

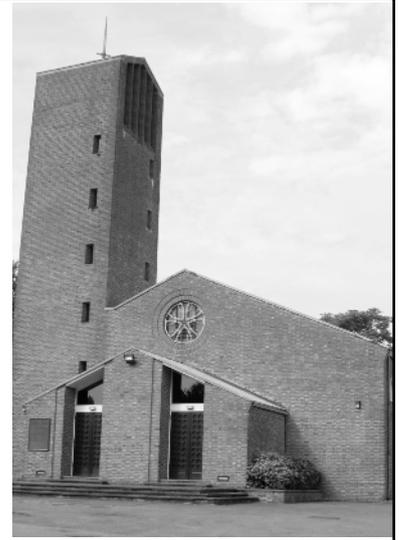
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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 Easter (page 269) 17th April 2016

'I know them (the sheep) and they follow me...The Father and I are one.' These are two important statements Jesus makes in today's Gospel passage from St. John. It has been suggested that the latter informs a better understanding of the former. In other words, if we can get to the heart of Jesus and the Father being one, we will then have a deeper understanding of what it means for us to be sheep known by Jesus who follow him.

If we want to know what God is like, we as Christians look to Jesus Christ. In him we see the Father's face which is compassionate, merciful, forgiving, healing, loving...the list is endless. Jesus' whole ministry is a revelation of God's reaching out to humanity created in his image and likeness. The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father. There is a mutual love which is not selfish and inward-looking but rather is poured out freely and abundantly. For us to be known by Jesus implies that he loves us intimately, that there is not anything he would not do for us and that he, as Shepherd, protects us, lays his life down for us and shares with us the new life won at Easter. He asks us as his followers to be like him - that can be so hard! Is *my* face radiating Christ's love? Are *my* hands extended to the person in need? Are *my* feet walking where he is directing me? What about *you*? We need the Holy Spirit to confirm in us Christ's image so that we in turn can come closer to him. The selfsame Spirit 'dances' between the Father and the Son and wants us to join in the rhythm! Perhaps today is a day to listen out for this still, small voice resonating in our souls and then to respond.

Today is Vocations Sunday. Some have been called to imitate Jesus in his shepherding of the flock. It is a wonderful and demanding calling - as is every vocation! We definitely need more priests. Let us pray that some of our community will hear this Divine Voice and respond.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

AYLESFORD Parish Pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy to Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 14th May. Aylesford Priory, or 'The Friars' to give it its traditional name, was founded in 1242 when the first Carmelites arrived from the Holy Land. They came under the patronage of Richard de Grey, a crusader, who gave them a small piece of land at his manor of Aylesford. In 1247 the Bishop of Rochester, Richard of Wendover, officially recognised the Carmelite foundation at Aylesford and the first General Chapter of the Order outside the Holy Land was held there. Now in this Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016, we are going as pilgrims to the same place! The coach will leave Our Lady's at 9am. There will be the Rosary Way at Aylesford, picnic lunch (bring all you need!), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass. We should be back by 6pm. The cost will be £10 for adults and £5 for children. Please sign up your name on a list at the back of our churches. Let's make this a great day!

CONFIRMATION Next session today (17th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS of our three churches have their next meeting this Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The First Communion families will have an Afternoon of Retreat at St. Alban's Abbey on Sunday 24th April 12 noon until 4pm.

HEALTHWISE is coming to the Pomegranate Cafe Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP Wednesday 4th May from 10.30am - 11.30am. Healthy eating, gentle exercise, computer skills and friendship Healthwise helps older people aged 50 plus retain their independence through an enjoyable programme of: • healthy eating • gentle exercise • digital inclusion • social interaction To book on this FREE 10 week course contact: Susan Johns, Healthwise Coordinator Mobile: 07772 173682 Email: Healthwise.1@ageukherts.org.uk www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire Registered charity number 1116662

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 23rd April at 6pm at Our Lady's. The Welwyn Garden City Brass Band will play at Mass and afterwards in the Hall for half an hour. The celebration will have an Easter flavour on St. George's Day. It will be very close to the Queen's 'real' birthday on 21st April when she will be 90 years old. Please bring food to share. There will be bingo and a quiz! You are all welcome.

