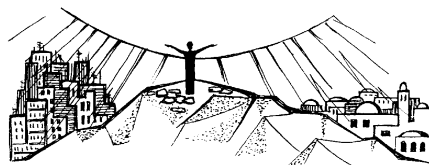
Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

20 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
	1pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's
21 Tuesday	<i>No morning Mass today at St. Bonaventure's</i>		
	7pm	Our Lady's	feria
Ash Wednesday	9.30pm	Holy Family	
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
23 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
24 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	10.30am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's
	7pm	Our Lady's	
25 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

First Sunday of Lent

25 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
26 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