

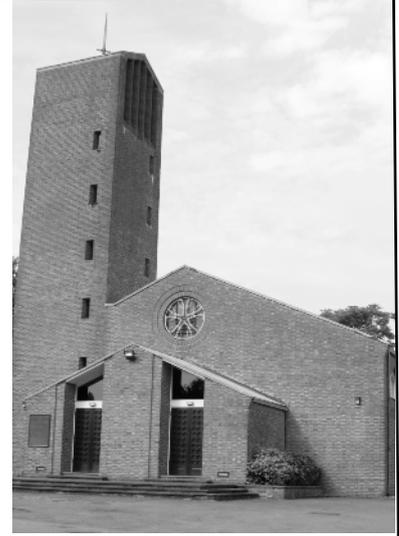
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter 7th May 2017 p. 262 of book

Today is such an important day for us as we welcome our Archbishop, Cardinal Vincent Nichols to Holy Family Church to celebrate its 50th Anniversary - the Golden Jubilee! The Cardinal first visited us to celebrate Fr. Bill McConalogue's Funeral and then came for Fr. John McCoy's Funeral. Today there is joy and celebration, an opportunity to be together and to give thanks to God for the many people whose generosity, commitment and dedication led to the building of this church and then the love and prayers of myriads who have worshipped here and keep our parish alive. For our wider Catholic Community of Welwyn Garden City, there is the rejoicing that the 'youngest' of our churches has reached a significant age!

In our Gospel reading from St. John, Jesus says that he is the 'Gate' of the sheepfold. This means that the Lord gives us access to the very best; he protects us and opens us up to a vision and experience of love beyond measure. Jesus says: 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' Wow! What extraordinary words! He offers life that takes us to heaven and eternity; his life is rich, deep and penetrating, to such a degree that it is almost overwhelming. Surely Christ is putting us in touch with his Risen Life? Ponder what he is sharing with you in the everyday. Just reflect on Holy Family, Our Lady's and St. Bonaventure's: as we enter through the doors - gates? - we have an encounter with the Divine revealed in a place, in people and in the action of the Mass and the Sacraments; we experience the fullness of life. When we return to the week's activities, Jesus our Risen Lord is to be found in places, people and experiences AND he blesses us with a taste of heaven too!

Let our prayer today be that the activity of our daily lives will resonate with all that happens in our churches, that in the midst of sadness, pain and disappointment, the light, hope and joy of the same Risen Lord will be our beacon and inspiration.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND The annual collection takes place this weekend at all Masses. Many of you contribute through the Growing in Faith scheme but if you wish please use one of the special envelopes at the back of our churches. At Holy Family's 50th Anniversary Mass, please put these envelopes in the main collection. At other Masses there will be a retiring collection. Thank you for your great generosity. Today is Vocations Sunday, so please keep this intention in your prayers. We need committed lay people, serving God and others in a whole variety of ways AND we need the witness of priests and religious too.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH As well as today's Mass celebrated by the Cardinal at Holy Family Church, there will also be an afternoon gathering on Sunday 16th July when there will be at 3pm a 30-minute Service with Benediction followed by a Parish Barbecue hosted by the Hedgehog. Watch this space!

Our thanks to Bishop Paul for celebrating St. Bonaventure's Mass at 10.30 today and to Fr. Michael Lambert from Hitchin for celebrating the 11.30 at Our Lady's.

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.

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.

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 next Saturday (13th) which marks the Centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. Afterwards there will be in the Hall food/drink, short programme, music and dancing! Everyone welcome!

CONFIRMATION On Friday 12th May, Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm 32 young people. The Confirmation Mass will be at 7.30pm in Our Lady's. Please keep the candidates in your prayers. Our thanks to the catechists for their hard work and dedication.

SHARON MULROY RIP Sharon's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 10th at 12.30pm.

PIOTR CABAN RIP Piotr was tragically knocked down on the Mundells roundabout back in February. There will be a private family Service at the Crematorium this week and then a Memorial Mass at Our Lady's on Wednesday 17th May at 5.30pm. His wife and members of the family will be coming from Poland. All are welcome.

RCIA For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will begin after the summer. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

The CAFOD group will be manning the Charity Car Park at Oaklands College on Saturday 13th May from 9.15am. Please give us your support if you are going to town on that day.

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. There is still room on the coach. Why not sign up?

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEES St. Bonaventure's Finance Committee met last Tuesday morning, Our Lady's Tuesday evening. Holy Family's Finance Committee will meet in the Parish Room on Monday (8th) at 7.30pm.

SCHOOLS Year 2 from Our Lady's School will be at the 9.30 Mass on Monday 8th. The whole school will be at 9.30 Mass on Monday 15th May to mark Our Lady of Fatima's Centenary. Year 3 from Holy Family School will be at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 16th May leading into their 'Town Trail'. There will be a School Mass at Holy Family School on Friday 26th May at 9.15am. Last week Years 1 and 2 from Peartree School came to Our Lady's Church and on Friday 26th Year 6 from Swallow Dell School will be visiting.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 46 pilgrims from WGC will journey to the Holy Land from Saturday 27th May until Sunday 4th June. There will be a meeting of all who are going on Sunday 14th May at 4pm in Our Lady's Hall.

ELECTION HUSTINGS The Christian Churches are working with the Isabel Hospice to arrange Hustings before the General Election in June. Details should be finalised by next weekend.

NEED A GARDENER? Experienced gardener available to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding of flower beds. Call Daniel on 07751992492. (Recommended by a parishioner)

OUR LADY'S Thank you to all who came to clean the church and maintain the grounds on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

AND thank you to all those who came and cleaned at **St. Bonaventure's** this week.

OUR LADY'S REPOSITORY New large stock of Communion and Confirmation cards and many other items now on display. Open before and after most Masses.

THANK YOU to all who helped with the St. George's Day refreshments and the May Devotions and reception. Last Friday's early Mass at 6.30 had a record number of 27 attending! Perhaps the sausages (for Eastertide) were a draw? The next Mass will be on Friday 2nd June celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings
should be made with Phil Johnson 01707
377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

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.

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

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS will be celebrated on Saturday 7th October at 6pm at Our Lady's.

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

MASS TIMES

08 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
09 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
11 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
12 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7.30pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Fatima

Fifth Sunday of Easter

13 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
14 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 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