

# 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*

***Eighth Sunday of the Year 2nd March 2014 (page 142)***

**CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS WRITES:** Today I write to thank you for all your good wishes and prayers for me on my becoming a member of the Sacred College of Cardinals. So many people, from different walks of life, different parts of our society, different religions, have expressed delight at the appointment of a new Cardinal in our country. This is a time for us to be confidently Catholic. It is also a time for us to be renewed in our sense of discipleship and mission.

Pope Francis' favourite way of speaking about the followers of Christ is to describe us as 'missionary disciples', people called by Jesus to be close to him and to share in the mission given him by the Father. Pope Francis spells out his message in his marvellous teaching document 'The Joy of the Gospel'. In it he exclaims that the first fruit of being close to the Lord is an abiding sense of joy in the life we have been given. He insists that the experience of this joy is what moves us to show and share our faith by the way we live each day.

Today I ask you to make a real effort during Lent to get to know this vibrant message of Pope Francis, one which he illustrates in so many of his wonderful gestures. The Holy Father's document, 'The Joy of the Gospel', is readily available on the Vatican website or from Catholic bookshops. It points out clearly the path we must take in the years ahead. We really must absorb it and take its vision to heart.

"The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus" says Pope Francis in the very first line of his document. He continues, "Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew" *Evangelii Gaudium* (1). To each one of us the Holy Father writes: 'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day' (3).

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May Lent be “this very moment”: a season to meet Christ afresh, to accept again his offer of salvation and so be set free from sin. I am sure we can give a whole-hearted response to the Pope’s invitation. If we do, then our Lenten season will be a grace-filled time when joy is constantly born anew.

Pope Francis is so eloquent when writing about our faith. He describes the Gospel as ‘a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life’ (264), because, he says, ‘the Gospel responds to our deepest needs since we were created for what the Gospel offers us: friendship with Jesus and love of our brothers and sisters.’ It is, he says, ‘a treasure of life and love which cannot deceive and a message which cannot mislead or disappoint. It penetrates the depths of our hearts, sustaining and ennobling us. It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches the part of us which nothing else can reach’ (265).

Then he says this: ‘When we stand before Jesus crucified, we see the depth of his love which exalts and sustains us, but at the same time, unless we are blind, we begin to realise that Jesus’ gaze, burning with love, expands to embrace all his people. We realise once more that he wants to make use of us to draw closer to his beloved people’ (268). We are indeed to be his missionary disciples.

Today’s readings tutor our hearts in readiness for this calling. The Gospel tells us ‘to set our hearts first’ on the Kingdom of our heavenly Father. Then other things begin to take their true place. The Psalmist calls on us to sing aloud and often: ‘In God alone is my soul at rest’ reminding us of where our true security is to be found. And St Paul urges us to be bold in speaking of our faith to others, fearing no judgement except that of God who, we well know, understands our inner-most intentions and is always merciful.

These are good times in which to rejoice in our faith. Let us make the most of this gift and of the astonishing leadership of Pope Francis. He points us always and only to Jesus, to our loving Lord and Saviour. Let us use this coming Lent to meet our Lord more nearly and love him more dearly so that we may truly be his missionary disciples, overflowing with joy.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is this week marking the start of the Season of Lent. Masses with the imposition of ashes will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure’s and 7pm at Our Lady’s Church. It is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

If anyone has old palms which they would like to bring in to be burned to make the ashes, please drop them in at one of the churches.

**LENT** During Lent there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour on Mondays at Our Lady’s after 9.30 Mass, on Thursdays at Holy Family after 9.30 Mass and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure’s. (On Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd March Exposition and Confessions will be before Mass at 9.30am - because of First Confessions - and the remaining Saturdays of Lent after 10am Mass) Stations of the Cross will be at Holy Family on Wednesday after 9.30 Mass and on Fridays in the morning at St. Bonaventure’s after 9.30 Mass and in the evening at Our Lady’s after 7 o’clock Mass.

