

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Registered Charity 233699

Parish Priest: Father Bill McConalogue

Parish Secretary: Mrs Kathryn Hubbard

(Father Bill can also be contacted on 01707 327434)

Fifth Sunday of Lent 9th March 2008

God has the power to open our graves and raise us from them. That power is portrayed mightily in today's Gospel. As the Lord summons Lazarus forth from the grave, let us ask God to allow that summons to reach deeply into our hearts and draw us out of our own tombs where sinful decay has set in. As the sacred word is proclaimed, let us acclaim Christ as resurrection and life.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM

Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me will never die.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

He who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, said the Lord.



My dear Parishioners and Visitors,

WELCOME I extend a very warm welcome to everyone. If you have recently moved into the parish, or have started coming to Mass here, please do introduce yourselves to me or Father Joe after Mass.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Saturday 15th St. Joseph, husband of Mary

FATHER BILL WRITES: As from Monday I will be out of action as I prepare for surgery which I hope will take place early the following week. Please remember to keep me in your prayers at this time.

PALM SUNDAY Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and is the beginning of Holy Week. Please arrive in plenty of time for Mass. Palms will be blessed at the beginning of each Mass, but for 10.30am Mass we will process from the church (weather permitting), through the hall to the Presbytery garden for the blessing of the palms. We will then go out of the gates and round to the front of the church. Children can leave the procession at the front of the church to go into the hall for their own liturgy. At the end of each Mass please leave the church in silence signifying that this day leads to the most important week of the Church's year. There is no coffee after 10.30am Mass.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE IN AID OF LOURDES Some of our Redcaps and Confirmation candidates are selling raffle tickets after both Masses today. There are 7 eggs of varying sizes (one very large) to be raffled and you can see them in the baptistery. The tickets are 20p or £1 a strip and we hope you will choose to buy a strip. Please make sure that your name or phone number is on the front of your ticket (if you buy a strip the phone number only needs to be on one ticket). We hope you support our young people, thank you. The raffle will be drawn during coffee today.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION We meet again on Saturday when we learn about the Gift of Peace. Photographs will also be taken on this day.

CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP This Tuesday all groups meet and during our time together we will do some preparation for our Easter Children's Mass.

CHILDREN'S MASS The next Children's Mass is at 10.30am on Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES CARD Please take home a card giving details of all the Holy Week and Easter Services in our three parishes. Please note that the Combined Penitential Service is in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 19th March.

BIBLE ALIVE The Easter edition of this magazine is on sale £1.95.

FLOWER GROUP There is a meeting of the Flower Group in the presbytery after 10.30am Mass today to discuss the new rota.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP As part of our children's involvement in the Holy Week and Easter liturgies there will be an Easter Workshop for all children on Tuesday 18th March from 3.45pm - 6pm. Come and add some plants to 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 and Easter Day Family Mass, play some games and have a 'Happy Easter Tea'. We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover some of our costs. Please bring a small amount of food. Parents welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Please collect your new rotas from the back of church.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES If you are interested in coming with the group from our three parishes from 20th - 26th July please contact Kathryn in the parish office (322579).

ECUMENICAL SERVICES ON GOOD FRIDAY • The Walk of Witness to the Cross in Howardsgate begins in the Focolare Centre at 10.30am, then processes to St. Bonaventure's for a prayer and blessing before moving on to the Cross.

• Taize Service at 8pm in St. Francis Church.

PARISH LIBRARY Does anyone have or know the whereabouts of the Newman Sermons (vol: 2-3 and vol 6?)

THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL There are many Bills going through Parliament which are causing great concern to Christians. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill is imminent. If you wish to lobby your M.P. there is a simple way: send one of the postcards to be found at the back of the church entitled 'Now is the time to draw the line'. Just put on a stamp, your MP's name on the address, and your details. Thank you. There are some copies of the Cardinal's pastoral message on this subject at the back of church, please take a copy.

READERS AND EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER If you are available to carry out your ministry of Reader or Eucharistic Minister during this period please indicate on the lists at the back of the church.

WASHING OF THE FEET Male and female volunteers are needed, if you are willing please fill in the list at the back. Thank you.

*May God bless you all,
Father Bill*

