

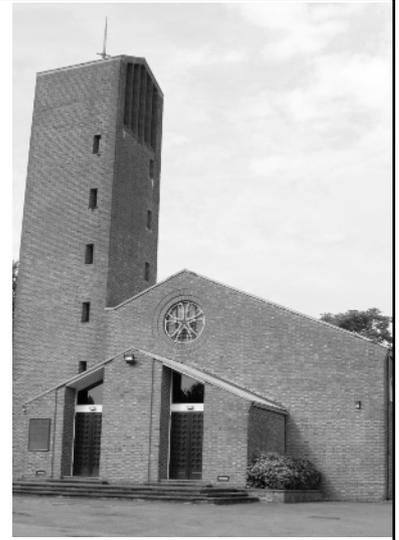
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Palm Sunday 9th April (p. 182), 16th April Easter Sunday (p. 251)
and 23rd April Second Sunday of Easter (page 255)***

*“Go to so-and-so in the city and say... ‘The Master says: My time is near.
It is at your house I am keeping Passover with my disciples.’ ”*

These are Jesus’ words at the beginning of today’s Passion Reading from St. Matthew’s Gospel. They have significance for each one of us as we enter Holy Week and then next Sunday embark on 50 Days of celebration of the Easter Mystery. The ‘so-and-so in the city’ is obviously someone known to Jesus. I cannot help but think that St. Matthew’s vague way of referring to the person who will host the Passover, which becomes Jesus’ Last Supper, allows each one of us to hear the Lord’s invitation/command. Jesus is aware of us. We have a part to play in the unfolding of Love in the Passion and he chooses to be with us so that we intimately might be touched by this Sacrifice which brings life. ‘City’ which refers to Jerusalem makes me think of Welwyn Garden City! Perhaps you are going to be away with the holidays having already begun? Maybe you are planning what to do? Whatever, let not each of us forget that whichever place we are for Easter, Christ is very close and demands that we let him accompany us.

The ‘time’ is crucial: a period of such importance, an opportunity which cannot be missed. Jesus Christ is aware that he was sent to this earth from the Father for a purpose - his whole ministry radiated God’s will. Now the completion of his work will climax in his Death and Resurrection. The Passover is the defining experience for Jews of God saving his people, remembering them in slavery and hardship, aware of their tears. God is *their* God and they know they are *his* People. Food and drink, ritual actions, taking time...all of these contribute to the Passover experience. For us as Christians, Jesus is defining us as the People of God, sharing in his salvific Death and Resurrection, stamped with the image of the Redeemer. Holy Week and Easter are a period for us to be together: individuals and families, friends and visitors - all forming Community and united with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

So, let us commit ourselves to Christ. Let us invite him in! Let us walk with him every step of the way and be ready to taste of eternal life at Easter.

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER So much hard work goes into preparing for, and celebrating the Services of Holy Week and Easter. A huge 'Thank you!' to the many people young and old who give of themselves in so many ways to ensure everything runs smoothly, helping others come closer to Jesus in his Passion, Death and Resurrection. God bless you!

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT There will be quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: Monday 10th 10.00 - 10.30am at Our Lady's.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS There will be Stations of the Cross on Wednesday 12th 10am at Holy Family.

LENTEN ALMS Should you wish to contribute to the Cardinal's Fund which supports a variety of causes in the Diocese, there are special envelopes available at the back of our churches.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE in Holy Week for our three parishes will be in Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 11th April at 8pm. Visiting priests will join Fr. Martin and Fr. Norbert to help with Confessions.

CHRISM MASS The Cardinal, Bishops and around 300 priests will gather at the Cathedral (near Victoria) with hundreds of people from all over the Diocese for this Mass on Tuesday 11th April at 12 noon. The Holy Oils (Catechumens, of the Sick and Sacred Chrism) will be blessed for use in the coming year throughout Westminster Diocese. The priests will renew their priestly commitment. If you have never been to this Mass and are free, it should be a wonderful, prayerful experience and you would be welcome!

GOOD FRIDAY The Evening Service in Our Lady's at 8 o'clock will be a reflective time (45 minutes) with readings and music - a chance to think back over the events of Good Friday.

EASTER BLESSING OF FOOD Tradycyjne Święcenie pokarmów odbędzie się w Wielką Sobotę 15.04.17 o godzinie 16.00 w kościele Our Lady's. Serdecznie zapraszamy. The traditional blessing of the food will take place in Our Lady's Church on Holy Saturday 15th April at 4pm. All are welcome.

MUSIC REHEARSAL for the Easter Vigil in Our Lady's Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th April. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 11th 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' (bring and share) and listen to an Easter story. We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover some of our costs.

GOOD FRIDAY FOR CHILDREN Children's Way of the Cross at 10am St. Bonaventure's, 12noon Our Lady's.

