

# 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*

***Easter Sunday 27th March (p. 258), also including 3rd April Second Sunday of Easter (p. 262) and 10th April Third Sunday of Easter (page 265)***

We have made it! The early Easter has come! Thank you to everyone who has made it possible for us in Welwyn Garden City! So many involved in heavenly Liturgy and creating beauty in our churches; hard work behind the scenes getting everything ready; large numbers coming to enter into prayer. For this I am so grateful.

Jesus has risen from the dead! This is the Good News being proclaimed all over the world and we are united with Christians everywhere. There is the personal encounter the Risen Lord wants us to have with him. He also meets us as a community. Then there is the global, cosmic dimension where his Resurrection bursts forth with radiant light for the whole of creation. How wonderful!

Within our own society we are all too aware of people who do not understand what we are going on about and why we gather to celebrate. Easter remains only a feast of chocolate and roast lamb with flowers adorning our homes and tables - a springtime celebration. However, it is so important for us (in the Northern Hemisphere) to recognise that nature helps us to have an insight into the new life of Jesus. He is NOT a resuscitated human being; he is NOT just a warm feeling of love. There is a new quality to him through the Spirit raising him to life just like the winter branches bursting into blossom. He really did suffer and die; he was buried. But now we can see in him the true destiny God has in store for us - Resurrection! What will it be like? Will we recognise one another? How will the new heavens and new earth be different?

Today let each one of us gathered in this Easter season, take time to ponder what Jesus wants to share with us. Let us ask him to enlighten us with his grace and empower us to tell others about our faith. As we congratulate our new members, let us do what we can to attract more people to the joy of knowing Jesus, acting and speaking like Jesus, being gathered in Jesus as community and living in hope of spending eternity with Jesus. What a gift from God to our world!

With Fr. Martin, I wish you and your loved ones a Happy Easter! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH** Fr. Norbert has invited Cardinal Vincent Nichols to Holy Family Church for its 50th Anniversary next year. We have a date! The Cardinal will come on Sunday 7th May, 2017 to celebrate Mass at 11 o'clock. This will be followed by a lunchtime reception in Holy Family School. Put this date in your diaries and please let others know.

**AYLESFORD** Parish Pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy to Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 14th May. Aylesford Priory, or 'The Friars' to give it its traditional name, was founded in 1242 when the first Carmelites arrived from the Holy Land. They came under the patronage of Richard de Grey, a crusader, who gave them a small piece of land at his manor of Aylesford. In 1247 the Bishop of Rochester, Richard of Wendover, officially recognised the Carmelite foundation at Aylesford and the first General Chapter of the Order outside the Holy Land was held there. Now in this Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016, we are going as pilgrims to the same place! The coach will leave Our Lady's at 9am. There will be the Rosary Way at Aylesford, picnic lunch (bring all you need!), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass. We should be back by 6pm. The cost will be £10 for adults and £5 for children. Please sign up your name on a list at the back of our churches. Let's make this a great day!

**HCPT** Group 183 leaves early for Lourdes on Easter Monday. Fr. Norbert will accompany the Group as Chaplain. You will be remembered in prayer at the Grotto; please pray for the Group.

**DIVINE MERCY** For the feast on Sunday 3rd April, there will be prayer, devotions and Mass at St. Bartholomew's, St. Albans from 2.30pm. More info from Margaret Leahy 01727 763832.

**FR. MARC FASSIER** Fr. Marc from St. Denis in Paris is with us for Easter. He is working on his doctoral thesis and is coming for some peace and quiet!

**CONFIRMATION** Next session on Sunday 17th April at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS** of our three churches have their next meeting on Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The First Communion families will have an Afternoon of Retreat at St. Alban's Abbey on Sunday 24th April 12 noon until 4pm.

**MINIBUS OUTING** for anybody with limited mobility SUNDAY 10th April to St Paul's Walden Bury Open Garden. Entrance £5. Pick up from home 1.30 - 2.30pm. Tel. Kay on 01707 335633

**HEALTHWISE** is coming to the Pomegranate Cafe Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP Wednesday 4 May from 10.30am - 11.30am. Healthy eating, gentle exercise, computer skills and friendship Healthwise helps older people aged 50 plus retain their independence through an enjoyable programme of: • healthy eating • gentle exercise • digital inclusion • social interaction To book on this FREE 10 week course contact: Susan Johns, Healthwise Coordinator Mobile: 07772 173682 Email: [Healthwise.1@ageukherts.org.uk](mailto:Healthwise.1@ageukherts.org.uk) [www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire) Registered charity number 1116662

