

# 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 Lent 10th March 2013 (page 163)***

## **From Archbishop Vincent Nichols:**

Shortly the Cardinals of the Catholic Church will assemble in the Conclave to choose the next Bishop of Rome, who will replace Benedict XVI as Pope and Successor of St Peter. Much is made of who will and who won't be present in that Conclave. Some voices are raised to complain that 'Britain does not have a voice.' But if we understand correctly the nature of the Church and of the Conclave then we know that is not the true or full story. The full story, or account, of the Church is that it is, most profoundly, a spiritual reality. It is not simply an institution or an organisation for religious or humanitarian purposes. It is more than a human community. Its true life and identity is Christ, the sole redeemer and only one who has broken the barrier of death. In the Church we are bound together in Christ. I do more than 'belong to the Church.' The Church is a living reality that enters my soul. It is in the deepest part of my being.

This is why whenever failures and wounds are inflicted on the Church or laid bare, the pain and distress we feel is so intense and deeply personal. In the Church we are immersed together in a reality that not only gives us a new identity, beyond every other, but that also fashions us for eternity.

Prayer is one of the deepest expressions of this reality. Prayer confirms in us our unity in Christ. Prayer strengthens us together in the face of every difficulty and deepens in us together the strength of every joy. Prayer is the heartbeat of the Church, which I feel and to which I contribute. Prayer fashions us together in our common enterprise of being the Body of Christ today.

This reality is expressed in the forthcoming Conclave. This reality is the deeper truth of the Conclave. Through prayer it is truly a Conclave for all. No-one is excluded. Everyone can contribute.

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The moment the key turns to begin the Conclave, then we take up a very special time of prayer. Whether the Conclave lasts for two days or two weeks, we sustain that prayer. We pray for each and every Cardinal in his decision taking. They are striving to be, first of all, instruments of God, in some ways like pens in the hand of the Lord. We pray for them that they will respond freely and sensitively to the hand that moves them, the mind that directs them. Christ is that hand whose will is one with that of his heavenly Father.

During the Conclave we pray as the Church and for the Church, knowing that this prayer unites us in a common action, a common endeavour: that the new Pope, elected by the Cardinals, is the one chosen by the will of God.

This prayer is our part, our participation, in the Conclave, our contribution to its decision. This is our way of seeking what is best for the Church at this crucial moment in our history. Do not neglect this task that is given to each one of us. Please make the time of the Conclave a time of very special prayer, in our homes, our schools, our parishes and in the silence of our hearts.

**\*MOTHERING SUNDAY** We wish all mothers and honorary Mums a wonderful day.\*

**YEAR OF FAITH** The San Damiano Cross will be with Mary Ottaway this week at 3, Monica Court, Applecroft Road. Parishioners are invited to join her in prayer on Thursday 14th March at 3pm. Any parishioners wishing to host one of the San Damiano Crosses should let Fr. Norbert know.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD NEWS** The CAFOD group are holding a cake sale in Holy Family Church after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 17th March.

**CONFIRMATION GROUP** had a wonderful time last Sunday in Aylesford. Next Sunday morning they will be have a fundraising event at morning Masses in our churches. Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 26th April in Our Lady's.

**FIRST CONFESSIONS** Next Saturday the children from Holy Family Church will be making their First Confession at 11am. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers as they get ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**FUNDRAISING** As part of their Lenten Fundraising Ama and her friend from Loreto College are holding a cake sale at Our Lady's after 11.30am Mass this Sunday to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association as their friend's father has the disease.

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** for our three parishes will be on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Tuesday 3.45pm. We will be preparing for next Sunday's Children's Mass - 'Jesus forgives'.

**CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 26th March from 3.45 - 5.30pm. 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.

**WHEELCHAIR** There is a wheelchair and aluminium ramp available (free) for anyone who might need it. If interested please contact Bob on 01438 369625 or 07802181133.

**MUSIC PRACTICE FOR THE EASTER VIGIL** Music practice for the Easter Vigil: Friday, 22nd March, 8pm, at Our Lady's. This is a rehearsal for all singers and instrumentalists who wish to be involved in the Vigil Service.

**ALTAR SERVERS** Lists for serving during the Easter Triduum and practices will be in each sacristy next weekend. Please get ready to sign up!

**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.

**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 fifth session will take place this Thursday between 8 and 9pm at the Holy Family Church Parish Room.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP** There is a meeting to set the Flower Rota for the next year on Sunday 24th March in the hall after 10.30am Mass. New members to the group are very welcome, phone Monica on 01438 714923.

**FULHAM VISIT TO WGC** Last April, St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Fulham invited our parishioners to London and shared with us great hospitality. The 'return' visit has been set for Saturday 11th May in the afternoon/evening. We have three churches to share with them and also a great deal of beauty here in this part of Hertfordshire. Obviously we won't be able to show them everything! If you would like to help with welcoming the Fulham parishioners, come to a meeting in Our Lady's sacristy on Friday 12th April at 7.45pm (after 7pm Mass). If you have any ideas at this stage, please pass on your thoughts to Fr. Norbert.

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH** 'Are you fed up with hearing all the bad news? Then come to the next Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Meeting where people from different faiths in the borough will give stories of hope - Seeds of Hope in an Uncertain World - in the Park Lounge, Campus West on Tuesday 19th March 7.30pm. Deacon Jeffery has been invited to chair the event'.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS** St Patrick's Day Celebration tickets are on sale after every Mass in every Church. The price is £5 or £10 for a family ticket. It is on Saturday 16th March at 8pm. Ticket includes snacks.

**PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS** Fr. Norbert will sign forms for Nursery as follows: Friday 15th Mar. 3.30 - 5.30pm at St. Bonaventure's, Tuesday 19th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Holy Family Church and Monday 25th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents are asked to ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment time. Parent/s should come with their child and the appropriate forms (obtained at school) already filled in; they should wait in the church. Come on whichever is the most convenient day! It does not matter if the meeting is not at the church you usually attend.

**C.W.L.** There will be a meeting this coming Tuesday 12th March at 8pm in the Parish Centre.

**FUNERAL MASS** for Frances Andrews is at 9.30am on Tuesday 19th March in St. Bonaventure's. We offer our prayers and sympathy to family and friends.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then contact Elizabeth Andersen on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 for one off cleans, regular or weekly cleans, fortnightly or monthly, spring cleans or ironing.

**MINISTERS FOR HOLY WEEK** St. Bonaventure's lists are at the back of church for you to sign if you are available to minister.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES** These will be available soon. If you do not already use envelopes and would like to please sign the list at the back of church.

**CONTACTS**

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234 Jeffrey Downie**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**

**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**

<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 9.30 - 10am (2wks)
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

**MASS TIMES**

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

<b>09 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>10 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	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