

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*

Second Sunday of Lent 12th March 2017 p. 155 of book

Jesus takes with him Peter, James and John and they climb a high mountain where they can be alone. The three chosen disciples have the privilege of witnessing the Transfiguration of Christ - glory beyond measure radiating from Jesus, God's Son. How lucky they were! What an awesome sight! In Lent, Jesus invites us to spend time with him alone. Where is your place of solitude? How high do you have to climb? Is it hard work or does it come naturally? During the Lenten journey what glimpses has the Lord given you of the glory to come? Have you opened your heart to someone in need in a way never done before? Has your hand reached out to another with forgiveness and mercy? Has your life of prayer deepened to such a degree that you have felt overwhelmed? Has God given you an insight into an aspect faith which you had struggled with? Have you been transfigured with Christ or feel the development taking place with his help? I have asked many, many questions! The answers are not always self-evident and the ability to keep on searching for a response will lead us to echo Peter's words to Jesus: 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here...'

After the Last Supper, this same group of disciples is invited by Jesus to go with him deep into the Garden of Gethsemane as he leaves behind the others. They witness Jesus experiencing sadness and great distress. They fall asleep and leave Jesus on his own to pray that God the Father's will should be done and not his. When Jesus returns to his sleepy companions he tells them: 'The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.' As followers of the Lord, our task is to be with him in moments of glory as well as in the depths of suffering, to walk up the various hills and mountains and to pick up ourselves with him when we fall, to carry the heavy load of our own crosses as well as to support him as he takes upon himself the burdens, sins and sufferings of the whole world. We have to learn to say with trust at these moments too: 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here!'

As we start another Lenten week, let us recommit ourselves to being with Christ wherever he wants to lead us and to trust that he is there. God bless you. **Fr. Norbert**

CAFOD FAST DAY CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. The Lent Fast Day was last Friday. There will be a retiring collection this weekend for CAFOD. If you are a UK taxpayer, please use the special envelope and Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

LENTEN ALMS Should you wish to contribute to the Cardinal's Fund which supports a variety of causes in the Diocese, there are special envelopes available at the back of our churches.

LENT during Lent, there will be times of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: Monday 10.00 - 10.30am at Our Lady's, Thursday 10.00 - 10.30am at Holy Family and Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am at St. Bonaventure's. There will be Stations of the Cross: Wednesday 10am at Holy Family, Friday 10am at St. Bonaventure's and 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

EARLY MASS During Lent the next First Friday Mass at St. Bonaventure's (followed by breakfast) will be on 7th April.

LENTEN TALKS IN ST ALBANS These are about the Bible and will take place in St. Alban and St Stephen's Church, Beaconsfield Road AL1 3RB at 8pm in March on Thursday 16th, Wednesday 22nd and Wednesday 29th. All are welcome. More details on poster on church noticeboards.

EASTER RAFFLE Loreto school pupils are expected to do Lent Fundraising. Jenny Wilson a pupil at the school and one of our altar servers is holding an Easter Raffle after the 10.30am Mass on 26th March. As a year group they are raising money for the Shooting Star Hospice. Shooting Star is a leading children's hospice charity caring for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families.

CAKE SALE Loreto pupils attending Our Lady's Church are having a cake sale to raise funds for the Rainbow Trust, a charity that supports families with terminally ill children. Aku and Emily will sell cakes on the Sunday 19th March after the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's to support the charity. Donations are welcome. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHOIR REHEARSALS We are having rehearsals for Holy Week at 10.30am on Fridays 17th and 24th March in the parish hall at St. Bonaventure's. Everyone is most welcome to come along for one hour.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our thanks to all who helped with the Mass and celebration afterwards on 25th February. The Mass was very prayerful and the gathering great. Thank you!

RON OXLEY RIP Ron's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 24th March at 1pm.

