

# 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*

***Fourth Sunday of Easter 22nd April 2018 page 261 of the Mass Book***

‘I am the Good Shepherd.’ These are the powerful words of Jesus uttered in our Gospel passage from St. John. Easter probably seems a long time ago and after the freezing weather, the warmth and sunshine of this week have brought smiles to so many people’s faces. Think back to the mystery of Easter. How did it impact on you in your life this year with the particular joys and sorrows, burdens and worries you experience? The Good Shepherd knows us intimately: our names and our histories. He is ready to guide us and to impart to us knowledge of the Father who sent him to be with us. As Shepherd he understands us as sheep because he is the Lamb who was sacrificed for the salvation of the world. He truly is good as he was ready to lay down his life in obedience to the Father for saints and sinners, for those who know him and those yet to discover him. What a gift to us from God our Father! And more importantly as he shares life with us we are helped *to become like him!*

In the first week of Easter I had the joy of going to Lourdes with our local HCPT Group 183. We prayed hard for you, the people of Welwyn Garden City; we are grateful for your generosity in supporting Group 183. We lit candles at the Grotto for your intentions. The power of faith, the vitality of the young - and not so young - helpers, and the happiness of the children we accompanied gave me a real boost! I then travelled on to Seville and visited my friend Fr. Alvaro and the seminarians who have come to stay in our Garden City over the last few years. They all send much love to you and still fondly remember their stay here with all the wonderful experiences. Seville was freezing and wet - quite a contrast to Welwyn Garden City! The Archbishop of Seville wants his students this summer to go to their missions in South America so we will not be blessed with Spanish seminarians this year.

Finally, today is Vocations Sunday. Let us ponder anew the calling extended to us by the Good Shepherd. What does he ask me to do? What gifts can I put at the service of others? How is my particular vocation making the world a better place and helping me on the road to heaven? May the light of Easter continue to shine upon you and bring you many blessings.

***Fr. Norbert***

**PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND** The annual collection is this weekend. Special envelopes are available at the back of our churches for those able to Gift Aid their contributions. Today is Vocations Sunday so please keep this intention in your prayers.

**ST. GEORGE'S DAY** will be on Monday 23rd April. After Our Lady's 9.30 Mass there will be refreshments in the sacristy. All welcome.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 28th April at 6pm at Our Lady's. The whole Mass will be signed - members of the Diocesan Deaf Service will be here. Afterwards there will be bingo, a quiz and refreshments in the Hall. All welcome...please bring food to share.

**STANBOROUGH SCHOOL** Year 9 classes will be visiting Our Lady's Church at the end of April into May as part of their Religious Education.

**ASCENSION DAY** this year is back to a Thursday! It will be celebrated on the 40th day of the Easter Season, that means 10th May.

**CONFIRMATION** The final session for candidates will be today (22nd) at Holy Family on Sunday 22nd April at 7.15pm in the Parish Room. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 4th May at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. (Rehearsal on Friday 27th April at 7.45pm at Our Lady's)

**TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE** Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. Thank you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT** The First Holy Communion families of our three parishes will have a Retreat Afternoon at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral next Sunday 29th April. We will meet outside the West Door (Main Doors) at 12.30pm and finish by 4.30pm. There will be Mass in the Lady Chapel at 3pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES** Our Lady's: Sunday 13th May and Sunday 10th June both at 11.30am. Holy Family: Sunday 20th May at 12noon, St. Bonaventure's Sunday 17th June at 10.30am.

**ST ALBANS** Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

**OUR LADY'S MINISTERS ROTA** copies of the rota for the months of May, June and July are now available at the back of Church. In addition you will have received the details by email and the rota will be available on the website.

**MARY MULHALL R.I.P.** The Funeral Service for Mary will be at 4pm on Wednesday 2nd May.

**VISIT TO ST. EDMUND'S** This afternoon we will be visiting St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware. Mr Duran the Headmaster will give a guided tour of the Chapel and the Museum; there will be tea and cake too. The visit will conclude with prayer in the Chapel ending at 5pm. We will make our way by car - the journey takes about 30 minutes. The postcode is SG11 1DS which should take you to the main gates. Parking is best near the large outdoor crucifix and we'll meet in the main entrance. For the disabled who need a ramped entry, it would be best to drive to the Galilee Chapel (a little further and to the left). There is a lift up to the first floor museum. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon. There are still places available. We'll meet there!

**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 or email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk.

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

**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.

**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?

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH** Next Tuesday evening, 24th April at 7.15pm the Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group will be presenting an evening entitled 'The Joy of Faith' at Oxlease Methodist Church Hall, 36 Woods Ave, Hatfield AL10 8NA. What an opportunity to tell people about the joy of the Easter Resurrection. All welcome.

**PLEASE SPONSOR US** The White family are swimming 5km in the Swimathon on Sunday 29th April. Raising money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie. Please sponsor them through their Just Giving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spencer-white2018> or donate in person to Spencer, Beth or Anna who will be at the Holy Family Church on Sundays.

**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.**

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ** in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm.

**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).

**GARDENER AVAILABLE** to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

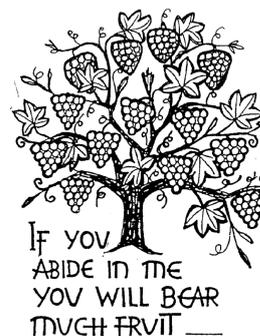
### **MASS TIMES**

23 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. George
24 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Erkenwald and Mellitus
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
25 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Mark
26 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
27 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
28 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria

<b>28 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>29 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

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Our Lady's
St. Bonaventure
Holy Family
St. Bonaventure
Our Lady's
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**