FUNERAL MASS The Funeral Mass for Elvira Borg R.I.P. takes place on Friday at 12.45pm in Our Lady's Church.

PRAGUE UPDATE Pax Travel have let us know that there are 29 people signed up for October's pilgrimage to Prague. Booking forms and brochures are at the back of our churches.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL There will be Mass to mark the start of term at Holy Family School this Friday (22nd) at 9.15am. All welcome.

QUEEN'S 90TH We congratulate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 90th birthday this Thursday. Of course, her 'official' birthday is marked in June. Let us pray for her and her family.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 24th July - 2nd August in Krakow, Poland. The meeting took place on Friday 15th. More information next week.

PILGRIMAGES TO DOORS OF MERCY Holy Rood, Watford's Ascent Group will be coming on Tuesday 3rd May 12noon until 4pm. Holy Family School will come on Friday 10th June.

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND The annual collection will be this weekend. of 16th/17th April. Special envelopes are now available at the back of our churches for those able to Gift Aid their contributions. Thank you for your generosity through the Growing in Faith pledges and this collection.

NEW WEBSITE Following a request from the WGC Catholic Parishes Advisory Council, work has been carried out to develop a single website covering all three parishes. That website is now accessible on the Internet. The website address is www.wgc-catholics.org.uk. Please use it and let us know how you get on.

EARLY MASS The next 6.30am Mass in the Year of Mercy will be on Friday 6th May at St. Bonaventure's.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the SVP will be in Our Lady's on Saturday 21st May at 12 noon.

MISSION OF MERCY Week beginning Monday 6th June. Each evening (Monday to Friday) there will be a Service in Our Lady's Church led by the priests of the Stevenage Deanery from 7.30 - 9pm.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS The meeting for Eucharistic Ministers due to take place next Saturday has been postponed until 2nd July after 10am Mass.

FRIENDS OF WELWYN CARE HOMES Volunteer visitors wanted! FWCH seeks to bring the community into the local care homes for the frail elderly by building links between local people and the residents and staff. Have YOU a couple of hours to spare a month when you could join a small team to chat over a cup of tea, or join in other activities with residents? For further information please contact Anne Horsman anne.horseman@btinternet.com 01438 840566.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR The next practice is on Tuesday 3rd May at 10.15am.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231 for all your cleaning needs and ironing.

FLOWER GROUP (St. B's) A new rota is about to be set up, if you would like to join the group please phone Monica on 01428714923 or Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579.

CWL The Catholic Women's League would like to thank the parishioners who attended the Lenten Lunches. We raised about £400 and this year we are donating this to three different charities: CAFOD, HPCT and the Air Ambulance Service. Very many thanks to all for the support.

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION Cards and gifts for sale in the repository before and after most Masses at Our Lady's.

HCPT Group 183 prayed for you all at the Grotto in Lourdes in Easter Week. The sun shone, the rain poured down and everyone had a holy, wonderful experience. Thank you for your generous support of our WGC Group.

YEAR OF MERCY WINDOWS Our thanks to all who have contributed to the new windows at Our Lady's. To date a total of £7,771.95 has been donated; this includes an anticipated £1,192.50 from Gift Aid. Further donations would be welcomed. The target figure is £18,000. Gift Aid envelopes are the back of Our Lady's.

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81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil
 Johnson 01707 377442
Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

PLENARY INDULGENCES a reminder about the Plenary Indulgence attached to going through the Jubilee Doors of Mercy (at Our Lady's and elsewhere). This is an extra grace which comes from recitation of the Creed, Prayers for the Pope's Intentions (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be), Reception of Holy Communion and going to Confession one week before or after a visit. Pope Francis says: 'Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of sin remain ... sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the Mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him or her from every residue of sin, enabling that person to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.' Remember this is not a mechanical act, it is an invitation to change and share with others the mercy experienced in encountering God. Also, the Plenary Indulgence can be applied to the Holy Souls in Purgatory or to a sick or infirm person who cannot get to church. What a great gift we can offer to others.

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

MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Alphege
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
21 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	12.45pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. George
Fifth Sunday of Easter				
23 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 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	

<p>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</p>