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** for our three parishes will be on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm in Our Lady’s Church.

**REMY PIGNAL** Rémy the French seminarian from St. Denis, Paris, leaves us on Monday. Merci et bon voyage!

**RCIA** The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Today at various Masses, members of the group (14 adults and 2 children) will be presented at Mass and sign a scroll which will be taken up to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th March. Please keep them in your prayers.

**CONFIRMATION** The next session will be today (Sunday) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Next Sunday the group will be fundraising for charity. Watch this space!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES** The next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 15th March at 6pm at Our Lady's. It will have a hint of St. Patrick and there will be a reception afterwards in the Hall. The other dates set for 2014 are: Saturday 7th June at 6pm, Saturday 13th September at 6pm and Saturday 15th November at 6pm.

**ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION** If anyone would like to help with the reception after the Mass on Saturday 15th March, please let Fr. Norbert know. We need to think about food, decoration and entertainment!

**PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS** Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms for Nursery as follows: Friday 7th March 3.30 - 5pm, Tuesday 11th March 3.30 - 5pm, and Wednesday 19th March 3.30 - 5pm. All appointments are 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 the schools) already filled in; they should wait in the church. Come on whichever is the most convenient day!

**OCTOBER TRIP** Pax Travel is organising a three-day trip to Rheims in the Champagne region of France in the October half-term from Sunday 26th to Tuesday 28th. We will travel by coach on the Shuttle through the Eurotunnel and stay in a 3 star hotel bed and breakfast for two nights. The price for an adult of £199 (£169 for accompanied children under 12) will also include one dinner, a guided tour of the Cathedral and a tour of a wine house! A detailed leaflet should be available next weekend.

**REGENERATE** Young people of the Focolare are holding an event for 18 to 30yr olds, exploring the theme of joy, happiness and sorrow in relation to our society. Guest speakers include Bishop of Limerick (Ireland) Brendan Leahy. Take time out to think, talk and relax. 15 March 2014 - 9.30am to 5pm - at the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway. Contribution for the day: £5.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD** group will be meeting on Tuesday 4th March at 7.30 pm in the parish room. Anyone who would like to attend will be made very welcome.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP** There will be a meeting after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 27th April to arrange the new rota. If you are interested in joining the group please phone Monica on 01438 714923.

**PEACE GARDEN PLANNING MEETING** This takes place at noon in the Parish Centre in Our Lady's on Thursday 13th March. Refreshments provided! Please let Anne know if you can come 01707 328516.

**SLOW COOKER** Free to a good home! Phone the office for details.

**ST. BONVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** This Tuesday we think about the Season of Lent and enjoy some delicious pancakes!

**INTERFAITH** The work of the Palestine Trauma Centre, including a description of the conditions in Gaza by Dr. Mohamed Altawil at the United Reformed Church, Woodhall Lane, Thursday 13th March 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** Thank you to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday. We are grateful for your support in this vital work.

**ROOM TO LET** for a female non-smoker. Contact the office.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth on 01707 883770 or 07980887231.

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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 Johnson  
 01707 377442 or 07790 135458  
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

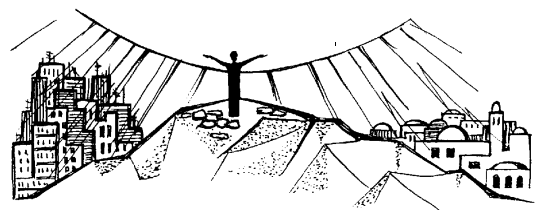
<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday <u>9.30am</u> - 10am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

**MASS TIMES**

03 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
05 Wednesday	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	<b>12noon</b>	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>7pm</b>	Our Lady	
06 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
07 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	SS Perpetua and Felicity
	7pm	Our Lady's	
08 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. John of God

**First Sunday of Lent**

<b>08 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
<b>09 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>



<p><b>CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:</b> If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463</p>
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