

# 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*

***Third Sunday of Lent 4th March 2018 page 154 of the Mass Book***

Today's Gospel reading is from St. John. We are now in the Temple with Jesus early on in his ministry and we witness the 'cleansing' of God's House as Jesus throws out the money-changers and pigeon-sellers. There ensues a conversation with his protagonists which results in two remarkable points: the Evangelist tells us that the 'sanctuary' Jesus speaks of is his body which is the true Temple, home of the Living God and that after the Resurrection they realise the veracity of his word. Secondly, St. John comments that 'Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them... He could tell what a man had in him.'

Let us reflect on this passage. Jesus refers to himself as *the* Temple. He is a living building in which we can encounter God and spend time with him, learning from his words and actions. The huge Sacrifice of Good Friday is the offering made in this Temple and indeed sums up what happens in the Eucharist. After the Temple is destroyed, it is rebuilt in three days. The Lord points to his being lifted on the Cross at the end of the Gospel and ultimately the power of Resurrection which will shine out - a rebuilding of the Temple. Jesus understands each person; he is able to read minds and hearts. The crowd around him in the Temple is made up of various people: his disciples, the religious leaders, pilgrims and ordinary folk carrying out their religious observances. Christ's motivation and inspiration come from the Father; he is the one Jesus trusts. What does it mean for you to understand that the Lord knows what you have in you - what you are like? Do you feel uncomfortable? Are you relieved that God's Son knows you through and through? Are you willing to let him cleanse you of all that comes between you and true worship of God? Surely this is what Lent is about as we allow God to do some spring cleaning in our lives?! It takes real trust and a humility to admit what gets in the way and respond.

May God bless this third week in 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.

**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.

**FRIDAY 9TH MARCH** The Confirmation Group will lead the Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm, including an Examination of Conscience, which will lead into the 'Restoration' Holy Hour during which there will be the opportunity to go to Confession. Music, Scripture and reflection will take place during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Benediction will be at 9pm. It should be an enriching evening. The Confirmation Group has worked hard and the 'Restoration' Group will enrich our time of prayer. Why not come?

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** The latest plans and drawings showing the new Parish Centre for our three churches are on the noticeboards in each church. Take time to look at them and please come to the Parish Meeting in Our Lady's Hall on Tuesday 6th at 8pm (with coffee from 7.45pm). There will be a chance to meet the Architect, Colin Smart, and the Diocesan Surveyor, Chris Fanning. Your thoughts and input are essential so that the project can move on to a next stage.

**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.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL** will meet on Tuesday 20th March at 7.45pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. If there are any items you would like to be raised, please let Fr. Norbert know. Thank you.

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

**JOHN ROBINSON RIP** John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 14th March at 3pm. His body will be received into the church on Tuesday 13th at 5pm.

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

**ADAM LINDSAY RIP** Funeral details still to be finalised.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. Fr. Norbert will be sending out details of this day to all the couples who have already contacted him. If you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible.

**RCIA** Next session Monday 5th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** Our young people are today (Sunday) on retreat at The Friars, Aylesford, with Fr. Norbert and their catechists. They will reflect on different forms of prayer in the peace and beauty of this ancient shrine.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS** from our three churches will have their next meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm.

**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 Monday (5th) 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. 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.

**QUIZ NIGHT** Our Lady School PTA will be holding a quiz night and Fish & Chip Supper on Friday 23rd March at 7.30pm. There will be a licensed bar on the evening, and tickets will be available from Our Lady School.

**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!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our thanks to all who helped with last weekend's celebration in church and the hall. The next Special Needs Mass will be fully signed on Saturday 28th April at 6pm.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY** After 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th March there will be a 'Get-together' in the hall. Please bring food to share.

**VISIT TO ST. EDMUND'S** 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! Please give Fr. Norbert your name, the number coming and a contact phone number. This is essential as St. Edmund's will have to know the numbers (preferably by Easter). Many of you will be able to get there by your own cars (postcode SG11 1DS) However, if you need a lift, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**AYLESFORD** On Saturday 5th May we will have a pilgrimage to Aylesford in Kent. Aylesford was founded in 1242 by Carmelites returning from the Holy Land. The present shrine dates from 1958 and it is a place of peace and serenity, welcoming people from many backgrounds, languages and cultures. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 9am sharp and will return by 7pm. We will be joining about 900 pilgrims. There will be Mass, the Rosary and quiet time. Altar servers are welcome to take part: just take your alb and cincture. Please bring a picnic lunch. Price: £12 for adults and £8 for children. To book a seat on the coach, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.

**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. 27 have signed up already; just a few places left! Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

**HELP NEEDED HCPT 183** will be bag packing at Tesco's in Hatfield on Saturday 10th March 10am-4pm. and desperately need volunteers to help pack bags for much need funds for this year's trip. If you are able to help please contact Emma on 07740858313. Many thanks.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Thank you to all those who have cleaned our three churches this week and last. Your help is very much appreciated.

**BIRDCAGE BRIDAL BOUTIQUE** Holy Communion Dresses now for sale. For more details visit our new shop in Panshanger or contact Anne-Marie Conway on 01707 394411.

**DON'T FORGET** Next Sunday is Mothering Sunday!

**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.**

**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** You are invited to find out about the evolution of different Christian denominations at a talk to be given by Fr. Simon Chinery at Hatfield Fire Station community room, AL10 0AD on Thursday 8th March, 7 for 7.15pm.

**CHARITY BARN DANCE AND DISCO** Please join Marie and Ellen Myers on the 9th March at The Shamrock Club, Welwyn Garden City for a Barn Dance and Disco. Marie and Ellen are raising money for Whizz-Kidz, a national charity supporting young people with disabilities and their families. The event starts at 7.45pm and tickets are £10 (available on the door). We would be delighted to welcome you for a fun evening of music and dancing.

**DOUBLE BUGGY NEEDED** for newly settled Syrian family. If you can help please contact John Fogarty on 01707 327771. Thank you.

**MASS TIMES**

05 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
06 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
08 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
09 Friday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	Catherine Conroy
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

10 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
11 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**