

# 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 Easter 21st April (page 269)***

*'The sheep that belong to me, listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.'* These are important words of Jesus given to us in this Sunday's Gospel reading from St. John. Relationship is at the heart of the passage. The bond between Jesus and his Father is paramount; they are one. The bond between the Son and the sheep is dependent on the sheep being a gift from the Father to the Son. We need to reflect on this for a moment!

Jesus is truly God. He is simply as much God as he is a human being. He has every divine attribute the Father has, just as he has every human attribute we have except for sin. The Father is the Source of Love in the Godhead and has begotten the Son; in that sense he is greater than the Son. But they are equal in every other way. The Love between the Father and Son issues forth in the Holy Spirit and is poured into our lives thus holding us together as the Lord's flock. In other words, we belong to Christ and we belong to each other through the Holy Spirit. Through this Love the stamp of God has been sealed in our hearts.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a gift to Jesus? What is it about you which makes you unique and prized by the Son? How does he call out to you and through whom? What is he asking of you? This is where our vocation comes from. Jesus, speaking intimately to us, invites us to follow him. Our willingness to listen and respond is a gift in itself and mirrors the total obedience Jesus has to God our Father. The result of the Lord's response is salvation for the human race - eternal life! What do you think Christ wants to bring about through you?

Let us pray that we will always value this deep, loving relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and that we will be prepared to give our all for God and for others. Let us pray for those still searching that they may find their way to Christ and his purpose for them.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**YEAR OF FAITH** The San Damiano Cross of St. Francis will be with Dorothy Bagge this week. She invites parishioners to join her in prayer on Tuesday 23rd April at 3pm (28 Great Ley AL7 4TR) If any parishioners would like to host one of the San Damiano Crosses, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES** Our Lady's 12th May at 11.30am, 2nd June at 11.30am. Holy Family 19th May at 12noon. St. Bonaventure's 9th June at 10.30am.

The First Holy Communion families will have a retreat day at St. Albans Abbey Cathedral on Saturday 27th April 10am - 2.30pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

**CONFIRMATION** Please pray for our young people who will be confirmed on Friday 26th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church by Bishop John Sherrington. If any altar servers would like to serve please sign the list in your church sacristy.

**ST. GEORGE'S DAY** Morning Mass will be at Our Lady's at 9.30am followed by a cooked breakfast in the Hall to mark the feast! Everyone is welcome. Volunteers needed to help with serving - please contact Paul Brannan on 01707 882206.

**INTER FAITH MATTERS** You are invited to a public meeting: Living your Faith in Britain Today. Tuesday 23rd April 7.30pm, A154, Lindop Building, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield. Free admission, free parking. Tickets available at:<http://livingyourfaith2013.eventbrite.co.uk/> Bishop John is one of the speakers.

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** A coach has been booked for Saturday 18th May. There are forms at the back of each church for those who would like to go. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8am (meet at 7.45am) and return at about 7.30pm (leaving Walsingham at 5pm). Price for adults £10 and for children £5. Money can be given in to the parish office or whichever church you attend but please put it in an envelope clearly marked with Walsingham and your name.

**RCIA GROUP** will have an afternoon of celebration and reflection at the Focolare Centre on Sunday 28th April 1 - 5 pm.

**CATHOLICISM COURSE** As part of the Year of Faith, we will be having Fr. Robert Barron's Catholicism Course starting this Monday 22nd April. The sessions will start at 7.30pm in Holy Family Church's Parish Room and finish at 9.15pm. There are 10 sessions and these will run every week until Monday 15th July except for 6th and 27th May (Bank Holidays) and 10th June (day before Fr. Norbert's Jubilee). Many parishes have already made use of this course and some of Fr. Norbert's priest friends have said it is one of the best things they have ever done in their parishes! Too good to miss?! Each evening will have a one-hour DVD followed by discussion and end with silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This will be a brilliant way of developing our faith in the company of fellow parishioners. If you cannot attend every week that does not matter. Each session is a unit in itself. On a practical note, Fr. Norbert needs some help with hospitality (tea/coffee and biscuits); please let him know if you can provide support.