RCIA Please pray for the adults and child who will receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. They are a sign of the Light of Faith which is well and truly alive in each of our churches. Our thanks to the catechists who have supported them throughout the year.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S Thanks to all who came to clean the church on Thursday. Your help is appreciated.

A final clean before Easter takes place on Holy Saturday at 10am, all welcome to come and help.

HOLY FAMILY Holy Family church cleaning for Easter will take place on Wednesday 12th April straight after Stations of the Cross. If you can volunteer an hour or two you will be welcomed with open arms.

OUR LADY'S Church cleaning and maintenance of the grounds in preparation for Easter will take place after 9.30am Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday (15th April). Please do come along to help.

HCPT A big thank you from HCPT group 183 the total raised from the retiring collection was an amazing £1,045.50. Many thanks for your support and generosity in helping us fund this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes.

LOURDES Our WGC HCPT Group 183 sets off for Lourdes on Easter Sunday. They will remember us all at the Grotto and are very grateful for the support given by our three churches. If anyone would like prayer intentions to be taken to the Grotto, please give them to Fr. Norbert by Easter Sunday. (He will join the Group in Lourdes on Easter Monday.)

KICA MUSIC MISSION Daniel Newman-Sanders, in his final year at the John Henry Newman School, is a keen musician. This summer he is embarking on a charity trip to Uganda to teach disadvantaged children music. To raise money for this, he is doing a 60 mile bike ride around Hertfordshire. Any sponsorships would be gratefully received. www.gofundme.com/kica-music-mission-trip-to-uganda Daniel will be taking instruments with him for Ugandan children to play and keep – if anyone has any unwanted instruments please contact him on 07866005010. A big thank you to everyone who has sponsored him so far.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass at Holy Family Church on Sunday 7th May at 11am to mark the 50th Anniversary. (There will not be 9.30am Mass that day but the 6pm Mass will take place as usual.) Everyone is most welcome to come and share in the joy of this Golden Jubilee and to attend the Reception afterwards in Holy Family School Hall. Much help is needed and at the back of Holy Family Church there are sign up sheets and fliers with more information. Another date for your diaries is Sunday 16th July when there will be a 30-minute Service with Benediction followed by a Parish Barbecue hosted by the Hedgehog. Watch this space!

ST. GEORGE'S DAY this year will be transferred to Monday 24th April. There will be refreshments after the 9.30am Mass in Our Lady's Sacristy that day.

PARISH MEETING Fr. Norbert invites representative/s of every group in our three parishes to come to a meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm. It will be an opportunity for everyone to hear about the good work which takes place to enrich our community and beyond. There could be photos/slides etc on a big screen too. This initiative comes from the Parish Advisory Council and the hope is that the information could form a link on the website and also be available to new parishioners. It would be a tremendous help to know who is going to come and which groups will be represented. Please contact Ellen Allardice (01707 375231 or ellen.allardice@outlook.com). Thank you very much.

FILIPINO MASS The Filipino Community will lead the 6pm Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 13th May followed by a gathering in the Hall. Everyone welcome!

AFRICAN MASS Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the Hall.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES will be celebrated on Saturday 23rd September and Saturday 2nd December both at Our Lady's at 6pm.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Our annual celebration organised by the SVP will be on Saturday 10th June at 12 noon at Our Lady's. Afterwards there will be a reception in the Hall. This year there will also be a Blessing of Carers - part of the Diocesan follow-up to the Year of Mercy. This will be an acknowledgement of the many people who devote themselves to the support and care of loved ones and a chance to ask God's blessing upon them. Please let others know about this celebration.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next parents' session will be on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

CONFIRMATION The final session for our young people will be on Sunday 30th April at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Their rehearsal for Confirmation will be on Friday 5th May at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church and the Confirmation Mass will be on Friday 12th May at 7.30pm in Our Lady's with Bishop Paul McAleenan. Please keep them in your prayers.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP We have a break now for the holidays until Tuesday 25th April.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION GROUP We meet again on Saturday 22nd April. Please try to get your work up to date.

CAFOD EAST AFRICA APPEAL If you would like to support Cafod's work in alleviating famine in Africa, please use one of the special Cafod envelopes at the back of our churches and put it into the collection basket. These will be sent on to Cafod. If you are able to GiftAid your contribution that would increase the money. Thank you.

HOLY LAND Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017 There are 6 places max left. Contact Pax Travel for more details on 020 7485 3003 or info@paxtravel.co.uk The Fatima Pilgrimage in September is now fully booked.

TRANSPORT TO MASS Thank you to those people who have volunteered to drive to bring people to Mass. If you have not yet returned your form, please put them in the envelope at the back of the church marked "TRANSPORT TO MASS - COMPLETED FORMS". A member of the Project Team will be in contact with each volunteer driver in the next three weeks to give more details about the scheme.

