

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*

Fifth Sunday of Easter 29th April 2018 page 264 of the Mass Book

This week and next we will journey through much of Chapter 15 of St. John's Gospel. Today's passage gives us the imagery of the vine, with Jesus saying 'I am the Vine, you are the branches'; next week we will hear about the mutual love between Father and Son which the Lord in turn shares with us and asks us to offer one another. As you listen to and/or read this week's passage, remember there is another instalment still to come!

A vine has long roots through which it draws water from deep down and which give stability to the vine. It can have new shoots grafted onto it. Its fruit is delicious and, when fermented, offers us a wonderful drink which lifts our spirits! As you reflect on your faith, what are the roots which support, help and inspire you? How do you feel the Spirit of Jesus figuratively flowing through your veins bringing hope and giving you strength? Does your faith in Jesus enable you to experience security and stability in life? Jesus is close to you: does knowing this give you a spring in your step and put a smile on your face - the joy of faith? At Easter we had 16 new members, who in a sense were grafted onto Christ the True Vine, some through Baptism and others through the act of deepening their faith in him as expressed in the Catholic Church. Most received Confirmation and Holy Communion. This nourishment provides sustenance which keeps all of us going! There is a bond of faith which holds us all together and keeps us united with Jesus, our Lord and Master, who suffered, died and rose again, like the grapes which are picked, crushed and then become good wine.

In our First Readings in Eastertide, we keep hearing about the development of the Church after Pentecost, the new members and the difficulties and persecution faced. What is very clear is that this is God's work and that he will give a thrust to all that is unfolding. Every single one of us is needed to pass on the baton of faith to others, some who have not known any religion, others who have put things on hold, needing a fresh start and still others who in their search for meaning in life might be drawn to the Catholic Church. Do not leave it to someone else...do this great work of the Lord! May God bless your week. *Fr. Norbert*

FR. TOM'S DAD Please pray for the repose of Fr. Tom's Dad, Monty, who died on Tuesday afternoon. The Funeral will be on Friday 11th May in Corby. Obviously, we want Fr. Tom to know that we are praying for him and his family at this sad time.

MARY MULHALL RIP Mary's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 2nd May at 4pm.

DANIEL KENNOY RIP Dan's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 3rd May at 12.45pm.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING EVENT at Our Lady and St. Andrew's Church, Hitchin SG5 1QS on Tuesday 1st May 7 - 9pm. The evening will focus on why human trafficking is an issue, the response of the Church and discussion on practical actions which a parish community can take. This event has a local focus and is designed for us here in Hertfordshire. The speakers are from The Shiva Foundation, the Hertfordshire Constabulary and Caritas Westminster. Michael Duthie, Deputy Director of the Santa Marta Group will give input as will Bishop Paul McAleenan. It should be a very informative evening. Why not come?

EARLY MASS This Friday is the First Friday of the month and so we will have Mass at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY Our thanks to those who helped with last Monday's celebration.

CONFIRMATION Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 4th May at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. 48 of our young people will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as they become adult members of the Church. Please keep them in your prayers. We are very grateful to the catechists for all their hard work over the last 6 months.

ASCENSION DAY this year is back to a Thursday! It will be celebrated on the 40th day of the Easter Season, that means 10th May.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS We welcome members of the Deaf Service of the Diocese to today's Saturday 6pm Mass. It is good to have them with us for the Special Needs Celebration.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION A huge thank you to those who helped with the Marriage Preparation Day just before Easter. The 19 couples had a brilliant time and were inspired by the married couples who gave input, by the hospitality and the joy of being with the parish community at Mass. Anyone else wishing to get married should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT The First Holy Communion families of our three parishes have a Retreat Afternoon at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral today (29th). We will meet outside the West Door (Main Doors) at 12.30pm and finish by 4.30pm. There will be Mass in the Lady Chapel at 3pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES Our Lady's: Sunday 13th May and Sunday 10th June both at 11.30am. Holy Family: Sunday 20th May at 12 noon, St. Bonaventure's Sunday 17th June at 10.30am.

VISIT TO ST. EDMUND'S 46 of us journeyed to St. Edmund's College, Ware, last Sunday afternoon. We were bathed in sunshine and had a great time! Fr. Norbert has written to Mr. Duran the Headmaster to express our thanks for the visit and his hospitality.

AYLESFORD On Saturday (5th) we will be going by coach to The Friars, Aylesford for a day of pilgrimage and reflection. The coach will leave at 9am sharp and return by 7pm. There will be Mass, the Rosary and quiet time as we join around 900 pilgrims. Please bring a picnic lunch. Price: £12 for adults and £8 for children. So far 40 adults and children have signed up. There are still places on the coach – give Kathryn Hubbard a ring on 01707 322579 to get a place on the coach!

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

MAY DEVOTIONS on Monday 7th May in Our Lady's Church after 10am Mass on the Bank Holiday. We will gather in the Peace Garden around Our Lady's statue and honour Mary in the month of May. All welcome

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 11th May at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL More Year 9 classes will be visiting Our Lady's Church this coming week as part of their Religious Education.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be on Saturday 23rd June at 12noon 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

LOOKING AHEAD Pax Travel is arranging for us some pilgrimages: 25th May - 2nd June 2019 Walking the 'Camino' from Opporto 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.

PLEASE SPONSOR US The White family are swimming 5km in the Swimathon on Sunday 29th April. Raising money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie. Please sponsor them through their Just Giving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spencer-white2018> or donate in person to Spencer, Beth or Anna who will be at the Holy Family Church on Sundays.

OUR LADY'S MINISTERS ROTA copies of the rota for the months of May, June and July are now available at the back of Church. In addition you will have received the details by email and the rota will be available on the website.

CHURCH CLEANING THIS WEEK: St. Bonaventure's cleaning takes place at 10am this Thursday. New helpers very welcome.

Our Lady's cleaning and grounds maintenance takes place at 10am on Saturday. Refreshments after all the hard work!

REPOSITORY Confirmation and Communion cards and gifts available in the Repository at Our Lady's. Open before and after most Masses.

THANKS The family of Nora Ashmore R.I.P. would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and Mass offerings received.

