

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Thirty-third Sunday of the Year 17th November 2013 (page 164)

From Archbishop Vincent Nichols:

Next Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King and marks the end of the Church's Year. The Scripture readings today, then, are all about endings, both our own and the ending of the world, seen through the eyes of faith. The call of the Word of God is clear: do not be frightened; there will be fearful sights but not a hair of your head will be lost; the light of God will shine out with healing in its rays. So we face the future with hope for we know that all endings are within the sight of God, even the most distressing. God has shown this to us clearly in the death of Jesus, the only Son of God, who died in agony and isolation. In Jesus, God embraced all our endings and in the Resurrection of Jesus made clear His will that they have a glorious final outcome.

Next Sunday also marks the end of the Year of Faith we have been following at the invitation of Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. This Year of Faith has had two main aims: that we rediscover and deepen the joy of believing and that we recover enthusiasm for sharing that faith with others. The first aim, we might well say, draws on the great strength of Pope Benedict, a graceful teacher of the faith; the second from the impact and priority of Pope Francis, that we get out there and show our faith by the way we live. Next Sunday every Catholic parish in the world will profess its faith, in the Creed, with renewed heart and fresh determination. And what we profess with our words in church we must make clear in our lives in the world. So now we look again at how well we live our faith in every circumstance, how ready we are to stand out by the way we speak and act, not timid about giving an account of our faith, of our love of the Lord, of the place of prayer in our lives, of our commitment to do what is right and just.

Pope Francis has a phrase which describes this call. He says, over and over again, that we are to be 'missionary disciples'. Yes we are disciples, those who wish to follow the Lord. We are his people, the People of God. But with that comes the task of being a missionary. Perhaps we are used to associating the word 'missionary' with overseas, with other countries. But the call of every follower of Jesus is to make his love present in every place, and to issue his invitation to every person.

At the end of Mass next Sunday we shall step out of the church with this fresh imperative ringing in our ears: go and make visible the love and compassion of God you have just celebrated. So what are you going to do? Think, please, of your home life. What could you do there to make faith more visible? A fresh pattern of prayer, shared by all present, before a meal or at the end of the day? Perhaps there could be more visible signs of faith in your home: a crucifix in each room or a statue in a prominent corner. Visitors should be in no doubt that they are entering a Catholic home, best of all by the way you behave, but also by what they see.

Then please think of your life at work, or in the company you keep outside your home. Can you be someone who is known and respected for being trustworthy? Someone who doesn't gossip but will always have a kind word to say about others? Can you be someone to whom people know they can turn when they are in difficulty, someone prepared to understand and to help? Are you, or could you be, someone who readily offers to say a prayer for a person facing problems? Most people are ready to welcome such an offer. They know that there is more to life than the sum of our human efforts, that there is a God who watches over us and can be turned to even if they are very unsure as to how to do it.

There is so much we can do, so much that is simple yet profound, deeply human yet showing our faith, especially in these times when many are in difficulty. So I urge you to look again at the patterns of your daily living, in the light of the Lord's call to be his missionary disciples. As we take so many different pathways in life, look out for those who are burdened, who feel lost, who are, perhaps, walking away from the Church, their hearts downcast. Walk with them. Listen to them. Speak only as little as necessary, but from a heart full of faith and compassion. And act in the way in which you speak. This is the way of the Lord, Christ our King. This is the way of faith. This is the way we proclaim afresh the coming of the Kingdom of God in our world today.

FR. MICHAEL'S FAREWELL will take place on Saturday 23rd November at 6pm followed by a Reception in Our Lady's Hall. There are envelopes available at the back of the churches for a presentation to Fr. Michael. * Altar servers from the churches are very welcome. Please sign the list in your church's sacristy and arrive on the day at 5.15pm.

* Musicians and singers are all welcome. Please come to the church at 5.15pm to run through the music. At the Reception, the Farewell Presentation will be at 8.30pm with the cutting of a celebratory cake. There will be some music and song as a part of the evening.

* There are lists at the back of the church for people to indicate food they will bring.

DEANERY EDUCATION MASS on Tuesday 26th November at 7pm in Our Lady's Church Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate the Mass. Pupils, parents, staff and governors of the Catholic Primary and Secondary schools of the Stevenage Deanery will be attending **CONCERT FOR CAFOD** The Herts Constabulary Choir are giving a concert at Holy Family Church on Monday 25th November. Tickets are £5. 7.45pm for 8pm start.

