

# 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*

***Fifth Sunday of Easter 14th May 2017 p. 265 of book***

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house...’ So often, this is the beginning of the Gospel passage chosen at a Funeral. The words come from the Last Supper in St. John’s Gospel as Jesus speaks to his disciples, preparing them for all that will happen and offering them words to hold onto when he leaves them. For those who are bereaved, Jesus’ image of heaven being a house with many rooms is comforting as is his invitation to trust. We are given these words today on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. How do they relate to you in your own life and its particular circumstances? As you recall loved ones who have died, does Jesus help you look to the future with hope and confidence?

The final words of today’s passage read: ‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’ This is incredible! Belief puts us into relationship with Jesus and releases in us the same power which has been at work in him; the fact of Jesus’ return to the Father means we will be able to do even more. Sounds to me like the presence and gift of the Holy Spirit! In what ways do you find yourself acting and speaking like Jesus? If you had to write your own ‘Acts of the Apostles’ do you think it would be full of amazing actions in your own life which mirror Jesus’ ministry? We need the same trust Jesus refers to earlier truly to believe he can work in us to such a degree. Thomas and Philip ask questions and get exasperated with the Lord! However, their seeking leads to a deeper teaching and proffers an outlook beyond measure. When we ask questions or encounter people who are searching and put us on the spot, let us pray that the Spirit of Jesus will open our minds, hearts and souls to a grasp of *truth* and inspire us to speak words which bring *life*. Thus we will be with Jesus well on the *way*!

God bless your week. *Fr. Norbert*

**HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH** A huge 'THANK YOU!' to the many people who helped make last Sunday's Mass and Reception such a memorable occasion to mark this Golden Jubilee. The church looked wonderful; the music and singing, the reading and the altar serving, the welcoming and the hospitality at the Holy Family School radiated the joy and deep faith of our community. Thanks also for the Parish History, new songs, Jubilee Cake and all those behind the scenes 'extras' which made such a difference. The Cardinal has written: 'Thank you very much for your kindness to Fr Alexander (secretary) and me on Sunday. I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Holy Family and I appreciated deeply the efforts that so many had made to mark this anniversary in such a lovely way. So thank you very much indeed.' For everyone's information, Mrs Murphy is now out of hospital.

Don't forget there will be the afternoon gathering on Sunday 16th July when there will be at 3pm a 30-minute Service with Benediction followed by a Parish Barbecue hosted by the Hedgehog. Watch this space!

**PIOTR CABAN RIP** Piotr was tragically knocked down on the Mundells roundabout back in February. There will be a Memorial Mass at Our Lady's on Wednesday 17th May at 5.30pm.

**SCHOOLS** Our Lady's School will be at the 9.30 Mass on Monday 15th May to mark Our Lady of Fatima's Centenary. There will be a School Mass at Holy Family School on Friday 26th May at 9.15am. On Friday 26th Year 6 from Swallow Dell School will be visiting Our Lady's.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE** 46 pilgrims from WGC will journey to the Holy Land from Saturday 27th May until Sunday 4th June. There will be a meeting of all who are going today (Sunday) at 4pm in Our Lady's Hall.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES** Holy Family: Sunday 21st May at 12 noon. Our Lady's: Sunday 11th June at 11.30am. St. Bonaventure's: Sunday 25th June at 10.30am.

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** Our annual celebration organised by the SVP will be on Saturday 10th June at 12 noon at Our Lady's. Afterwards there will be a reception in the Hall. This year there will also be a Blessing of Carers - part of the Diocesan follow-up to the Year of Mercy. This will be an acknowledgement of the many people who devote themselves to the support and care of loved ones and a chance to ask God's blessing upon them. Please let others know about this celebration.

**PARISH MEETING** Fr. Norbert invites representative/s of every group in our three parishes to come to a meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm. It will be an opportunity for everyone to hear about the good work which takes place to enrich our community and beyond. There could be photos/slides etc on a big screen too. This initiative comes from the Parish Advisory Council and the hope is that the information could form a link on the website and also be available to new parishioners. It would be a tremendous help to know who is going to come and which groups will be represented. Please contact Ellen Allardice (01707 375231 or [ellen.allardice@outlook.com](mailto:ellen.allardice@outlook.com)). Thank you very much.

