

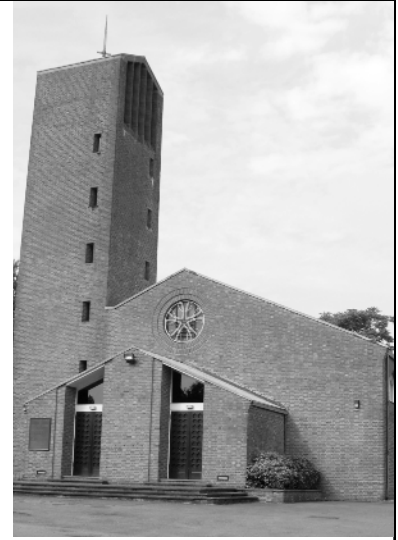
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminararian: Samuel Ejerege Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fourth Sunday of Lent 15th March 2015 (p.162 of Mass book)

We are half-way through Lent. 'Laetare! Rejoice!' is the message the Church proclaims as we stop off this Sunday to take stock and get ready for the next part of the journey towards Easter. How has your Lent been so far? Have there been high points of intense prayer, greater sacrifice, richer forgiveness and reconciliation? Has it been totally different to what you expected and you are waiting to make a fresh start today?

In our Scriptures St. Paul says to the Ephesians: 'God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy.' Jesus in St. John's Gospel speaks the following: 'Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...' What is clear is that God is taking the initiative; God's love makes the difference. Our response is to allow God to touch us through the power of grace, mercy and love. Divine Love is so amazing! God is present with us here on earth through his Son, sharing all that life brings us. Next, this Love is nailed to the Cross and suffers intensely to bring us salvation: our sins are forgiveness, our burdens are transformed, God understands death. Finally, this Love is triumphant as Jesus bursts from the Tomb sharing with us the victory of Resurrection - death is vanquished! Our task is to translate this Good News into our everyday life so that God's Love is our beginning, our inspiration and our ending. When you are loved and KNOW that you are loved, there is an exhilaration which takes you over. That is what God wants for us - Jesus is the pledge.

So, as you start another Lenten week, think of what he wants to do for you specifically this year as Easter approaches. Let his Love into your life and in turn offer it back to God with gratitude and let it overflow from you to others.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

MOTHERING SUNDAY Happy Mother's Day to each and every mother and honorary mum! God bless you.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY There will be Irish coffees and other refreshments in St. Bonaventure's Hall after Tuesday's 9.30am Mass. All welcome and Happy Feast!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES CARD Please take home a card listing all the services for Holy Week and Easter.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE for Lent will be on Tuesday 31st March at 8pm in Our Lady's Church.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Congratulations to the children of our three parishes who have made their First Confession over these last few weeks. Our thanks to their parents and catechists for the support they have given them. Next Sunday the First Communion children and their families will be in St. Albans for a retreat afternoon. Parents have their next session on Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

LENT There are Stations of the Cross during Lent as follows: Wednesdays at 10am at Holy Family, Friday mornings at 10 o'clock at St. Bonaventure's and Friday evenings at 7.30 at Our Lady's. There will also be half an hour of silent prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at 10am at Our Lady's, Thursdays at 10am at Holy Family and Saturdays at 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's.

PILGRIMAGE Pax Travel is arranging for us a pilgrimage to Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of the church.

FUNERALS The Funeral Service for **Valerie Grice R.I.P.** is this Monday 16th March at 11.45am at Harwood Park Crematorium.

The Funeral Mass for **Michael Pennett R.I.P.** is at 3.30pm in St. Bonaventure's Church on Monday 30th March.

The Funeral Service for **Annie Bray R.I.P.** will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Friday 27th March at 5pm.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the deceased.

GOOD FRIDAY There will be a Service of Reflection led by the Focolare Community for our parishes on Good Friday (3rd April) at 7.30pm at the Centre for Unity next to St. Bonaventure's. All welcome.

