

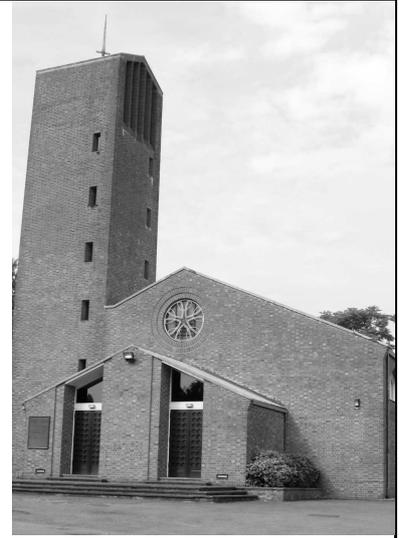
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fourth Sunday of Lent 30th March 2014 (page 164)

In today's Gospel from St. John, we witness the encounter between a man who was born blind and Jesus. The man is not only healed by the Lord but comes to a deep faith, saying: 'Lord, I believe'. On the face of it, it seems so simple and yet there is so much hassle from various people who cannot believe - or just do not want to believe - what has taken place.

On Palm Sunday (13th April) we will see Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. On Maundy Thursday we will see the Lord washing the feet of his disciples and instituting the Eucharist. On Good Friday he will be lifted up on the Cross for our salvation. And finally on Easter Sunday with St. Peter and the Beloved Disciple we will see the Empty Tomb. What a journey awaits us in these coming weeks! Crucially it is the seeing AND believing which are paramount. Lent is a time of preparation and penance calling us to a deeper faith in Jesus Christ. In our own community there are many adults preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Some will be baptised; some received into the Catholic Church; all will be confirmed and receive Holy Communion. What an outpouring of grace upon them - and upon us! Lent is also a season challenging us to see the Lord's presence in the person in need and offering support. There is still time to respond.

Today on Laetare Sunday, the pink vestments remind us to rejoice that we are half-way through the rigour of Lent. The journey continues; the end is in sight. What makes this week different for our school children is that they break up on Friday. This means that our parents will have the responsibility of encouraging their children in the final thrust towards Holy Week and the Sacred Easter Triduum. May be many will be away? Please try and find out the times of Services wherever you are going to be. If you have never in the past attended the major celebrations of the Triduum, why not do so in 2014? Let us all get ready truly to see Jesus in his Passion, Death and Resurrection, to deepen our love for him and to be strengthened in the Faith we profess.

May God bless another Lenten week! ***Fr. Norbert***

MOTHERING SUNDAY Happy Mother's Day to each and every mum and honorary mum!

RON DAVIN RIP Ron's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 14th April at 9.30am.

ANN POLLOCK RIP Ann's Funeral will take place in Ireland.

WGC PROJECT Just to remind you that there will be a **Parish Meeting this 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.

BISHOP JOHN will be with us in Welwyn Garden City for the Easter Triduum this year. He will lead a meditation on 'The Last Words of Jesus' on Good Friday at 7.30pm in St. Bonaventure's.

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.

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

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 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 every Monday evening in Holy Family's Parish Room 8-9pm.

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 31st March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The young people have a session this evening (Sunday) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. The Group will spend next Sunday at Aylesford reflecting on various forms of prayer. Young people need to be at Our Lady's Church next Sunday at 8.45am, the coach will leave promptly at 9am.

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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES CARD Please take a home a card listing all the Holy Week and Easter Services in our three churches.

LENTEN FUNDRAISING Each year in Lent, the students at Loreto College raise money for charity. This year they are selling raffle tickets for prizes that include VIP tickets to Roller City and the local cinema. Tickets will be sold this week and next after 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. Please support our young people. Thank you.

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).

HOLY FAMILY (SCHOOL) FRIENDS ASSOCIATION will be selling jute shopper bags (made in Scotland) on Sunday, April 6th after morning Mass at Holy Family to raise money for Holy Family School. Cost: £5 for one bag or £9 for two. There are only 15 left!

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 Tuesdays in term time 3.45pm.

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.

PEACE GARDEN For any one wishing to support the peace garden in terms of horticultural skills or planning activities in or around it, you are invited to a working lunch at the parish centre for Midday on Thursday 3rd April. Bring a round of sandwiches to swop or share with others as you wish. Drinks will be provided.

GIFT AID The three parishes will shortly have to complete the return to the Diocese to claim the Gift Aid on offertory donations. If you have signed a Gift Aid form in the past but no longer pay income tax can you please advise Fr. Norbert or Fr. Vincent. Also if you would like to join the Gift Aid scheme please contact either priest.

DOG WALKING Can you help an elderly parishioner by walking her dog? Contact Nora on 321432.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH The monthly cleaning of the church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next **Saturday 5th April** at 10am for ONE hour. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome to come and help!

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St. Bonaventure's
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Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Vincent 01707 327434
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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

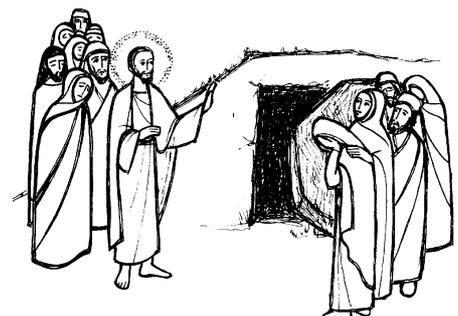
OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson
 01707 377442 or 07790 135458
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

31 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Lent feria
01 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
02 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
03 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lent feria
04 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
05 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

		Fifth Sunday of Lent
05 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
06 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