**RCIA** For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will begin after the summer. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

**CONFIRMATION** Congratulations to our 32 young people who are now full members of the church! Our thanks to the catechists for their hard work and dedication, to the Music Group and all who contributed to the Liturgy and Reception.

**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

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** Saturday 20th May. We will be joining the National Deaf Pilgrimage to this Shrine of Our Lady. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8.30am. The programme for the day will include the Rosary, walking the Holy Mile, picnic lunch (so bring food and drink!) and Mass. There should be time for tea and cakes before leaving at 4.30pm. The coach should arrive back by 7pm. Price £15 for adults and £10 for children. There are signing up sheets at the back of our churches. The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham was established in 1061 when Richeldis de Faverches prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. This Holy House was built and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom. There is still room on the coach. Why not sign up?

**ST. BONAVENTURE** will be 800 years old this year! We will mark this on the Feast of St. Bonaventure, Saturday 15th July, at the 10am Mass followed by cake and coffee/tea in the parish garden.

**ELECTION HUSTINGS 2017** Tuesday 23rd May at Christchurch, 20 Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City 8pm – 9.15pm (from 7.30pm – refreshments and a chance to meet the candidates). Hosted jointly by Churches in Welwyn Garden City and Isabel Hospice as a way of helping the wider community engage with the democratic process – meeting the candidates and engaging with the important issues. At least four main parties will be represented. You can submit questions in advance to [election2017@christchurchwgc.org.uk](mailto:election2017@christchurchwgc.org.uk)

**MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP** on Saturday 1st July 10am until 3pm in Our Lady's Hall. This 'Day' will discuss mental health awareness in parishes, faith and mental health and how to support those with a mental health problem so that the parishes become even more welcoming and inclusive. Ben Bano who has championed 'Welcome me as I am' will lead prayer and give input. Sonia Clarke from MIND Mid-Herts will speak about local services. The Day is aimed at care-givers and key leaders in parish groups who would then be able to inform/train others. The outcomes/hopes are: ·A few parishioners trained with the mental health 'first aid' course, Carers Support Groups, to strengthen the 'ministry of welcome', displays in parishes for MIND services and signposting to find help for mental health support. For more information and to book a place visit [www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/mentalhealth) or email [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk)

**THY KINGDOM COME** is a global prayer movement which invites Christians around the world to pray in the run up to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ, following the example of the Apostles who during this time 'prayed constantly'. The Cardinal has asked us all to take part in this as a continuation of the 'Proclaim' initiative. There will be special prayer cards at the back of our churches which we invite you to use. Here in WGC there will be half an hour of quiet prayer and reflection after 7pm Mass on Friday 26th May - at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**JULIAN OF NORWICH** Following the acclaim in Digswell and Norwich Cathedral, **Julian of Norwich - Meditation** is going to its next destination which is on Saturday 28th May at the Catholic church of Christ the King, Cockfosters at 8.30 p.m. 29 Bramley Road, N14 4HE. Entrance is FREE and the presentation lasts just over an hour.

**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**

**CARITAS VOLUNTEER SERVICE** This Diocesan Agency is seeking to recruit volunteers to be involved in social action. For more information pick up one of the leaflets at the back of our churches or email Verity Sykes on [caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk)

**FOUNDATION GOVERNORS** The Diocese is always looking for volunteers to take on the role of being a foundation governor in our Catholic schools. Indeed here in Welwyn Garden City we need more. If you are interested take one of the leaflets at the back of the church and let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

**AFRICAN MASS** Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the Hall.

**POLISH/ENGLISH MASS** will be celebrated on Saturday 7th October at 6pm at Our Lady's.

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

### MASS TIMES

15 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
16 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
	5.30pm	Memorial Mass	Our Lady's for Piotr Caban R.I.P.	
18 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
19 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>				
20 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 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-](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-)**