

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 20th March 2016 (page 184 of Mass book)

It's Palm Sunday! Time seems to have raced by even more quickly this year with the earlier Easter. Today we embark on the journey with Jesus to his Passion, Death and Resurrection. In St. John's Gospel we are often told that Jesus' *hour* has not yet come. Well now it has! He willingly sets on the path which will cost him his life. He is totally obedient to the Father. His loving mercy reaches out to bring forgiveness. His final breath into the unknown of Death is rewarded with Resurrection! *Time* this week takes us back to the events of the first Holy Week. *Time* this week points us to the future life of Heaven. *Time* this week is rooted in the reality of the NOW with past and future coming into our lives. Eternity comes into the present moment - Wow!

So what difference will the events unfolding this week make to your lives? I think, firstly, we must consider that the Death and Resurrection of Jesus marks out our identity as followers of Jesus. We should want to be people open to the grace which comes from the Cross, shaping our lives and bringing us forgiveness beyond measure. Secondly, all that we do and are this Holy Week is a sign to those around us of the hope which comes from the Cross: God loves each one of us, God forgives and saves, God offers eternal life. How can we share this divine reality with others? I am sure there are people who will ask us questions about what we are up to this week! Try and find words to explain what you are doing or trying to do. Don't forget that it is our actions which can speak even more persuasively and powerfully; so our readiness to forgive, to reach out to those in need, to commit ourselves to Christ, especially when his Cross weighs upon us, will radiate Faith which is alive.

Above all, let each one of us ponder the Mystery that Easter is *God's* work, his Blessing coming down upon the world, offering us renewal and strength.

Have a Holy Week! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

CARDINAL'S VISIT Our thanks to everyone who came to last Sunday's Mass to mark St. Bonaventure's 90th. The Cardinal has said how much he enjoyed the celebration! A huge amount of work went into preparing for, and celebrating, the Mass and the Reception; for this we are very grateful.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE On Tuesday we will have our Service of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter at 8pm in Our Lady's. Pope Francis has said in this Year of Mercy, 'Just come!', meaning 'Just come to Confession!' There will be 8 priests available to hear Confessions. Don't put it off for some faraway time, come and share in - and celebrate - God's forgiving merciful love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

EASTER VIGIL MUSIC There will be a practice for all singers and musicians who would like to take part in the Easter Vigil for our three parishes. Monday 21st March 7 - 8pm at Our Lady's.

ALTAR SERVERS' LISTS for Easter are now in each sacristy. Please sign up and note when the practices will take place. Thank you.

GOOD FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE 7.30pm at Our Lady's. 40 minutes of prayer, reflection and music at the end of Good Friday to contemplate the events of the day. All welcome.

EASTER SUNDAY Please note there will not be a 6pm Mass at Holy Family Church on Easter Sunday.

FR. MARC FASSIER Fr. Marc from St. Denis in Paris will be spending Holy Week and Easter with us in Welwyn Garden City; he arrives on Saturday 19th March. He is working on his doctoral thesis and is coming for some peace and quiet!

POLISH BLESSING OF FOOD Tradycyjne Swiecenie Pokarmow odbędzie się w kościele Our Lady's, Welwyn Garden City, w Wielka Sobota 26.03. o godzinie 16.00 Serdecznie zapraszamy. The traditional Blessing of Easter Food will be in Our Lady's on Holy Saturday (26th March) at 4pm. Baskets of food are placed around the sanctuary and blessed. Last year around 250 people came. The Service lasts half an hour and you do not need to be Polish to attend!

LENT There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes on Monday at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass. There will be Stations of the Cross at Holy Family on Wednesday after 9.30 Mass.

CONFIRMATION Next session today (Palm Sunday) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

RCIA The Group will have an Afternoon of Prayer at St. Edmund's, Ware today (Sunday). Please keep them in your prayers as they get ready for the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. There are going to be two adult Baptisms, three adults to be received into the Catholic Church; they and four others will be confirmed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS of our three churches have their next meeting on Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The First Communion families will have an Afternoon of Retreat at St. Alban's Abbey on Sunday 24th April 12 noon until 4pm.