EARLY MASS The next First Friday Mass at St. Bonaventure's (followed by breakfast) will be on 7th April.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Our First Holy Communion families have a Retreat Afternoon in St. Albans next Sunday afternoon (19th). The next parents' session will be on Wednesday 29th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

CONFIRMATION Today (Sunday) the young people have a Retreat Day in Aylesford where they will reflect on different ways of praying: through Scripture, the Rosary, before the Blessed Sacrament and Contemplative Prayer. Please keep them in your prayers. The young people will also be leading Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's on Friday 24th March at 7.30pm followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice forms for Nursery entry on Monday 13th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents are asked to contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 (or email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk with preferred date and approximate time) to arrange an appointment with Fr. Norbert. Fr. Norbert will be giving out his 'extra' form either before or after Mass at the weekend. On the day of the appointment, parent/s should come into Our Lady's Church with their child and wait to be called. Parents whose children were baptised in one of our three churches in WGC may request a Baptismal Certificate from Kathryn Hubbard.

CARDINAL'S MASS FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES will be on Saturday 3rd June at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more, and would like to be invited to this Mass, please give the details of your names and address, email, phone number and date of wedding to Fr. Norbert and he will send them on. Every year many couples have attended this Mass and have come home extremely happy!

OUR LADY SCHOOL Our Lady School PTA Quiz Night on Friday 24th March, 7.30pm. Tickets (available from the school) are £10 which includes a Fish and Chips supper and nibbles. There will also be a licensed bar.

CWL LENTEN LUNCHEAS have started again with a very successful first one. Please come and join us on every Saturday between now and Easter at The Family Centre, Our Lady's Church, Woodhall Lane. From 12pm onwards. It is a very sociable occasion and everybody is most welcome. Proceeds go to CAFOD.

THE CWL is also having a Speaker this Tuesday, 14th March, in The Family Centre, at 8pm. It is a lady who is involved working with puppets. This will be a jolly evening and tea and cake will be served, there is no charge except for the traditional raffle. Please come and bring a friend to make the evening a success.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S BAND We currently have a fantastic band of young musicians who sadly are getting older and will be going off to pastures new shortly so we need to replenish our numbers. If there are any youngsters out there who play a musical instrument roughly to approximately Grade 3 standard who would like to play once a month at our Children's Masses please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, 07870 402510, sallyamkee@gmail.com. The atmosphere is completely non threatening and we would be delighted to welcome new members into our fold. Looking forward to hearing from you.

HOLY FAMILY COFFEE HELPERS The charity coffee mornings after 9.30am Mass on Sunday Mornings at Holy Family Church are run by volunteer parishioners. Due to the circumstances of some of our volunteers changing we find ourselves in need of additional help. It would be lovely to see some new faces involved especially as many of us have been involved for a long time. (Children often help out serving the juice and biscuits and thoroughly enjoy themselves so don't think you can't help because you have young children.) The more people involved the less frequently you would be on duty and we normally work in groups of 2 or 3. If you think you could help out with the coffee mornings please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, 07870 402510, sallyamkee@gmail.com.

RCIA The next session will be on Monday 13th March at 7.30pm in the sacristy of Our Lady's Church.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE for our three parishes will be in Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 11th April at 8pm.

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

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL Minutes are at the back of our churches.

LOOKING AHEAD We will be having our Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday 10th June at 12noon. We have been asked to host a Mental Health Awareness Day on Saturday 1st July in Our Lady's Hall; MIND mid-Herts will be assisting. Mass led for us by the Filipino Community will be on Saturday 13th May at 6pm at Our Lady's. This year's African Mass will be on Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's. There will be a Day in Walsingham on Saturday 20th May - a coach will be booked.

HOLY LAND (Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017: 46 have booked) and **FATIMA** (Sunday 10th - Thursday 14th September 2017: 24 have booked so far) £689. Contact Pax Travel for more details on 020 7485 3003 or info@paxtravel.co.uk Not many places left!

ST PATRICK'S DAY After 7pm Mass at Our Lady's on Friday 17th March, there will be a gathering in Our Lady's Hall to mark St. Patrick's Day. There will be Irish dancers, a quiz and we ask you to bring food to share. *(Please note: No Stations of the Cross tonight)*

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

MASS TIMES

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

Third Sunday of Lent

18 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
19 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