

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*

Fourth Sunday of Lent 11th March 2018 page 162 of the Mass Book

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert...Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...’ These are such powerful words in today’s Gospel reading from St. John which highlight Jesus’ awareness of his mission from the Father and his readiness to carry it out. Love is at the heart of it all! Very early on in the Fourth Gospel Jesus knows he must be raised up in order to bring healing, forgiveness and peace to us who are so beloved of God our Father. During Jesus’ passion in John’s Gospel, we are told that Jesus is raised up on the Cross which he himself carries to Golgotha, the place of execution. St. John intimates to us that this is the place of glorification and the Cross is the throne of the King! In the Old Testament, the healing serpent is fashioned out of bronze and brings salvation to all who look upon it. Here Jesus is a living person - truly God and truly one of us - who calls us to share his life, thus giving us a real taste of eternity. What a wondrous gift from God!

The passage as it continues then gets complicated! Jesus calls us to make a decision for God: to believe or to refuse to believe, to choose the light or to prefer the darkness; these are the stark words of life and condemnation which result from the choices made. That is the challenge of our faith. God wants us to be saved. There is not a single thing God would not do to prove to us his love and his total desire for us to live with him for ever. However, he does not force us along a particular pathway; he encourages, supports, forgives, heals and loves - he wants us to turn to him! Jesus is the pledge of love and God our Father’s commitment to us. Lent is our opportunity to respond wholeheartedly to the One who brings us Love-in-Person - Jesus Christ!

I pray that the riches of God’s grace may touch our lives today and show us how to let the Father lift us up with his Son to glory!

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all mothers and honorary mums. God bless you!

MONDAY 9.30 MASS Year 2 from Our Lady School will be joining us for Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

CONFIRMATION The next session for candidates will be at Holy Family on Sunday 18th March at 7.15pm in the Parish Room.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. Thank you,

NEW PARISH CENTRE 40 people attended last Tuesday's meeting and there was agreement that the architect should formally seek planning permission. Let us pray that all proceeds speedily!

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.

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.

JULIAN OF NORWICH - a Meditation - seen and heard in original dance, music and image will be presented in the Lady chapel St Alban's Cathedral on Thursday 15th March at 8pm. This inspiring work has been well received around the country. Although there are no tickets, the Abbey does make a £5 charge for entry.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday 20th March at 7.45pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. If there are any items you would like to be raised, please let Fr. Norbert know. Thank you.

JOHN ROBINSON RIP John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 14th March at 3pm. His body will be received into the church on Tuesday 13th at 5pm.

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

JULIO VARGAS RIP Julio's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 21st March at 12.30pm.

DEIRDRE DAVIS RIP Deirdre's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 28th March at 3pm.

ADAM LINDSAY RIP Adam's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 18th April at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure's.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. Fr. Norbert will be sending out details of this day to all the couples who have already contacted him. If you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible.

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.

LENTEN LUNCH Following the cancellation of last week's Lenten Lunches due to bad weather we would like to apologise to any parishioners who came to the Family Centre and found the centre closed. Unfortunately it was impossible to let everybody know but we felt that the weather was too bad and the roads would be too dangerous for anybody to come out.

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.

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!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY After 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th March there will be a 'Get-together' in the hall with a quiz, Irish coffee and lots more! Please bring food to share. All welcome.

VISIT TO ST. EDMUND'S 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! Please give Fr. Norbert your name, the number coming and a contact phone number. This is essential as St. Edmund's will have to know the numbers (preferably by Easter). Many of you will be able to get there by your own cars (postcode SG11 1DS) However, if you need a lift, please let Fr. Norbert know.

AYLESFORD On Saturday 5th May we will have a pilgrimage to Aylesford in Kent. Aylesford was founded in 1242 by Carmelites returning from the Holy Land. The present shrine dates from 1958 and it is a place of peace and serenity, welcoming people from many backgrounds, languages and cultures. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 9am sharp and will return by 7pm. We will be joining about 900 pilgrims. There will be Mass, the Rosary and quiet time. Altar servers are welcome to take part: just take your alb and cincture. Please bring a picnic lunch. Price: £12 for adults and £8 for children. To book a seat on the coach, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.

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. 27 have signed up already; just a few places left! Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 27th March from 3.45 - 5.30pm. 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. It would be helpful if you could email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk or phone 01707 322579 if you are going to come. Thank you.

HCPT A big Thank You from HCPT group 183. The total raised from the recent retiring collection was an amazing £1440.99. Many thanks for your support and generosity in helping us fund this years pilgrimage to Lourdes.

DEMENTIA WEEK 12TH - 19TH MARCH There are prayer cards at the back of church for you to take away and use.

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.**

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.

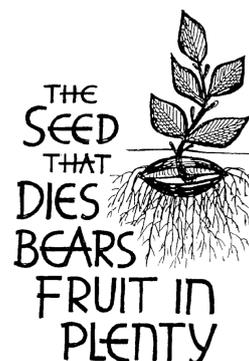
RCIA Next session Monday 12th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

MASS TIMES

12 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
13 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
	3pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
16 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Patrick

Fifth Sunday of Lent

17 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
18 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**