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** 24th July - 2nd August in Krakow, Poland. Come to a meeting at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church (141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP) on Friday 15th April. There is Mass in the church at 7pm and then a gathering in the hall at 7.30pm. So far there are young people signed up on our Deanery Coach from Letchworth, Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. Maybe you are still thinking about it and want to see who else is going? Perhaps you are trying to get money together or organise the summer? Remember many of the parishes are subsidising their young people! For more information contact Fr. Norbert. Pope Francis has written the following for WYD 2016: Let yourselves be touched by God's boundless mercy, so that in turn you may become apostles of mercy by your actions. This will be a life changing experience! COME!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** on Saturday 23rd April at 6pm at Our Lady's. The Welwyn Garden City Brass Band will play at Mass and afterwards in the Hall for half an hour. The celebration will have an Easter flavour on St. George's Day. It will be very close to the Queen's 'real' birthday on 21st April when she will be 90 years old. You are all welcome. Please bring food to share.

**NEW WEBSITE** Following a request from the WGC Catholic Parishes Advisory Council, work has been carried out to develop a single website covering all three parishes. That website is now accessible on the Internet. The website address is [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk). Please use it and let us know how you get on.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the 7 ladies who came to clean Holy Family in readiness for Easter.

**SPONSOR SUE** On Sunday 3rd April Sue Jeppesen, Lay Chaplain from the Hospice, is being sponsored to raise money to equip the new planned Sanctuary for the Isabel Hospice by walking to and attending as many different Church Services as possible around Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. She is starting with the 8am Mass at St Bonaventure's. If you would like to contribute and support this Chaplaincy Team venture, we would be very grateful. Envelopes are available now to be returned Sunday 3rd April. Thank you.

**EARLY MASS** The next 6.30am Mass in the Year of Mercy will be on Friday 6th May. There will not be one in April.

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** organised by the SVP will be in Our Lady's on Saturday 21st May at 12 noon.

**ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD** has been transferred to Monday 4th April.

**PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND** The annual collection will be the weekend of 16th/17th April. Envelopes will be available at the back church for those able to GiftAid their contributions.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED** A parishioner writes: fun loving volunteers wanted to assist our son in his social development. All you require is a fun positive attitude and ability to commit to 4 hours a week - no previous experience required. Full support provided. To make a difference to a child's life please call Katya on 07971513812.

**MISSION OF MERCY** Week beginning Monday 6th June. Each evening (Monday to Friday) there will be a Service in Our Lady's Church led by the priests of the Stevenage Deanery from 7.30 - 9pm. **DAY OF RECOLLECTION** 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC.

**INTERFAITH EVENING** Monday 11th April at the Jim Macdonald Centre in Hatfield - see posters at back of church. **PLEASE SPONSOR US** On Sunday 17th April, Ellen and Marie Myers will be running the Brighton Marathon to raise money for the local charity, 'The Mixed Group'. The charity provides a Christmas Day Dinner, take home afternoon tea and wrapped presents plus an annual summer cream tea for lonely and elderly residents in the borough of Welwyn Hatfield. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause we would be grateful and please visit our online page at [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarieandEllen](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarieandEllen)

*Alternatively, there is a sponsorship form available at the back of the church.*

**PLENARY INDULGENCES** A reminder about the Plenary Indulgence attached to going through the Jubilee Doors of Mercy (at Our Lady's and elsewhere). This is an extra grace which comes from recitation of the Creed, Prayers for the Pope's Intentions (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be), Reception of Holy Communion and going to Confession one week before or after a visit. Pope Francis says: 'Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of sin remain ... sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the Mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him or her from every residue of sin, enabling that person to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.' Remember this is not a mechanical act, it is an invitation to change and share with others the mercy experienced in encountering God. Also, the Plenary Indulgence can be applied to the Holy Souls in Purgatory or to a sick or infirm person who cannot get to church. What a great gift we can offer to others!

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

**New website for our 3 parishes**  
**[www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk)**

**Week of 28th March**

28 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	Octave of Easter
29 Tuesday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
30 Wednesday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
31 Thursday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
01 Friday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
02 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter

**Weeks of 3rd/10th April**

<b>02 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	<b><u>Second Sunday of Easter</u></b>
<b>03 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	
04 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Annunciation of the Lord
05 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
07 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John Baptist de la Salle
08 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
<b>09 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	<b><u>Third Sunday of Easter</u></b>
<b>10 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	
11 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Stanislaus
12 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
14 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
15 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
16 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria