

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Deacon: Rev. Jeffrey Downie Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard

Fourth Sunday of the Year 3rd February 2013 (page 133)

Last Sunday we heard in our Gospel passage about a wonderful day Jesus had in his home town of Nazareth. He read from the prophecy of Isaiah outlining that his ministry would be Spirit-filled and reach out to people on the margins. St. Luke left us on a note of wonder as the people marvelled at Jesus' words stating that the prophecy was coming true even as the audience listened. What more could we - or they - have wanted? The people of Nazareth think they know who Jesus really is, his origins and his 'father'; they want the Lord to work miracles for them. Suddenly it all changes. Jesus speaks the truth that God works beyond boundaries people might expect. Perhaps another way of putting it (from St. John's Gospel) might be to say that the Spirit blows where he will? The listeners' disposition turns to hostility and they try to do away with him. However, Jesus has a way of just slipping away until the moment comes for him to give his life on the Cross.

I can't help but think of Holy Week. When Jesus enters Jerusalem mounted on a donkey, the people's excitement leads them to tear palm branches from the trees and wave them shouting out 'Hosanna'; by the end of the week they have been taken over by hostility which drives them to call for him to be crucified. Between the event in Nazareth and the final journey to the Cross, there is a whole unfolding of the Gospel and a ministry of love which reaches out, forgives, heals, teaches and preaches. We have so much to learn from him about the truth of who God is and the extent to which God will go to save his people. This is at its most profound when Jesus prays for those putting him to death, forgiving them; when he breathes his last and receives from the Father life in all its fullness in the Resurrection.

Let us ask the Lord to help us to understand better the mystery of Faith. May his Spirit enlighten us!
God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

ARCHBISHOP NICHOLS together with the bishops of England and Wales has called upon the Catholic community to oppose the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill which has its Second Reading on Tuesday 5th February. There are at the back of our churches postcards which can be sent to our MP. It is important that he knows the strength of feeling of the Catholic community and our concerns for the future regarding freedom of expression of religious beliefs. The bishops gave a briefing to MPs last Monday and the text can be found at <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk//Home/Featured/Speak-Out-For-Marriage/In-depth-Briefing>

EDUCATION SUNDAY Our thanks to Holy Family and Our Lady Schools for their great contribution to our celebration of Education Sunday last week.

CONFIRMATION GROUP Please pray for our young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. They have a retreat afternoon today (Sunday) at the Focolare Centre. Please remember their catechists too who will be leading the retreat.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES There will be Mass at Westminster Cathedral with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday 9th February at 2pm to mark the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. All welcome.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE There is still time to book for the autumn pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes and Nevers 26th October - 1st November. There are more brochures and booking forms at the back of our churches.

MASS to mark Fr. Norbert's Mother's first anniversary of death on Saturday 9th February at 6pm at Our Lady's. All are welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY on 13th February. Masses with the imposition of ashes: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will make time available after half-term to sign forms for Nursery at our parish primary schools. More details soon.

YEAR OF FAITH At last week's Parishes' Advisory Council Meeting a really helpful discussion took place on how we might mark the Year of Faith here in our parishes in Welwyn Garden City. A few dates for your diaries - some details still to be firmed up. Catholicism Course by Fr. Robert Baron - 10 Monday evenings starting 22nd April.

Saturday 18th May Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Sunday 22nd September Procession from Our Lady's after 11.30 Mass to St. Bonaventure's for picnic lunch in grounds to Holy Family for Benediction and outdoor tea.

Saturday 28th September Deanery Day for catechists with input by Fr. John Hemer and time for catechists to share good practice and concerns with each other.

Saturday 16th November Year of Faith dinner - a chance to go out to a venue to be decided.

Monday 18th November - Year of Faith Concert in Holy Family Church with Police Choir.

Saturday 23rd November - 4pm Children's Mass and party/disco to close Year of Faith.

