

# 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*

## ***Seventh Sunday of Easter 13th May 2018 page 273 of the Mass Book***

Last Thursday we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord, the first time in many years that the Catholic Church in this country celebrated it on the 40th Day of Eastertide. That means that today's Mass is the Seventh Sunday of Easter with an excerpt from Chapter 17 of St. John's Gospel - Jesus' Prayer to the Father. This chapter concludes the Lord's long discourse at the Last Supper in St. John and is followed by his journey with the disciples across the Kidron Valley to a garden where he is arrested. Jesus prays to his Father for US! He wants us to be one as he is one with the Father. He asks his Father to protect us. He implores the Father to consecrate us in the truth. He is so aware that his Mission came from the Father to be sent into the world; and in the same way he sends us out too. Jesus looks back, he speaks about the present and is aware of the future; he also is caught up in eternity.

When we celebrate Mass, we share in Jesus' offering of himself to the Father. The love poured out on Calvary has its source in the relationship of the Father's love for the Son and the Son's total obedience and love for the Father. By remembering the events of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection in the context of the calling to mind what he did at the Last Supper, Jesus allows us to be drawn into the Mystery of a love beyond measure which is the bond of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit quietly, gently and yet firmly embeds Divine Love within us just as he filled Jesus' life and transforms the bread and wine of the Eucharist into Christ's Body and Blood. The Spirit creates unity, consecrates us and takes us up into eternity!

We have one more week to go until we complete our celebration of Easter with Pentecost. This is a time of intense prayer for the outpouring of Jesus' Gift from the Father - the Holy Spirit. Why not model your prayer on Jesus' words? Reflect on what he wants for us and let our desire be to be as open as possible to what he prays for us to his Father. Then, by next Sunday, we will be ready to be 'zapped' by the Holy Spirit and be sent out like the Apostles on a mission to proclaim boldly the Good News of Jesus Christ. God bless you. **Fr. Norbert**

**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY** We are asked today to pray for those who work in the media and for those who work in the Communications Office of our Bishops Conference. Have a look at [www.catholicnews.org.uk](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk)

**NOVENA OF PRAYER** We are invited every day from the Ascension to Pentecost (20th May) to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us personally and upon the world. There is a link: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/pentecost-novena](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/pentecost-novena). The daily prayer is:  
*Grant to your Church that, being one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of Blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of the Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.*

**MONTY MONTGOMERY RIP** Fr. Tom invites us to a Month's Mind Mass for his father Monty at Holy Family Church on Thursday 24th May at 9.30am. There will be refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. All are welcome. *Please note there will not be Confessions that morning.*

**JOE FERNANDES RIP** Fr. Norbert's family will be marking Joe's First Anniversary of death on the day itself, Saturday 26th May, with Mass at 6pm in Our Lady's with a Get-together in the Hall afterwards concluding with the Rosary around 8.45pm. You are most welcome.

**AYLESFORD** Last Saturday 46 parishioners went on pilgrimage to Aylesford in Kent. For many it was their first time there and the day afforded them an experience of peace and contemplation, the joy of community and meeting others from all over the place, and an appreciation of the wonder of God's Creation in the beauty of all they saw. You were prayed for too!

**MAY DEVOTIONS** A big 'Thank you' to all who helped make last Monday's celebrations such a wonderful experience. The Lord also blessed us with sunshine in the Peace Garden!

**EXAMINATIONS** Many of you are taking examinations at this time. Be assured that you will be remembered in prayer at Mass. May God's Spirit guide you and help you to do your very best!

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere 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. A driver to regularly take a parishioner to 6pm Mass at Our Lady's is quite urgently needed. Thank you.

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

**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.

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

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION GROUP** We have a lesson next Saturday 10.30am. Parents need to come for a short meeting at 11.15am. Children's Mass on Sunday.

**CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We meet Tuesdays at 3.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's to learn a little more about our faith. This week we celebrate Pentecost. All are welcome - parents too.

**MOTHER AND TODDLER** This group meets on a Wednesday at 10.30am in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. All welcome.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER ARRANGERS** A new rota is about to be drawn up so if you are interested in joining this group please contact Monica on 01438 714923.

**INTER FAITH EVENTS** On Thursday 17th May Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Road, AL10 0DA from 7pm. The Rev. Dr. Callan Slipper will be speaking on the subject of Mysticism. Callan is the Ecumenical Officer of the Church of England and an Anglican Priest from the Focolare Community in WGC. Also, looking ahead, on Sunday afternoon on the 17th June from 3 pm - 6 pm. at the Focolare Centre the WHIFG warmly invites you to an afternoon of story telling which will appeal to all ages from 4 - 94! Tickets available from Valerie Skottowe on 01707 324828. Valerie saw this theatre company recently and said 'the children and adults were enraptured.

**GARDENER AVAILABLE** to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding. Call Daniel on

**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.**

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ** in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm.

**ZUMBA** for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

**MASS TIMES**

14 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Matthias
15 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
16 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
17 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
18 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
19 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria

<b>19 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>20 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Holy Family

**Pentecost Sunday**

Our Lady's  
 St. Bonaventure  
 Holy Family  
 St. Bonaventure  
 Our Lady's  
 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**