

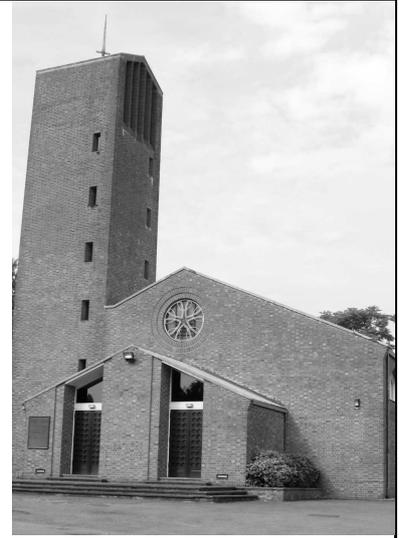
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fifth Sunday of Lent 6th April 2014 (page 170)

In today's Gospel we are taken by St. John to the village of Bethany where we meet the family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. They matter a great deal to Jesus; he has obviously spent much time with them. A series of encounters takes place and in the spirit of St. John we are led to a wonderful experience of the true identity of Jesus! Here we encounter death, the death of Jesus' friend, Lazarus. Jesus comes face to face with mortality and the pain of bereavement as he is approached by Martha and Mary and they journey to the tomb. Jesus offers hope as he proclaims: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'. The humanity of Jesus is so evident as he sheds tears. The tremendous faith he has in his Father shines forth as he prays and then calls his friend from the tomb. The glory of God is seen and many people come to believe in Jesus. (Think back to the first sign of Jesus in John's Gospel at the Wedding Feast at Cana when Jesus turned water into wine. The sign resulted in God's glory being seen and his disciples believing in him.)

St. John loves to challenge us! Here we, with Jesus, stare death in the face. Here we are asked to reflect on our hopes for the future and to ponder whether or not we truly believe Jesus has the power to raise us. Here in Bethany we gaze on the friendship of a family which loved Jesus to such a degree and are invited to allow the Lord to be a part of our lives. Bethany reveals to us the genuine compassion and vulnerability of Jesus who would really suffer and die, knowing pain and rejection by so many. At the grave of Lazarus we hear the riches of Jesus' prayer and are gently directed towards a mirroring of this trust in our own prayer.

In a week's time we will enter Holy Week. Bethany and the Raising of Lazarus are a stopping off point to prepare us for the final entry into the Mystery of God's Love for humanity. From this passage, see what you can learn and imitate. Allow Jesus to inspire you. Get ready to walk with him even more closely! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

BRIAN DAVIDSON RIP Brian's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 9th April at 2pm.

RON DAVIN RIP Ron's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 14th April at 9.30am.

TERRI LAURIE RIP Funeral details still to be arranged. We offer our prayers to all family and friends of the deceased.

BISHOP JOHN will be with us in Welwyn Garden City for the Easter Triduum this year. He will lead a meditation on 'The Last Words of Jesus' on Good Friday at 7.30pm in St. Bonaventure's.

EASTER VIGIL There will be a music rehearsal for the Easter Vigil in Our Lady's Church this Thursday (10th) at 7.30pm. All musicians and singers welcome. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you can attend.

CENSUS If you missed filling in a census form, please would you do so today. There are forms at the back of each church.

WGC PROJECT There were 50 parishioners at last Wednesday's Meeting. There were many questions voiced and comments made. Minutes of the meeting will soon be available. The overall feeling of those gathered was to go for a rebuilding of Our Lady's Hall as a Parish Centre for our three churches. People offered to be on a planning committee which would put together a 'spec' which would then be presented to architects for tender. Fr. Norbert wants everyone to know that nothing would start for at least a couple of years but that in principle concrete proposals can be drawn up. He is very grateful to all who came and/or offered suggestions.

LENT During Lent there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for half an hour on Mondays at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass, on Thursdays at Holy Family after 9.30 Mass and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass. **Stations of the Cross** will be at Holy Family on Wednesdays after 9.30 Mass and on Fridays in the morning at St. Bonaventure's after 9.30 Mass and in the evening at Our Lady's after 7 o'clock Mass. **Lectio Divina** every Monday evening in Holy Family's Parish Room 8-9pm.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION for our three parishes will be on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. A couple of the priests coming speak the African languages of Ibbo, Swahili and Haya - that might be helpful for some of you!