MINIBUS OUTING for anybody with limited mobility SUNDAY 10th April to St Paul's Walden Bury Open Garden. Entrance £5. Pick up from home 1.30 - 2.30pm. Tel. Kay on 01707 335633

HEALTHWISE is coming to the Pomegranate Cafe Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP Wednesday 4 May from 10.30am - 11.30am. Healthy eating, gentle exercise, computer skills and friendship Healthwise helps older people aged 50 plus retain their independence through an enjoyable programme of: • healthy eating • gentle exercise • digital inclusion • social interaction To book on this FREE 10 week course contact: Susan Johns, Healthwise Coordinator Mobile: 07772 173682 Email: Healthwise.1@ageukherts.org.uk www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire Registered charity number 1116662

HOLY WEEK POSTERS The Knights of St. Columba have given us posters to display in a window at home. Please take one from the back of church.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD NEXT WEEKEND! British Summer Time is coming...don't get caught out on Easter Sunday morning!

NEWSLETTER Next weekend's newsletter will cover 26th/27th March, 2nd/3rd April and 9th/10th April, so please get any items in as soon as possible for this period. The next newsletter after that will be 16th/17th April.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Time is running out! Young people of our parishes aged 16 - 30 are asked to think about joining the Deanery coach to Krakow in the summer (Sunday 24th July -2nd August). 2 - 3 million young people will gather with Pope Francis and it will definitely be a memorable and unique experience. Why not be one of them?! (The cost of a place is £750). Our Finance Committees have agreed to subsidise the first 20 young people by £300 each. Please speak to Fr. Norbert if you are interested in going. Booking forms and brochures are at the back of our churches.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Our thanks to all who helped with last Thursday's celebration. It was a wonderful evening. The Bishop thoroughly enjoyed himself too!

HOLY FAMILY EASTER SPRING CLEAN Monday 21st March between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Please come along and participate in this very important task.

RAISING MONEY TO EQUIP THE NEW SANCTUARY PLANNED FOR ISABEL HOSPICE On Sunday 3rd April Sue Jeppesen, Lay Chaplain from Isabel Hospice, is being sponsored to raise money to equip the new planned Sanctuary by walking to and attending as many different Church Services as possible around Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. She is starting with the 8am Mass at St Bonaventure's and ending with the 6pm Service at St Mary's Hatfield Hyde. If we are able to fund this project we can then offer a very valuable and much needed quiet peaceful space for our patients, families and staff to use.

If you would like to contribute and support this Chaplaincy Team venture, we would be very grateful. Envelopes will be available in our 3 churches on Sunday 3rd April.

HCPT Group 183 leaves early for Lourdes on Easter Monday. Fr. Norbert will accompany the Group as Chaplain. You will be remembered in prayer at the Grotto; please pray for the Group. If anyone wants petitions taken to Lourdes, please give them to Fr. Norbert by Easter Sunday.

EARLY MASS The next 6.30am Mass in the Year of Mercy will be on Friday 6th May. There will not be one in April.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - HOWARDSGATE As Churches in Welwyn Garden City, we'll be having our annual Good Friday service at 11am in Howardsgate. We'll meet to sing, pray and have space to think about what makes Good Friday good? Afterwards from 11.45am we'll be giving an opportunity for those who want to, to give out flowers and gifts to shoppers and shop owners in the town centre, as an expression of God's love for people. All will be explained on the day, so just turn up!

OUR LADY'S CHURCH Church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds in preparation for Easter will take place after 9.30am Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday (26th March). Please do come along to help.

AYLESFORD Parish Pilgrimage to Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 14th May. More details next week.

400 CLUB On Easter Sunday there will be members of the Club at the back of Our Lady's to collect subscriptions and welcome any new members.

INTERFAITH EVENING Monday 11th April at the Jim Macdonald Centre in Hatfield at 7.15pm a community event on Ecology and Faith with the speaker James Buchanan from the Christian climate change charity 'Operation Noah'. His talk will include the Papal Exhortation on the care of the planet.

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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

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S This Tuesday 22nd 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 very welcome.

TIMES OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
	8pm	Reconciliation Service	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family

EASTER TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday

6pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St. Bonaventure
7pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Holy Family
8pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Our Lady's

Good Friday

10am	Children's Way of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
12noon	Children's Way of the Cross	Our Lady's
3pm	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion	St. Bonaventure
3pm	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion	Holy Family
3pm	Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion	Our Lady's
7.30pm	Good Friday Service	Our Lady's

Holy Saturday

8pm	Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter	Our Lady's
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Easter Sunday

8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's

No evening Mass today

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