

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*

Third Sunday of Lent 23rd March 2014 (page 158)

In Year A of the Lectionary we leave St. Matthew's Gospel at this point in Lent and turn to St. John's Gospel. Each Sunday for three weeks there will be weighty passages which invite us to enter more deeply into the Mystery of who Jesus is and his impact upon humanity. Today we are in 'foreign' territory to the north of the Holy Land. Jesus meets a Samaritan woman and proceeds to teach her about the 'Living Water' which he will give her to quench her thirst. Next week we encounter the man who was born blind whose conversation with Jesus results in him seeing the Light of the World. Finally on the Fifth Sunday of Lent we are taken to Bethany to a grieving family whose sadness is transformed as Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, calls Lazarus from the darkness of the tomb to the radiance of life.

St. John never says things in a straightforward way! He teases us into an ever deeper reflection on the true identity of Jesus. Rather like the parables of the other three Gospels, when we think we've understood we realise that there's even more to discover! So during these weeks, take time to ponder the imagery, the vocabulary, the sense. Listen to the conversations as they unfold and be drawn by God's Spirit into the riches which lie hidden in the Gospel text. Go back and dig deeper. Who knows what God wants you to find this Lent of 2014?

In today's passage, the Samaritan woman rushes to her town to tell the people: 'Come and see a man who told me all I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This Lent we are called upon to spend time with the Lord, to listen to his words of teaching and to spread the Good News of what he has done. As St. Paul relates in the Second Reading from Romans: '...what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.' What an amazing message to spur us on! What a challenge to us to respond by repenting of our sins! May God bless you in all that you do and are. ***Fr. Norbert***

MISSION APPEAL This weekend we welcome Sister Sue and Sister Gill from the Medical Missionary Sisters. They are making the Annual Mission Appeal. There will be a retiring collection to support their work. Thank you in advance for your great generosity. **BISHOP JOHN** has asked to join us in Welwyn Garden City for the Easter Triduum and so we look forward to welcoming him to our churches.

EASTER VIGIL There will be a music rehearsal for the Easter Vigil in Our Lady's Church on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm. All musicians and singers welcome. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you can attend.

VOCATIONS Vocations Discernment Group for Young Adults (18-40) will meet on Friday 28th March, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room next to Westminster Cathedral. Two recently ordained Jesuit deacons will be reflecting on Chapter 2 of Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* - Amid the Crisis of Communal Commitment. For more info, contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.

CENSUS If you missed filling in a census form, please would you do so today. There are forms at the back of each church.

WGC PROJECT Just to remind you that there will be a Parish Meeting on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall to think about and plan for the future. There are drawings at the back of each church inviting us to 'dream' about what we would want for our community as a legacy from the Growing in Faith campaign which the Cardinal wants us to hold in WGC. Please take time to mull over the presentation boards and come to the meeting.

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 Saturday 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.

Lectio Divina continues every Monday evening between 8pm and 9pm at The Holy Family Church Parish room. Please come and join us for this unique opportunity to pray the scriptures in a silent and peaceful setting during this time of Lent

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

FR. CARLO LAMBERTO who helped in St. Bonaventure's some years ago will be visiting WGC and will celebrate 9.30am Mass this Tuesday 25th March at St. Bonaventure's. We look forward to welcoming him

ST. PATRICK Thanks to all who made last Saturday's Special Needs Mass and the Celebration which followed such a wonderful evening.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY falls in the Octave of Easter this year and so will be transferred to Monday 28th April. There will be a St. George's Mass in Our Lady's at 9.30am on that day followed by breakfast in the hall.

MOTHERING SUNDAY next Sunday - the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

RCIA The next meeting will be on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. The Group has a retreat afternoon at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green today (Sunday).

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILIES had a glorious retreat afternoon at St. Alban's Abbey Cathedral last Sunday. 230 of us filled the Lady Chapel for Mass. A reminder to parents that their next meeting is this Wednesday (26th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Also, congratulations to the 90 children of our three churches who have made their First Confession in recent weeks!

CONFIRMATION The young people continue with their sessions every Sunday evening at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. The Group will have their Retreat Day in Aylesford on Sunday 6th April.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES have been set for: Saturday 7th June at 6pm, Saturday 13th September at 6pm and Saturday 15th November at 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS has been set for Sunday 13th July at 11.30am. Watch this space!

OCTOBER TRIP to Rheims. Leaflets and booking forms at the back of our churches.

LENTEN LUNCHESES Provided by the CWL every Saturday in Lent 12noon - 1.30pm in Our Lady's parish centre. Profit is donated to CAFOD.

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.

PLEASE CAN YOU SPONSOR? Jacqueline McCallum (Holy Family parishioner) who is raising money for Macmillan by running the London Marathon on 13th April. You may sponsor her by going to <http://www.justgiving.com/mrsjacquelinemccallum>.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP This week we prepare for our Children's Mass (on Sunday) and make some special things for our mums.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 15th April from 2 - 4pm. 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.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR next weekend as we enter British Summer Time. Don't forget!

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

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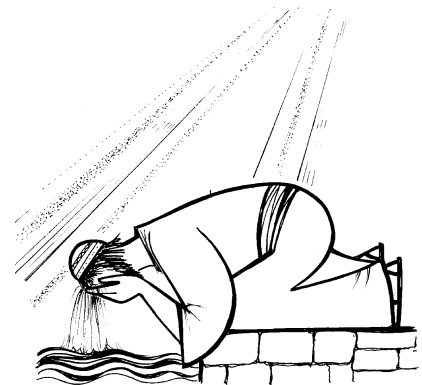
OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson
 01707 377442 or 07790 135458
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

24 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
25 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Annunciation of the Lord
	7pm	Our Lady's	
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
27 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
28 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
29 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

		Fourth Sunday of Lent
29 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
30 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 07884187463