

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*

First Sunday of Lent 18th February 2018 page 148 of the Mass Book

The long season of Lent has begun! St. Mark tells us that Jesus was driven out by the Spirit into the wilderness. Jesus spent 40 days and was tempted by Satan. St. Mark keeps it short and to the point...no other details except that he was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him. How are you going to use this holy, penitential season? Are there wilderness places for you to discover where you feel close to God? In what ways do you experience temptation and testing? What is clear is that the Lord came from this period fired up and ready for action! He called people to repentance and urged them to believe the Good News. Below are some ways of hallowing Lent and allowing the Lord's life to blossom within us. Seize the opportunities and have a blessed Lent. ***Fr. Norbert***

LENTEN PROGRAMME There will be half an hour of **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Mondays after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's, on Thursdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family (as usual) and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass. **Stations of the Cross** will be on Wednesdays at Holy Family after 9.30am Mass and on Fridays after 9.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's and at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. Don't forget the **First Friday early Mass** at St. Bonaventure's on 2nd March at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall.

CAFOD FAST DAY Please take with you an envelope for Cafod's Lenten Fast Day this Friday (23rd). The money raised will help some of the poorest people in the world by empowering them to help themselves through the gift of seeds to grow crops and vegetables. This year the UK Government will match fund your donations to Cafod during Lent up to £5 million pounds. Please be generous. The envelopes will be collected next weekend in a retiring collection. Thank you.

POPE FRANCIS has asked that Friday 23rd be kept as a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. (The money saved can go to Cafod.)

LENTEN LUNCHESES The Catholic Women's League will be holding Lenten lunches every Saturday at 12 noon in Our Lady's Hall. It is a very sociable occasion with soup, a roll and cakes for only £3. If you need a lift phone Anne Davidson on 01707 327569.

A CALL TO YOUNG ADULTS Cardinal Vincent and the auxiliary bishops of the diocese are inviting Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops - 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and the auxiliary bishops are hosting meetings across the diocese. You are invited to attend one of these meetings. They will involve discussion of the synod theme, an opportunity to question your bishops, and light refreshments. Please do consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people in the future. If you would like to attend, please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

SONGS OF PRAISE On Sunday 25th February, Kay Mason, a parishioner who donated a kidney to a stranger, will be part of the programme (on BBC1) filmed recently with other parishioners; the episode also features volunteers with St John's Ambulance Service.

RICHARD MORRISSEY RIP Richard's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 19th February at 12.30pm.

ADRIAN HARRIS RIP Adrian's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 21st February at 1pm.

CATHERINE CONROY RIP Catherine's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 9th March at 9.30am. Her body will be received into church on Thursday 8th at 4pm.

NORA ASHMORE RIP Nora's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 19th March at 11am at Our Lady's.

RCIA Next session Monday 19th February at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Our young people have their next session on 25th February at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS from our three churches will have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 21st February at 7.30pm.

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY on Saturday 19th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Over the years many have attended this wonderful celebration; now is the opportunity for others!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING Cleaning will take place at Holy Family on Thursday 22nd February from 11am onwards. If anyone can spare any time to help out you will be very warmly welcomed. Refreshments afterwards.

JULIAN OF NORWICH - a Meditation - seen and heard in original dance, • music and image will be presented in the Lady Chapel St Alban's Cathedral on Thursday 15th March at 8pm.

This inspiring work has been well received around the country. Although there are no tickets, the Abbey does make a £5 charge for entry.

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE past, present and future Tuesday 20th February at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 7pm for 7.15. The Catholic Church was instrumental in encouraging inter faith dialogue during Vatican 2, and it has progressed during the intervening years. Relationships between people of different faiths is perhaps more important now than ever before. You are all welcome to come along and find out more.

NURSERY PRIEST'S REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for entry to nursery in our Catholic schools. On Tuesday 20th February and Monday 5th March 3.30 - 5.30pm at Our Lady's Church. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 5-minute appointment with Fr. Norbert on one of those days. There are at the back of our churches pink 'extra forms' which should be brought filled in to the meeting. Please wait in Our Lady's Church to be called. Fr. Norbert would like to meet the children as well as their parents.

HCPT GROUP Quiz night on Friday 23rd February to raise funds for this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes. Teams of up to 8 people £5 per person starting at 8pm please bring own drinks. To book your table please call Barbara on 07789743703

AVIGNON 2018 Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Between 1309 and 1377, seven successive popes resided in Avignon. There is an amazing Palace of the Popes and the renowned Bridge of Avignon where we are going to sing 'Sur le pont d'Avignon'. Close by is Chateauneuf-du-Pape where we will do wine tasting! Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches. 18 have signed up already; 30 places maximum. Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

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

VISITS There will be an afternoon at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 - 5pm with an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake! On Saturday 5th May there will be a day in Aylesford at The Friars where there is a Shrine of Our Lady.

CAKE SALE Monica Hilario, one of our parishioners will be going to Thailand for a couple of months from June to work with children in schools and orphanages. One of her goals for this trip is to raise £800 as a donation for the schools she will visit to help them with resources to develop the children's education. Monica will hold a cake sale on today 18th Feb at Our Lady's after the 11.30 Mass and Sunday 4th March at St Bonaventure's after the 10.30 Mass. We wish her well.

NEW PARISH CENTRE Our Growing in Faith Project to rebuild the Hall as a new Parish Centre for our three churches is finally progressing! We hope soon to have drawings which will be displayed in our three churches for you to look at and reflect on. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 6th March at 8pm (coffee from 7.45pm) in the present hall. The architect and diocesan surveyor will be here to receive your feedback. Please come! Thank you for your patience.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS This coming Saturday (24th) at Our Lady's at 6pm. Afterwards there will be a Get-together in the Hall with bingo and a Lenten quiz! Please bring food to share. All are welcome.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY After 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th March there will be a 'Get-together' in the hall. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to help and have any ideas about the entertainment!

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

ST. ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. This Friday (23rd) Fr. Norbert is the celebrant.

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.**

A REQUEST My name is Kimberley Mester and I am a sixth form student doing a researched based report as part of one of my A level options. I would be grateful for parishioners who have undergone chemotherapy in the last 5 years, particularly for breast cancer; leukaemia or lung cancer who would be prepared to discuss their experience with me. Please contact me on mester.family@gmail.com or text me your contact details 07534602982.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

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

19 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Service	St. Bonaventure	
20 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
	1pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
22 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	The Chair of St. Peter
23 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	Second Sunday of Lent			
24 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333** via text message: **07876 526935** email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net