

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*

First Sunday of Lent 9th March 2014 (page 151)

The Season of Lent has come - and with it this year a hint of spring! I hear birds singing; the sun has been shining; blossom is bursting forth, decorating the trees. Lent is OUR springtime in the Church with God offering us grace in abundance so that we can be transformed more and more into the image of his Son, Jesus. This year Easter comes late - on 20th April - and our children will return to school soon after in Easter Week, having enjoyed most of their holiday break *before* Easter. The following Sunday on 27th April Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II will be canonised by Pope Francis in Rome and before we know it, May will have come. Time races by! 'Time' for us as Christians is an opportunity to be seized - a moment taking us to eternity which cannot be measured by a watch. Lent is a 'season' filled with many moments when we can respond to the promptings of God by praying more deeply, by sharing from our own resources with the less fortunate and by learning to say 'No!' to temptation as we fast or go without things we enjoy. The Lenten journey takes us to Calvary and to the huge outpouring of Divine Love as Jesus carried his Cross, endured his Passion and died for our salvation. Easter is the explosion of Life as Jesus bursts from the tomb, sealing his Victory over death and reminding us of our destiny. Today as we hear the Gospel passage from St. Matthew, we find ourselves in the desert wilderness with Jesus for forty days and forty nights. His triumph over the devil's temptations is a sure sign to us that we too can mirror his steadfastness. Today let us commit ourselves to keeping our gaze fixed on Jesus Christ who leads us to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Whatever you undertake for Lent, may it deepen your love of God and others...may it give you a glimpse of eternity and heaven.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

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 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 Wednesdays 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. **Lenten books** - more have been ordered and are at the back of our churches.

LENTEN FAST DAY This Friday is Lent Fast Day, envelopes are available at the back of the church for your donations. If you do not use the Planned Giving envelopes please take a Fast Day envelope and return it with your donation in the offertory collection next week. During Lent, as we think about the ways in which we can change our own lives, we can also make an amazing difference to the world's poorest people.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Congratulations to the children of St. Bonaventure's who made their First Confession yesterday (Saturday). Next Saturday the children of Our Lady's will make theirs and the following week the children of Holy Family. Please keep them all in your prayers. Thank you.

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

RCIA The next meeting will be on Monday 10th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Congratulations to the 15 adults and 2 children presented at the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral yesterday (Saturday). The Group will have a retreat afternoon at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green on Sunday 23rd March.

SAINT DAVID'S DAY Our thanks to those who helped with the refreshments after the St. David's Day Mass last Saturday.

HOLY FAMILY FRIENDS ASSOCIATION Next Saturday Holy Family School children will be packing at Morrisons for the day. Come and get your shopping packed **CAN YOU HELP?** An elderly parishioner is booked on a holiday with Smith Kline and French from 29th March to 5th April to St Ives. SKF have decided he needs a carer and are willing to meet the cost of the accommodation. Is there anyone in the parish who wants a free holiday? All you have to do is remind him to take his pills and get him to the correct meeting place at the correct time. He does not need any personal care. Phone Chris (the parishioner's daughter) who will give you details 325896.

LECTIO DIVINA (praying the scriptures) for Lent. Come and join us this Lent for one hour of silence and solitude and allow God to open your mind, body and soul. Recently promoted by the Pope and Cardinal Vincent Nichols this ancient mystical form of prayer is gaining worldwide momentum. The sessions will take place every Monday during Lent from 8pm to 9pm in Holy Family Church hall. Teas and coffee will follow. Everyone is welcome. For any questions regarding Lectio Divina please contact Spencer or Jenny White on 01707 334896, spencer.white4@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to all who signed cards sent at Christmas to prisoners of conscience in other countries. Forty-four cards were sent; your donations covered all expenses and a cheque was sent to Action by Christians Against Torture for £25.50 to fund continued work throughout the year.

CONFIRMATION The young people preparing for Confirmation will be holding a **cake sale in each of our churches today after 9.30am, 10.30am and 11.30am Masses.** All monies raised will go to KISS a charity supporting poor children in Uganda. The candidates' next evening session will be on Sunday 16th March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 12th at 7.30pm. Next Sunday there will be a retreat afternoon at St. Alban's Abbey Cathedral 12noon to 4pm.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms for Nursery as follows: 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!

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 will be in Our Lady's Hall immediately after 6pm Mass. Please bring finger food to share (leaving it in the hall before Mass) and a drink if you want something stronger! There will be a simple Quiz, Irish Dancers, music and dance. All welcome. No tickets - just come and enjoy yourselves!

OUR LADY SCHOOL PTA will be having a Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper on Friday 14th March - 7:30 in the School Hall. Maximum 8 people per team, £8:00 per person including supper and nibbles. Bar and refreshments available. Raffle too! More information from Lorina Felicien via the School Office (01707 324408)

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! Leaflets and booking forms at the back of our churches.

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.

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.

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. The ladies group will be meeting this Tuesday at SPACE 12.30 - 2pm for informal chat over a cuppa.

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

Need a Mobile Hairdresser, or a Decorator /Handy man or a Cleaner? As a family concern, we offer competitive rates which won't be beaten. Tracey (**MOBILE HAIRDRESSER**) 07581212941. Jamie (**DECORATOR/HANDYMAN**) 07572527731. Jackie (**CLEANER**) 07938917631

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Vincent 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
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

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

MASS TIMES

10 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
11 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
13 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Peter Damian
14 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
15 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Second Sunday of Lent

15 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
16 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family



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