SAN DAMIANO CROSS OF ST FRANCIS Households are needed to host the Crosses in the coming weeks and months. Please let Fr. Norbert know when you would like to host one. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 18th May at 3pm celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. If you are celebrating this year your 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60+ wedding anniversary, please give your details to Fr. Norbert (names, wedding date, full postal address, email/phone number). These will be sent to Archbishop's House and formal invitations be sent to the couples.

MUSIC DAY The recent Music Day was cancelled because of the weather. A new date has been set for Saturday 4th May 10am - 4pm in Our Lady's Hall and Church. Musicians and singers from a wide area will be coming. It would be a great experience for those involved in music in our parishes.

LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION THROUGH LECTIO DIVINA During the season of Lent a series of weekly prayer and reflection sessions will be taking place following the prayer method of Lectio Divina. The introductory session will be on Wed 6th February between 8 and 9pm at the Holy Family Church Parish Room. Subsequent sessions will continue on Thursdays up until Holy Week. Further information will follow. In the meantime, please feel free to speak to Spencer or Jenny White or contact them on 01707334896 / 07425137469 /spencer.white4@gmail.com.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S LITURGY Just a reminder that there is a special meeting in the parish room on Thursday February 7th at 7pm for anyone interested in volunteering to help with Children's Liturgy. Please come along and find out more.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S MASS Sunday 10th February at 9.30am. The children who are making their First Holy Communion this year will be participating in this Mass and there will be a practice after 9.30am Mass this Sunday February 3.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP are having a meeting on Tuesday 5th February at 7.30pm in the parish room. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. If anyone has any ideas for fund raising we would be delighted to hear from you.

'DIALOGUE IN THE HOLY LAND: an option or a belief?' *A daily challenge of living the Gospel in a situation of conflict, discovering the richness of a dialogue of life beyond the headlines.* Sunday, 17th February, 3.30pm – 5.30pm in the Focolare Centre for Unity. You are warmly invited to attend an open afternoon with Margherita Karam from the Focolare community Jerusalem.

TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB DRAW: Winners for January 2013 are No. 136 J. Galloway £100, No. 236 E. Higgins £50, No. 104 J Neumann £25. Thank you to all members for their continuing support which has raised a further £500 for maintenance of the church. Numbers are available for new members!

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Fasting, food and Drink - a question and answer session on sustenance as part of the Faiths' Ritual at the Jim Macdonald Centre, Macdonald Court, Off High View, Hatfield on 6th February 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS meet again on Wednesday 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

FUNERALS Paddy Daly's Funeral Mass will be at St. Peter's Church in Hatfield on Tuesday 5th February at 1.30pm.

Jean Beck's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's Church on Friday 8th February at 12noon. *We offer our prayers and sympathy to their families and friends.*

GREETINGS CARD AND STATIONERY Gloria, a parishioner, is a Phoenix trader, selling greeting cards and stationery. If you would like to buy from Phoenix trading please feel free to contact Gloria on 07951579406 or you can order online: <http://www.phoenix-trading.co.uk/web/gholmes>. Payment on delivery if local to Welwyn Garden City or by cheque. Free delivery nationwide. 10% of profit goes to the Church.

CONTACTS

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Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourlady-s-parish.info

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE

Bookings should be made with
Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707
377442 or 07790 135458

peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

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

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

MASS TIMES

04 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
05 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Agatha
	7pm	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Paul Miki and Companions
07 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
08 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass
	7pm	Our Lady's	

09 Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure feria

Fifth Sunday of the Year

09 Saturday

6pm Our Lady's

10 Sunday

8am St. Bonaventure

9.30am Holy Family

10.30am St. Bonaventure

11.30am Our Lady's

6pm Holy Family

*Lord,
 Let me see your face,
 Know your heart and
 experience your love in my life.
 Strengthen in me
 the precious gift of faith.
 I believe Lord;
 Help my unbelief. Amen.*

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 Lyttle, on 07884187463