ST. BONAVENTURE will be 800 years old this year! We will mark this on the Feast of St. Bonaventure, Saturday 15th July, at the 10am Mass followed by cake and coffee/tea in the parish garden.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND & WALES have organised a 'Mega Youth Poll'. In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call. If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you: what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. Please use this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll>. If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link. For queries about the Youth Poll please email: synod2018@cbcew.org.uk.

OUR LADY'S BENCHES The benches at Our Lady's have recently been refurbished. If any parishioners would like to contribute towards the cost of around £10K, there are special envelopes at the back of Our Lady's. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation that would be brilliant! Thank you.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE Saturday 20th May. We will be joining the National Deaf Pilgrimage to this Shrine of Our Lady. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8.30am. The programme for the day will include the Rosary, walking the Holy Mile, picnic lunch (so bring food and drink!) and Mass. There should be time for tea and cakes before leaving at 4.30pm. The coach should arrive back by 7pm. Price £15 for adults and £10 for children. There are signing up sheets at the back of our churches. The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham was established in 1061 when Richeldis de Faverches prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. This Holy House was built and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom. Why not come?

CARITAS VOLUNTEER SERVICE This Diocesan Agency is seeking to recruit volunteers to be involved in social action. For more information pick up one of the leaflets at the back of our churches or email Verity Sykes on caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS The Diocese is always looking for volunteers to take on the role of being a foundation governor in our Catholic schools. Indeed here in Welwyn Garden City we need more. If you are interested take one of the leaflets at the back of the church and let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY Edward de Quay, who is a Development Worker for Caritas Westminster, is organising this 'Day' on Saturday 1st July 10am until 3pm in Our Lady's Hall. Ben Bano who has championed 'Welcome me as I am' will lead prayer and give input. Sonia Clarke from MIND Mid-Herts will speak about local services. The Day is aimed at care-givers and key leaders in parish groups who would then be able to inform/train others. We await the booking forms and further details but it should be a well-spent day. The outcomes/hopes are: ·A few parishioners trained with the mental health 'first aid' course, Carers Support Groups, to strengthen the 'ministry of welcome', displays in parishes for MIND services and signposting to find help for mental health support.

FRIENDS OF WELWYN CARE HOMES APPEAL Friends of Welwyn Care Homes numbers several parishioners among its volunteer visitors to 6 local care homes. **MORE ARE NEEDED!** At each Mass on 22nd/23rd April a volunteer will make a brief appeal. Further information available from Anne Horsman 01438840566 or Eveline Guerin 01707894176

WELWYN HATFIELD INTER FAITH GROUP Our next evening meeting will be on Monday 24 April at 7.15 in the Focolare Centre whjn the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Dame Claire Bertschinger will speak on 'Why I am Buddhist'.

HALF DAY CONFERENCE - ' Enriched by Diversity'

At the Focolare Centre on Sunday 7 May from 2 - 6.30 with a shared finger buffet.

Our response to the growing fragmentation of our society where diversity is regarded with fear and hostility, rather than as an enrichment to our community.

We have secured the services of four excellent speakers on the subject.

Entrance is free but to book a place please email theresa.whifg@gmail.com Leaflets available at the back of the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES Our Lady's: Sunday 14th May at 11.30am and Sunday 11th June at 11.30am. Holy Family: Sunday 21st May at 12 noon. St. Bonaventure's: Sunday 25th June at 10.30am.

NEWSLETTER Next newsletter will be the weekend 29th/30th April.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

08	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
09	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family



10 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
11 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family

Maundy Thursday **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

6pm	St. Bonaventure
7pm	Holy Family
8pm	Our Lady's



Good Friday (14th April)

Children's Way of the Cross (Stations)

10am	St. Bonaventure
12noon	Our Lady's

Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion

3pm	St. Bonaventure
3pm	Holy Family (with Children's Liturgy)
5pm	Our Lady's



8pm Good Friday Evening Service in Our Lady's

15 Saturday **8.30pm** **Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter** Our Lady's

16 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's



No evening Mass

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
 welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
 Our Lady's
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
 parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
 St. Bonaventure's
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Martin 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

Week of 17th April

17 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	Octave of Easter
18 Tuesday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
19 Wednesday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
20 Thursday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
21 Friday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
22 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter

Week of 22nd/23rd April

22 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
23 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
24 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
25 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
26 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
27 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
28 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
29 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
29 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
30 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

Second Sunday of Easter



St. George
 St. Mark

Easter feria
 Easter feria
 Easter feria

St. Catherine of Sienna

Third Sunday of Easter



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