

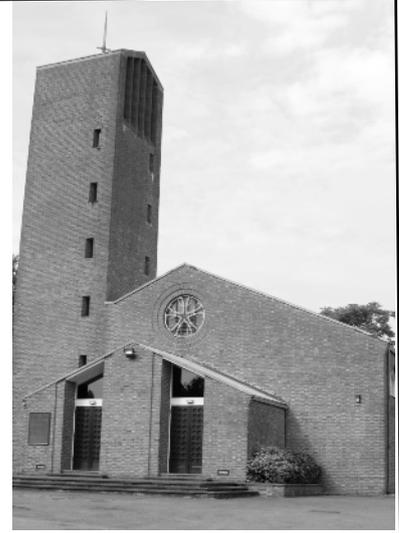
# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Second Sunday of Lent 25th February 2018 page 151 of the Mass Book***

On this Second Sunday of Lent, the Church bids us reflect on the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ. Up on that mountain the whole of Jesus' being radiates glory pointing those around him to the glory he would receive at his Resurrection. A voice is heard from a cloud - that of God our Father - and it echoes what was heard at the Baptism of Jesus 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' At the end of St. Mark's Passion, when Jesus dies, the centurion remarks: 'In truth, this man was a Son of God.' The Transfiguration connects us with Jesus' identity reveal at three key moments in St. Mark's Gospel and it invites us to contemplate what God has promised for us, namely his desire that we should share in the Resurrection of his Son and enter Heaven.

As Jesus basks in light, the chosen disciples are aware of Elijah and Moses. Both had travelled through the wilderness - Elijah hearing God's voice in the silence of a whisper and being commissioned to announce God's word; Moses experiencing God's presence in the burning bush and being told that God wants to save his people from their suffering in Egypt. They carry out God's will and are instruments of salvation for God's People. Just think about Jesus Christ who is truly God's Son, bringing us God's Word and saving us by his dying on the Cross and his Resurrection from the dead. What a marvellous gift!

As the disciples return back down the mountain with Jesus and are instructed by Jesus not to tell anyone what has happened until he rises from the dead, they wonder what 'rising from the dead' might mean. This is the question we must ask ourselves on our Lenten journey because rising from the dead is God's destiny for us; the Resurrection is our destination in the season of Lent.

May God bless you this week. *Fr. Norbert*

**LENTEN PROGRAMME** There will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Mondays after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's, on Thursdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family (as usual) and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass. Stations of the Cross will be on Wednesdays at Holy Family after 9.30am Mass and on Fridays after 9.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's and at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. Don't forget the First Friday early Mass at St. Bonaventure's on 2nd March at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall.

**CAFOD FAST DAY** As you leave Mass today there will be a retiring collection for Cafod. The money raised will help some of the poorest people in the world by empowering them to help themselves through the gift of seeds to grow crops and vegetables. This year the UK Government will match fund your donations to Cafod during Lent up to £5 million pounds. Please GiftAid your contribution if you are a tax-payer. Thank you.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** The Catholic Women's League will be holding Lenten lunches every Saturday at 12 noon in Our Lady's Hall. It is a very sociable occasion with soup, a roll and cakes for only £3. If you need a lift phone Anne Davidson on 01707 327569.

**A CALL TO YOUNG ADULTS** Cardinal Vincent and the auxiliary bishops of the diocese are inviting Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops - 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and the auxiliary bishops are hosting meetings across the diocese. You are invited to attend one of these meetings. They will involve discussion of the synod theme, an opportunity to question your bishops, and light refreshments. Please do consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people in the future. If you would like to attend, please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

**SONGS OF PRAISE** Today (Sunday 25th) Kay Mason, a parishioner who donated a kidney to a stranger, will be part of the programme (on BBC1 at 3.30pm) filmed recently with other parishioners; the episode also features volunteers with St John's Ambulance Service.

**CATHERINE CONROY RIP** Catherine's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 9th March at 9.30am. Her body will be received into church on Thursday 8th at 4pm.

**NORA ASHMORE RIP** Nora's Funeral will be on Monday 19th March at 11am at Our Lady's.

**RCIA** Next session Monday 26th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** Our young people have their next session today (25th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Next Sunday they will have a Retreat Day at The Friars, Aylesford, where they will reflect on different forms of prayer in the peace and beauty of this ancient shrine. Please pray for them and their catechists.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS** from our three churches will have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm.