**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.

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY** This weekend the Church invites us to reflect on the call of Christ to each of us personally to follow him along a particular path. It is also a great opportunity to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. Jeffrey will preach at all the Masses.

**PRIEST TRAINING FUND** This weekend there will be a retiring collection to support the training of priests for our Diocese. At present there are 40 men in formation. All the money raised will be used to encourage more men to consider the priesthood and to pay for the training of those who come forward. Please be as generous as you can. There are special envelopes at the back of the church for this purpose. Thank you.

**DEACON JEFFREY DOWNIE** Jeffrey's Ordination to the Priesthood will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 29th June at 10.30am. Our hope is to hire a coach for those who would find public transport difficult. More details will follow. It is also very important for us to pray for him! In this respect we will have a Holy Hour in each of our churches before Jeffrey goes on retreat in preparation for the Ordination. On Tuesday 18th June, the Holy Hours will be at St. Bonaventure's at 10am and at Our Lady's at 8pm; on Wednesday 19th June at Holy Family at 10am.

**LOURDES FUNDRAISING SALE** on Sunday 28th April at St Bonaventure's. In July Cameron Wilson will be going to Lourdes as a Redcap with Westminster Diocese. He will be part of a team from Nicholas Breakspear School. To help him fund this trip, a sale of cakes, books, toys and gifts as well as a raffle, will be held after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 28th April. Please come along and grab a bargain whilst supporting a worthwhile cause. Any donations of cakes on the day will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**FULHAM VISIT** There was a very fruitful meeting to prepare for the visit to WGC of St. Thomas's, Fulham on Saturday 11th May. The plan is to have a sandwich lunch at Holy Family at 12.30pm followed by a short talk with slides about the Garden City itself and our three parishes. The coach will probably then go to Welwyn and on to the Red Lion from which there will be a walk along the old railway line to the town centre. Tea will be served at St. Bonaventure's at 4pm with an opportunity to see the church. Finally, there will be a Special Needs Mass at 6pm at Our Lady's with a reception in the hall ending at 9pm. Obviously, parishioners are welcome at every stage to meet the visitors and share in the various activities. Help will be needed with the refreshments. A list for the Fulham coach was put up in St. Thomas's last Sunday. By the evening it was full! So there will be cars coming too. **FRENCH SEMINARIAN** Another seminarian from St. Denis in Paris will be coming to share in the life of our parishes. His name is Rémy Pignal and he will be here 3rd - 19th May.

**CHARITY CAR PARK** Holy Family School Association will be manning the Car Park, Oaklands College, the Campus on Saturday 4th May from 9am - 6pm. £1 a visit. Offers of help gratefully received (2 people per hour). Contact Sarah on 01707 327238.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS** Parishioners are warmly invited to Holy Family School's start of term Easter Mass on Wednesday 24th at 11am in the school hall.

**THANK YOU** Josephine Barcroft thanks all who helped her raise £171.65 at last week's sale. Thank you to the anonymous cake donors. All this goes to Cancer Research. She will think of you all on Sunday as she trudges across the Jordanian desert.

**MUSIC DAY** Songs to Sing in the Darkness & Music to Light up our Lives - an NNPM/RSCM music day at Our Lady's on Saturday 4th May 10am - 4pm.

**MASS FOR MIGRANTS** 11am, 6th May Westminster Cathedral - there is a need for stewards - if you can help contact John on 01707 327771, john.fogarty@ntlworld.com

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

**Our Lady's**  
141 Woodhall Lane  
AL7 3TP

Website: [www.ourlady-parish.info](http://www.ourlady-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](http://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 10.30 - 11am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

**MASS TIMES**

22 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Easter feria
23 Tuesday	9.30am	<u>Our Lady's</u>	St. George
	1pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass Sarah Noone
	7pm	Our Lady's	
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	SS Erkenwald & Mellitus
	11am	Holy Family	School Mass in school hall
	12.30pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass Paul McNulty
25 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Mark
26 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	2pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass Jean Knight
	7.30pm	Our Lady's	Confirmation Mass
27 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>			
27 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	<i>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.</i>
28 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	

<p><b>CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:</b> If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463</p>
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