

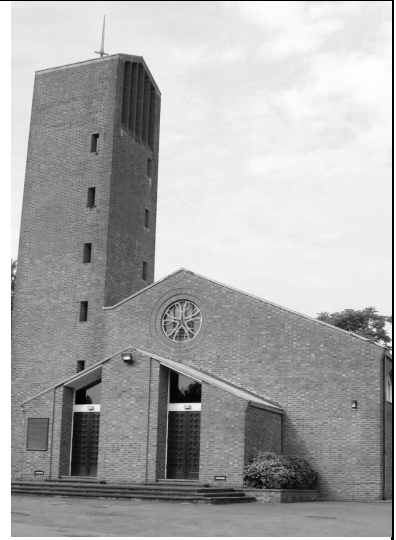
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

## ***Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 13th April 2014 (page 184)***

'It is at your house I am keeping Passover with my disciples.' These are the words Jesus wants his disciples to say to 'so-and-so' in the city. 'So- and-so' could be you or me! Jesus longs to share with each one of us his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Lent is nearly over; no matter how we have spent this season, the time has now come for the Lord's Passover to take place. He will eat and drink with us at table, offering his Body and Blood. He will be lifted up on the Cross, pouring out his life for us. He will be raised to New Life on Easter Day revealing to us his Victory over sin and death.

How will YOU keep these days? The Sacred Triduum is the holiest period of the Church's Year. Try if you can to come to the major Services: the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, the Solemn Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday afternoon and the climax - the Easter Vigil. There are so many unusual elements to these liturgies: the Washing of Feet on Thursday, the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday and the Easter Fire with the Sacraments of Initiation on Holy Saturday Night. The Services are more complex than at other times of the year and do take longer. However, when you are caught up in the eternity of Death and Resurrection, time ceases to matter! In our homes let us keep a sense of watchful prayer throughout the week. Perhaps our televisions might have a bit of a rest? Perhaps the family or household might make time for shared prayer? Perhaps silence might reign in anticipation of all that will take place?

If you are going away, try and find a church and share in the prayer of another community. I am sure that here in Welwyn Garden City we will be welcoming many visitors - which is so good! There will be people who will wonder what is going on, what the 'Celebration' is all about. The challenge and the joy will be ours to share with them our faith in the Son of God who for the Salvation of the world was willing to suffer, die and rise - and no one should miss out on that!

May God bless you and your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

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

**TERRI LAURIE RIP** and **MARTHA O'REILLY R.I.P.** Funeral details still to be arranged.

**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.

**CHRISM MASS** at Westminster Cathedral (Victoria Street, London SW1P 1QJ) on Tuesday 15th April at 12 noon. If you have never attended this Mass it is well worth trying to go. The Cardinal will bless the Holy Oils to be used in the Diocese in the coming year: the Oil of Catechumens in preparation for Baptism, the Oil of the Sick to anoint those who are seriously ill and the Oil of Chrism for use at Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and to consecrate churches and altars. At this Mass priests renew their Ordination Promises and usually there are around 300 present. As Dean of Stevenage, Fr. Norbert collects the Holy Oils and distributes them to the parishes of this deanery.

**CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION** The English and Welsh branch of the Catholic Grandparents' Association ([www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)) will be launched on Friday 9th May, 10:30am–3pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P 1EP. Any grandparents wishing to represent their parish at the launch should please contact Edmund Adamus [edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk) 020 7798 9363 as soon as possible as space is limited.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM** Next meeting to reflect on Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium) on Friday 24th April in the Chapel adjacent to Our Lady's Hall at 7:45pm, for an hour. Pat Whitney from Focolare will be the group facilitator. Anyone interested in exploring the text - with a view to gaining a deeper understanding of the "Proclamation of the Gospel in today's world" - is most welcome. For further information please ring Kay Mason on 01707 335633 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399

**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** There will be Stations of the Cross will be at Holy Family on Wednesday after 9.30 Mass. **LECTIO DIVINA** Please come and join us this coming Monday evening between 8pm and 9pm in the Holy Family hall for the final Lectio Divina for Lent. Even if you haven't been this Lent, or been before, please do come along and experience this silent and peaceful form of prayer.

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** for our three parishes will be on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. Come and share in the grace of celebrating God's forgiving love in this wonderful Sacrament. Perhaps it has been a number of years since you last came - why not come this week? Maybe something weighs heavily upon you and you feel ready to confess it - the priest will be there to help you. Do you find yourself saying the same things? Come and listen to God's Word proclaimed and allow it to touch your heart and respond! There will be 6 priests hearing Confessions (two speak the African languages of Ibbo, Swahili and Haya - if that would be helpful for you). This is such a powerful way to prepare to enter into the mysteries of the Sacred Triduum!

**ALTAR SERVERS** Please sign up for the various Easter Services on the lists in each sacristy. Thank you.

**RCIA** The next meeting will be on Monday 14th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**AFRICAN MASS** There will be a planning meeting on Sunday 27th April after 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's. All members of the African Community are asked to come and start the preparations for the Mass on Sunday 13th July.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** (27th April) will be celebrated at Our Lady and St Vincent Church in Potters Bar (243 Mutton Lane EN6 2AT) from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, commencing with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour followed by the Divine Mercy Devotions. After the Devotions, all are invited to refreshments in the hall.

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

**CONFIRMATION** The rain held off in Aylesford last Sunday on the Confirmation Retreat. Our young people were a credit to their families and our parishes. Their final session is on Sunday 27th April at 7.15pm and they will be confirmed on Friday 9th May.

**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. Some of our Loreto students will be selling cakes to take home at the end of the workshop.

**MAY DEVOTIONS** to Our Lady in the Peace Garden after 10am Mass at Our Lady's on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES** At Holy Family Church on Sunday 18th May at 12 noon, at Our Lady's at 11.30am on Sundays 11th May, 1st June and 8th June, and at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 15th June at 10.30am. Parents have their final session on Wednesday 30th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

**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.

**BLESSING OF FOOD** A tradition in Poland and many other countries will take place on Holy Saturday (19th April) in Our Lady's at 4pm. Last year over 150 people came and Fr. Norbert gave the blessing in Polish! Swiecenie pokarmow na Wielkanocne sniadanie odbedzie sie w Kosciele Our Lady wWGC wWielka Sobote o godzinie 16.00. Serdecznie wszystkich zapraszamy.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** on Saturday 19th April after Morning Prayer at 10am, a final clean of the church and grounds will take place in preparation for Easter. All are invited to come and help with this essential task, which will last just one hour. Many thanks.

**CAFOD** Bridie Nash will be doing the Rotary walk for CAFOD on Sunday 27th April and hopes to complete the long route rather than the short one. If you would like to sponsor her in fundraising for Connect2Ethopia please contact her on 01707 326709.

**NEWSLETTER** Next week's newsletter will cover two weeks. Items for inclusion should be in by this Thursday please.

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Fr. Vincent 01707 327434  
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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 or 07790 135458  
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

**TIMES OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

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

**EASTER TRIDUUM**

**Maundy Thursday**

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

**Good Friday**

10am	Children's Way of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
12noon	Children's Way of the Cross	Our Lady's
<b>3pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>3pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</b>	Holy Family
<b>3pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</b>	Our Lady's
<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Last Words of Jesus</b>	St. Bonaventure

**Holy Saturday**

10am	Morning Prayer	All parishes
<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>

**Easter Sunday**

<b>8am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Holy Family
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Our Lady's
	<u>No evening Mass today</u>	

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