EASTER SUNDAY Please note there will not be an evening Mass on Easter Sunday at Holy Family.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR will be meeting to rehearse the Holy Week services on 19th March at 10.30 and 23rd March at 10.30. New members always welcome.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER There will be an Easter clean of the Church starting at 10am on Monday 23rd March. Any help to join gratefully received. Tea/coffee/cake to keep you going! Please do come along.

ROOM TO LET Rosaleen has a single bedroom (en suite) to let. Phone 07799416188.

A PARISHIONER would like to move closer to St. Bonaventure's or Our Lady's and is looking for an unfurnished one-bedroom flat. If you can help phone Trudi on 01707 692401 or 07914933088.

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

HELP NEEDED Fr. Gerard would like some help cleaning the grounds of Holy Family Church. Please phone him on 327434.

LENT Group reflections on sharing in the life and mission of Jesus Christ every Friday during Lent at 8pm in the Chapel at Our Lady's.

HOMEMADE CAKE SALE for CAFOD's Syria Appeal each Sunday in Lent after 8am Mass. Cake contributions most welcome. £51.50 was raised last week, thank you.

RETREAT DAYS The First Communion children and their families will be in St. Albans the afternoon of Sunday 22nd March. The RCIA Group will at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green the afternoon of Sunday 29th March.

QUIZ NIGHT at Our Lady School on Friday 20th March with a Fish and Chip Supper. Maximum 8 per team. Cost £10 per person including supper. More details from school 01707 324408.

HCPT GROUP 183 A big thank you from HCPT group 183. The total raised from the retiring collection from all 3 churches was an amazing £787.91 paying for 1 child's complete fare. Once again many thanks for your generous donations.

CAKE SALE Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked Loreto College to raise funds to support the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund. Aku and Emily will sell cakes on the Sunday, 22nd March after the 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's for the charity - donations are welcome. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MISSION/APF Members at Our Lady's: Do please pick up the latest Spring 2015 copy of the Mission Today magazine which is available at the back of church. Thank you again for all the money that is so generously given throughout the year either through the Red Boxes or by an Annual Donation.

SOME THANK YOU'S The MASLEN family would like to take this opportunity to thank family friends and the Holy Family community for their condolences compassion and prayers over the last few weeks – During a difficult period it's been really appreciated - Thank you.

The family of JOHN LAGGAN would like to thank Kathryn at St. Bonaventure's. The organist Melissa, altar servers, Co-op Funeralcare and everyone at Our Lady's Church for helping out at the funeral. Thanks to Fr. Norbert for a beautiful service and for all his help preparing the funeral, welcoming the bagpiper and to all who attended John's funeral. Special thanks from John's family for all his help and support during John's illness.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 31st March from 3.45pm - 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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING Why not help 'share the load' by joining our dedicated team of cleaners? Contact Mavis on 01707 330830 if you can help.

DEMENTIA PRAYER WEEK 12th - 19th March Prayer is one very powerful way of connecting with all those lives are touched by dementia. In this way we unite ourselves with them, forging a link with the Lord which words alone cannot express. *Lord, thank you for your presence this moment, holding us in your love. Help us to share your love with those who live among us with dementia, that we may see your beauty in them. Amen.* (There are copies of a prayer card at the back of church, please take one.)

26TH WESTMINSTER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 26th July - 1st August led by Cardinal Nichols. This pilgrimage welcomes all especially those who who are sick or frail. Hotels cater for all needs. 24 hour medical care is provided by volunteer nurses, doctors, care assistants, and redcaps (young helpers aged 16+). Travel by air, train, coach or jumbulance according to need. Booking forms are at the back of church. *Lourdes, a place of prayer, peace, renewal, loving and being loved, caring and being cared for.* Please join us and share the joy of these gifts of God, living the Gospel way. Further information from Kay Diamond Pilgrimage Liaison Nurse 01707 881882.

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Holy Family Church
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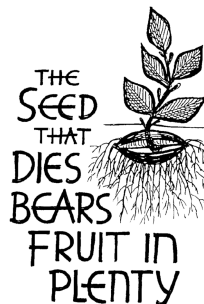
OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

MASS TIMES

16 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
17 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Patrick
	7pm	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
19 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Joseph
20 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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



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