PALM SUNDAY Next Sunday's 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's will be a Children's Mass. There will be a practice in the church on Saturday 11.30-12.30.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY falls in the Octave of Easter this year and so will be transferred to Monday 28th April. There will be a St. George's Mass in Our Lady's at 9.30am on that day followed by breakfast in the hall.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM A group of parishioners will be meeting to reflect on Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium) on Friday evenings in the Chapel adjacent to Our Lady's Hall, starting on 11th April for eight sessions ending on 6th June, with a break for Good Friday. The first session will start at 8pm for an hour but future sessions will begin at 7.45pm, for an hour. Pat Whitney from Focolare will be the group facilitator. Anyone interested in exploring the text - with a view to gaining a deeper understanding of the "Proclamation of the Gospel in today's world" - is most welcome. For further information please ring Kay Mason on 335633 or Desi Russell on 371399.

ALTAR SERVERS Please sign up for the various Easter Services on the lists in each sacristy. Thank you.

RCIA The next meeting will be on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

AFRICAN MASS There will be a planning meeting on Sunday 27th April after 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's. All members of the African Community are asked to come and start the preparations for the Mass on Sunday 13th July.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (27th April) will be celebrated at Our Lady and St Vincent Church in Potters Bar (243 Mutton Lane EN6 2AT) from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, commencing with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour followed by the Divine Mercy Devotions. After the Devotions, all are invited to refreshments in the hall

OCTOBER TRIP to Rheims. Leaflets and booking forms at the back of our churches.

CONFIRMATION The young people are in Aylesford today (Sunday) for a Retreat Day focussing on various ways of praying. They have their final session on Sunday 27th April and will be confirmed on Friday 9th May.

LENTEN LUNCHESES Provided by the CWL every Saturday in Lent 12noon - 1.30pm in Our Lady's parish centre. Profit is donated to CAFOD.

CWL AGM Takes place this Tuesday at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. Please come!

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING Begins this Monday at 10am. All welcome.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTER FAITH How Faith Influences our Behaviour - this Monday 7.15pm for 7.30pm at the Jim Macdonald Centre, off High View, Hatfield.

WOMEN'S GROUP meets on Tuesday in the new venue - the Free Church. 12noon.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 15th April from 2 - 4pm. 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 welcome. Some of our Loreto students will be selling cakes to take home at the end of the workshop.

THE PEACE GARDEN is getting a Spring clean. We are looking for someone who could lend us a pressure washer (to clean the garden slabs) for two weeks commencing 22nd April. If you can help please phone Anne Stapleton on 01707 328516.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES For those of you in the envelope scheme (or who requested envelopes) your new sets are at the back of each church for you to collect.

BLESSING OF FOOD A tradition in Poland and many other countries will take place on Holy Saturday (19th April) in Our Lady's at 4pm. Last year over 150 people came and Fr. Norbert gave the blessing in Polish! Swiecenie pokarmow na Wielkanocne sniadanie odbędzie się w Kościele Our Lady wWGC wWielka Sobota o godzinie 16.00. Serdecznie wszystkich zapraszamy.

HCPT Group (local) will be doing a 'Guess the number of eggs' competition at the back of each church this weekend with all money raised supporting those going to Lourdes.

LISTS FOR HOLY WEEK (ST. BONAVENTURE'S) for Foot Washing, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers are at the back of St. Bonaventure's, please fill in if you can volunteer. Thank you.

DOG WALKING Can you help an elderly parishioner by walking her dog? Contact Nora on 321432.

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

CATHOLIC RAMBLERS CLUB Sunday 13th April - a circular walk from the station, lunch at the Bull Wheathampstead, tea at the Two Willows. Parishioners are welcome to join this group at the station at 10.31. Distance is 12 miles.

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. Vincent 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 or 07790 135458
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

CONFESSIONS	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	Our Lady's	Lent feria
08 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
	2pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's
10 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
11 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

		Palm Sunday
12 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
13 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