**FIRST CONFESSIONS** Please pray for the children of Our Lady's who made their First Confession yesterday (Saturday). Children from St. Bonaventure's have theirs this Saturday at 11am and Holy Family's children on Saturday at 2pm.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Cleaning will take place at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday at 10am **and** cleaning and grounds maintenance on Saturday at Our Lady's at 10am. If anyone can spare any time to help out you will be very warmly welcomed. Refreshments afterwards.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY** After 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th March there will be a 'Get-together' in the hall. Please bring food to share.

**NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES** Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for entry to nursery in our Catholic schools on Monday 5th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 5-minute appointment with Fr. Norbert. There are at the back of our churches pink 'extra forms' which should be brought filled in to the meeting. Please wait in Our Lady's Church to be called. Fr. Norbert would like to meet the children as well as their parents

**AVIGNON 2018** Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Between 1309 and 1377, seven successive popes resided in Avignon. There is an amazing Palace of the Popes and the renowned Bridge of Avignon where we are going to sing 'Sur le pont d'Avignon'. Close by is Chateauneuf-du-Pape where we will do wine tasting! Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches. 18 have signed up already; 30 places maximum. Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

**LOOKING AHEAD** Pax Travel is arranging for us some pilgrimages: 25th May - 2nd June 2019 Walking the 'Camino' from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostella, Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May 2020 and the Passion Play in Oberammergau 9th - 11th September 2020. More details will become available in due course.

**QUIZ NIGHT** Our Lady School PTA will be holding a quiz night and Fish & Chip Supper on Friday 23rd March at 7.30pm. There will be a licensed bar on the evening, and tickets will be available from Our Lady School.

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** There will be a meeting on Tuesday 6th March at 8pm (coffee from 7.45pm) in the hall. The architect and diocesan surveyor will be here to receive your feedback.

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will be on Saturday 23rd June at 12 noon at Our Lady's **FILIPINO MASS** will be on Saturday 23rd June at 6pm.

**AFRICAN MASS** will be on Sunday 8th July at 11.30am.

**ST. ALBANS** Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

**MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY** on Saturday 19th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Over the years many have attended this wonderful celebration; now is the opportunity for others!

**BENCH REFURBISHMENT APPEAL** A very big thank to all who kindly contributed to the Our Lady's bench refurbishment appeal. To date, including anticipated Gift Aid, a total of £4,250 has been donated towards the original cost of £12,144. If you would still like to contribute, envelopes are available at the back of the church and can be returned in the weekly collection.

**APPEAL** If you are interested in reaching out to those with intellectual disabilities with an invitation for friendship and companionship or if you know someone who would benefit from this, please contact Gail Williams at St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Hendon on [gailwilliams@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:gailwilliams@rcdow.org.uk) or 07815 763330. Gail will also be here in the WGC parishes the weekend of 3-4 March, speaking at all the Masses, so please approach her for more details.

**HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES** AGM 28th February at the Vineyard Church, St. Albans. 7.30pm. All welcome.

**CAKE SALE** Next Sunday after 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. Monica Hilario will be going to Thailand for a couple of months from June to work with children in schools and orphanages. One of her goals for this trip is to raise £800 as a donation for the schools she will visit to help them with resources to develop the children's education.

**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. Tom 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**

**CONFESSIONS**

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

**VISITS** There will be an afternoon at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm with an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake! On Saturday 5th May there will be a day in Aylesford at The Friars ( Shrine of Our Lady).

**INTER FAITH** You are invited to find out about the evolution of different Christian denominations at a talk to be given by Fr. Simon Chinery at Hatfield Fire Station community room, AL10 0AD on Thursday 8th March, 7 for 7.15pm.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** 26 Feb - 11March. It's a shocking fact that millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. Through Fairtrade the farmers and workers are already coming together to close the door on exploitation and transform their communities. Look out for Fairtrade tea, coffee and other products in your local supermarket and get involved.

**MASS TIMES**

26 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
27 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
01 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. David
02 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

**Third Sunday of Lent**

03 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 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	



**CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:** If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333** via text message: **07876 526935** email: **[chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net)**