CAKE SALE Today after 10.30am Mass (St. B's) for Friends of Welwyn Care Homes.

ROSALIE BALLESTER RIP Rosalie's Funeral Mass will be on Friday 29th November at 12.30pm at Our Lady's. Her body will be received into the church on Thursday 28th at 4.30pm.

SAINT ANDREW'S DAY There will be refreshments after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 30th November to mark St. Andrew's Day.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 30th November at 6pm at Our Lady's for the First Sunday of Advent will have a St. Francis Xavier dimension. Any parishioners from India, Sri Lanka and the East are invited to share their culinary delights with our wider community at the reception! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you can help in any way.

THANK YOU for your generous response to last weekend's appeal for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund. Your help is much appreciated.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration for First Confession and First Holy Communion for Our Lady's is on Tuesday 19th November at 7.45pm in church (after Mass and Novena). Parents are requested to come and receive all the important dates related to their children's preparation for these Sacraments. Children do not need to attend this meeting.

CONFIRMATION Registration for young people (at least in Year 9 at school) will take place in Holy Family Church on Sunday 24th November at 7pm. The meeting is for young people of our three parishes and their parents. Dates for the preparation will be given at this meeting.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Hatfield Lawn (Southway) Cemetery on Sunday 17th November at 2pm. Welwyn Cemetery on Sunday 24th November at 2.30pm.

NATIONAL INTER-FAITH WEEK 17th - 24th November. Please see leaflets at back of church and list to sign for bring and share supper.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS Last year we distributed about 60 hampers to parishioners. This year we have decided to make a change in the way we collect for the hampers in order to make sure that the hampers are equal in content. Instead of bringing in food items we would like to ask every parishioner if they are able to give a monetary donation of £1 (if you are able to give more that would be greatly received.) This will enable us to buy the necessary items for each hamper and ensure there is no wastage. There will be 2 collections at all three parishes on 24th Nov. and 1st Dec. If you think you can help by shaking a bucket at the end of Mass in any of the churches then please let us know. We will also need many helpers to assemble and distribute the hampers so please find it in your heart to volunteer and make someone's day in the run up to Christmas. The hampers will be assembled in Holy Family Parish room on Fri 20th Dec at 7pm and distributed on Sat 21st Dec from 10am. If you know of anyone who you think would benefit from receiving a hamper or are able to help in any way please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, Jacqueline McCallum 01707 328460, Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172, Caroline Sherar 01707 327862 or Ann Power 01438 717132.

SHOE BOXES Filled boxes should be collected this week.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 15th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part. Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 1st December from 2.30pm - 4pm.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Please come and support the Holy Family School Christmas Fayre, which is being held on Saturday December 7th, 12-3pm. Attractions include Santa's grotto, bottle tombola, boxing ring, street dance and a beauty parlour. Top prize in the raffle is £150 cash. Please take tickets from the back of the church to sell to friends and family. We would be grateful if you could return the stubs and money to Mia Connolly, Anne-Marie Conway or Rachael Newman-Sanders at Holy Family Church, or Kathryn Hubbard at St Bonaventure. Many thanks.

LECTIO DIVINA (praying the scriptures) during Advent - Lectio Divina will resume during the season of Advent at The Holy Family Church hall. The prayer sessions are open to all parishioners from the three parishes. All sessions will take place on the Thursday prior to the Sunday Mass they relate to. The first session will be on Thursday 28th November. All sessions will start at 8pm and finish around 9.15pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will follow. Please join us for this unique opportunity for some peace and reflection during what can be a hectic time of the year for many. If you have any questions relating to the prayer sessions or on Lectio Divina itself please contact Spencer or Jenny White on spencer.white4@gmail.com / 01707 334896 / 07425137469.

RCIA continues in Our Lady's sacristy on Monday at 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MARKET John Henry Newman School - Saturday 30th November from 11am - 4pm. Come and stock up on Christmas gifts, visit Santa, etc. Entry £1 for adults, concessions free.

GREETINGS TO PRISONERS throughout the world who suffer because of their beliefs and without legal advice or medical aid. There will be a chance to sign a joint greetings card at the end of Masses Nov.30th/1st Dec.

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Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
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St. Bonaventure's
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Fr. Vincent 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
Bookings should be made with Phil
(Philomena) Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790
135458
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
21 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin
22 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Cecilia
	7pm	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

	Christ the King	
23 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
24 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
