

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

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 24th March 2013 (page 190)

Holy Week has arrived! Today palms are thrust into our hands and we cry 'Hosanna!' This week the Liturgies are rich in ritual and symbolism, putting us in touch with the 'Glory of the Cross' and the power of Christ's victory over suffering, sin and death. The Word of God proclaimed during the Sacred Triduum calls on us to open up ourselves to grace and love which are transforming, moulding us more firmly into the image of Jesus Christ.

Let the Lord to wash your feet! What bond do you think he is establishing with you through this sacred act? On Good Friday you will have the opportunity to approach the Cross and offer an act of reverence as you venerate it. What do you wish to leave at the Cross? Sins...suffering...the anguish of others? On Holy Saturday evening, we gather as the night sets in. The brilliance of the Easter Fire vanquishes the darkness of Christ's death and the gentle light of the Paschal Candle shines out with hope pointing the way forward. Who are the dead you will remember this Easter, hoping to meet them again in the glory of the Resurrection? What is the gloom of disappointment in your life which you want Christ to dispel? In what ways do you want the light of the Risen Lord to strengthen your faith? On Easter Sunday morning (maybe) the sun will shine, reminding us of the Son who has been raised from the dead!

Let us truly make this a Holy Week through our prayer, silence and reflection. Let us sanctify these days through coming to the various services. Let us remember with a vibrant faith all that Jesus Christ has done for our salvation and offer him our sacrifices, our love and our lives. If you are going away, may God bless your Easter wherever you are. We welcome visitors coming to share these sacred days with us. Together let us make this journey together bound firmly to Jesus Christ, our Lord and God.

May God watch over you and your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION As Lent draws to a close and the wonder of Easter fast approaches, you are invited to come and share in the riches of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. The Word of God will be proclaimed, there will be a time of reflection and a number of priests available to hear Confessions. Don't put it off for some other time! Don't worry if it has been a long time since your last Confession. Just come!

RCIA GROUP has an afternoon of retreat at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware, today. Please pray for the adults preparing for the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Thank you to all who helped with last Saturday's celebration.

CONFIRMATION FUNDRAISING Well done to our Confirmation Group who raised £440 last Sunday for KISS, a charity which supports needy children in Uganda. They have their final session this evening at 7.15 at Holy Family.

YEAR OF FAITH If any parishioners would like to host one of the San Damiano Crosses after Easter, please let Fr. Norbert know.

LENT There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's on Monday 10-10.30am and Stations of the Cross at Holy Family on Wednesday at 10am.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children this 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.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will sign forms for Nursery on 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.

TAIZE PRAYER on Good Friday evening at 7.30pm in Holy Family. This will be a meditative service with short passages of Scripture, Taize chant and silence to reflect on the events of Good Friday.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD 'NAME THE BEAR' Name the bear for 50p and win it!

HCPT GROUP 183 will be off to Lourdes on Easter Sunday. The group would like to take your prayer intentions to be placed at the Grotto, and have left a book at the back of each church for your intentions.

BINGO AT OUR LADY'S Thank you to the Monday Evening Bingo group who meet at Our Lady's Family Centre. Through their generous support another £200 has been contributed to the upkeep of the centre. Anyone wishing for a game of Bingo, just turn up at the Centre at about 8pm on a Monday. The Bingo is in the Pomegranate Café

INTER FAITH MATTERS You are invited to a public meeting: Living your Faith in Britain Today (How easy is it to live in Britain and keep to your faith?). Many interesting speakers including Bishop John. Tuesday 23rd April 7.30pm for 8pm. A154, Lindop Building, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield. Free admission, free parking. Tickets available at:<http://livingyourfaith2013.eventbrite.co.uk/>

ALTAR SERVERS Lists for serving during the Easter Triduum and practices are now in each sacristy. Please sign up!

ST JOSEPH'S BURSARY FUND St Joseph's Centre for those with Learning Disabilities is offering, through a special grant, to pay 75% of fees for many of the courses and activities run in Hendon. Applicants should be over 18 and need to apply by 1st April. More details on <http://www.stjospeh.org.uk/activity-centre/bursary.html> or ring Gerry O'Brien on 020 8202 3999.

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

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. 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.

FR. NORBERT'S 25TH Just to remind you that Fr. Norbert will be celebrating his Silver Jubilee on Tuesday 11th June at 12noon at St. Anthony's, Edgware (where he was ordained a priest) and in Welwyn Garden City on Saturday 15th June at 6pm at Our Lady's with a reception in the hall. If anyone would like to help him with the celebrations on the Saturday, there will be a meeting on Tuesday 30th April at 8pm at Our Lady's.

SVP REQUEST A client requires a fridge/freezer. If you have one (in good working order) that you no longer need please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456.

MARY DOOCEY WRITES: A big thank you to Fr. Norbert and Fr. Michael for all your prayers and visits whilst I was in hospital. Also to such wonderful parishioners and friends from our three parishes, for all your support, prayers, Mass Cards and get well messages, it meant so much to me, Chris and all our family. God bless you all.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE We will go by coach to Walsingham on Saturday 18th May. That day there will be the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf and so we will join them for some of their programme which will include the Rosary at 12 noon and Mass at 3pm in the Chapel of Reconciliation. More details soon!

TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB: Collection of subscriptions for March will be taken after Masses at Our Lady's over the weekend 6th/7th April. The draw will be made on Monday 8th April. Numbers for £1 are available for new members.

AFRICAN MASS will take place on Sunday 7th July at 11.30am. There will be a first planning meeting on Friday 19th April in the sacristy of Our Lady at 7.45pm. All welcome.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH: on Holy Saturday (30th March) the cleaning of the church and grounds maintenance in preparation for Easter will take place following Morning Prayer at 10am. The cleaning and maintenance will take place for ONE hour only. All are welcome to come to help.

NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER will cover two weeks so anything for inclusion during that time needs to be sent to the parish office by mid-day next Thursday.

DON'T FORGET The clocks go forward one hour next Saturday night/Sunday morning. This will affect your arrival at Easter Sunday morning Mass!

NB There will not be an Easter Sunday evening Mass at Holy Family next weekend.

CONTACTS

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Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourladys-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

TIMES OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	7.30pm	Reconciliation Service	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family

EASTER TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday

6pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St. Bonaventure
7pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Holy Family
8pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Our Lady's

Good Friday

10am	Children's Way of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
12noon	Children's Way of the Cross	Our Lady's
3pm	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion	St. Bonaventure
3pm	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion	Holy Family
5pm	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion	Our Lady's
7.30pm	Taizé Prayer	Holy Family

Holy Saturday 10am Morning Prayer All parishes

8pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday

8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's

Our Lady's
*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