

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*

Fifth Sunday of Easter (page 271) 24th April 2016

'I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

These are the last sentences of the Gospel passage today taken from St. John's account of the Last Supper. At the heart of Jesus' instruction is love. We must love in the way that we are loved. We must reveal that we are disciples of Jesus through our mutual love.

Let us reflect on 'love'. In St. John's Gospel we hear in the Prologue that the Word became Flesh and lived among us and that the Son who is closest to the Father's heart has made him known. At the Last Supper the Beloved Disciple reclines next to Jesus; he is so close to Jesus, he will be there at the foot of the Cross with Our Lady and he sets down in writing the Gospel which puts us in touch with Jesus. Where do we find ourselves in the love flowing from Father to Son to Beloved?

When Jesus dies on the Cross he pours out love which is sacrificial. He dies in obedience to the Father and he gives himself for us that we may receive forgiveness and that heaven may be our destiny. As we open up ourselves to the Lord, allowing sacrificial love into our hearts, we need to consider the ways in which Jesus wants us to make sacrifices for others and for God our Father - to let the Word become flesh in us!

Jesus speaks of a New Commandment. We can often be resistant to being asked or told to do something! Maybe it is pride? Perhaps at times we think we know what to do anyway? Jesus was obedient to his Father because he knew it was the right thing to do and he trusted his Father. He wants us to kindle in our lives a desire to listen to his command and respond. To be beloved disciples close to Jesus' heart and moulding our hearts on his. Let us pray for this grace this week. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

AYLESFORD Parish Pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy to Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 14th May. Aylesford Priory, or 'The Friars' to give it its traditional name, was founded in 1242 when the first Carmelites arrived from the Holy Land. They came under the patronage of Richard de Grey, a crusader, who gave them a small piece of land at his manor of Aylesford. In 1247 the Bishop of Rochester, Richard of Wendover, officially recognised the Carmelite foundation at Aylesford and the first General Chapter of the Order outside the Holy Land was held there. Now in this Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016, we are going as pilgrims to the same place! The coach will leave Our Lady's at 9am. There will be the Rosary Way at Aylesford, picnic lunch (bring all you need!), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass. We should be back by 6pm. The cost will be £10 for adults and £5 for children. Please sign up your name on a list at the back of our churches. Let's make this a great day!

PETER RUANE RIP There will be a Memorial Mass for Peter on Monday 25th April at 11.30am in Our Lady's Church followed by the burial of his ashes.

UKRAINE Pope Francis has asked that the people of Europe should take a collection today (24th) for the people of Ukraine. As we had a collection last week for the Priests Training Fund, a donation will be sent instead from our three churches.

ST. THOMAS BECKET The relics of St. Thomas Becket will be coming to England from Hungary for a week long pilgrimage and tour of the country. There will be a Mass of Welcome at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 23rd May at 5.30pm to which all are invited.

QUEEN'S 90TH We congratulate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 90th birthday last Thursday. Her 'official' birthday is marked in June. Let us pray for her and her family.

QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY TEA The Christian Churches in WGC are going to put on an afternoon tea in Howardsgate on Sunday 12th June 3 - 5pm followed by a 'Songs of Praise'. There will be tea and cakes, bouncy castles, games and face painting. Help will be needed for this event which will be our way of marking this great occasion and reaching out to the wider community. Various permissions are required for an event like this and these are in the process of being sorted out. More details in due course but keep the date free!

HEALTHWISE is coming to the Pomegranate Cafe Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP Wednesday 4th 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

PRAGUE UPDATE Pax Travel have let us know that there are 29 people signed up for October's pilgrimage to Prague. Booking forms and brochures are at the back of our churches.

PILGRIMAGES TO DOORS OF MERCY Holy Rood, Watford's Ascent Group will be coming on Tuesday 3rd May 12noon until 4pm. Holy Family School will come on Friday 10th June.

CONFIRMATION Final session today (24th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. The rehearsal will be on Friday in Our Lady's Church at 7.45pm and Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Confirmation on Friday 6th May at 7.30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FAMILIES have an Afternoon of Retreat at St. Alban's Abbey today (24th) 12 noon until 4pm.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 24th July - 2nd August in Krakow, Poland. Steveange Deanery is definitely on for Krakow! Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. The price is £750 including a deposit of £80. Here in WGC our finance committees have agreed to subsidise each young person by £300. So sign up! The next gathering of the group from the Deanery is on Friday 13th May at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall. The young people will put on a fundraising Quiz Night on Friday 8th July at 7.45pm.

EARLY MASS The next 6.30am Mass in the Year of Mercy will be on Friday 6th May at St. Bonaventure's.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the SVP will be in Our Lady's on Saturday 21st May at 12 noon.

MISSION OF MERCY Week beginning Monday 6th June. Each evening (Monday to Friday) there will be a Service in Our Lady's Church led by the priests of the Stevenage Deanery from 7.30 - 9pm.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC.

FRIENDS OF WELWYN CARE HOMES Volunteer visitors wanted! FWCH seeks to bring the community into the local care homes for the frail elderly by building links between local people and the residents and staff. Have YOU a couple of hours to spare a month when you could join a small team to chat over a cup of tea, or join in other activities with residents? For further information please contact Anne Horsman anne.horseman@btinternet.com 01438 840566.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR The next practice is on Tuesday 3rd May at 10.15am.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 or Angela Edwards on 01707 690157 (evenings) or 07879610109.

FLOWER GROUP (St. B's) A new rota is about to be set up, if you would like to join the group please phone Monica on 01428714923 or Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579.

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION Cards and gifts for sale in the repository before and after most Masses at Our Lady's.

A MARRIED COUPLE are looking for a room to rent in this area. Contact Rosaleen by text 07799416188.

YEAR OF MERCY WINDOWS Our thanks to all who have contributed to the new windows at Our Lady's. To date a total of £7,771.95 has been donated; this includes an anticipated £1,192.50 from Gift Aid. Further donations would be welcomed. The target figure is £18,000. Gift Aid envelopes are the back of Our Lady's.

MINIBUS OUTING for anybody with restricted mobility TUESDAY 10th MAY to de Havilland Aircraft Museum at London Colney. Admission £7.25. Door to door transport. Wheelchair users welcome. Telephone Kay 01707 335633.

CHURCH CLEANING If you would like to join the team at St. Bonaventure's please phone the parish office for details.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

Fr. Martin 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
Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

INTERFAITH EVENTS Ladies Lunches have moved to a new venue: The Focolare Centre for Unity and will be meeting on Tuesday 10th May from 12.30 until 2pm. On Thursday 12 May from 7.15pm - 9.30pm there is an invitation to all faith communities to share Common Ground Between Faiths through story and festivals at the Quaker Meeting House in Handside Lane.

THANK YOU Marie and Ellen Myers would like to say a big thank you to all those parishioners who sponsored them doing the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 17th April 2016. It was very generous of you all and very much appreciated. The total raised for 'The Mixed Group' was just over £1000 which is amazing! They finished together in 4 hours 33 minutes.

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

MASS TIMES

25 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Mark
	11.30am	Requiem Mass	Our Lady's	
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
29 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Catherine of Sienna
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria

Sixth Sunday of Easter

30 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
01 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	6pm	Mass	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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