

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Second Sunday of Lent 8th March page 155 of Mass book

Always on the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to go up a high mountain with Jesus and his three close disciples in order to share the experience of the Transfiguration. We are given a glimpse of Jesus' future glory and an understanding of the Father's deep love for his Son. There are three snippets of Scripture I would like to focus on today.

Peter says to Jesus in today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew: 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here...' Have you ever found yourself uttering similar words - something amazing unfolding and you want it to last for ever? Perhaps by offering to make three tents, Peter's desire is to hold onto the Transfiguration for ever? However, the Father's voice takes centre stage! They still have more journeying which will entail going down the mountain and trekking over more terrain which will eventually result in Jesus climbing Calvary. The memory of a great event is important and can buoy us up when times are darker. Don't forget wonderful experiences!

God the Father declares: 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' I can't help but think back to the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. There the Spirit comes upon the Lord and the Father's voice resounds with affirmation for his Son. The extra words in this passage are 'Listen to him.' So we are called upon not only to behold the wondrous vision and discern who Christ is, but also to listen to his words and let them inspire us. Lent is a powerful period for us to reflect on the gift of Baptism which we have received while there are some in our community preparing for their own Baptism at Easter. Baptism creates in us a concrete relationship with Jesus, giving us a better sense of belonging to Christ and to his pilgrim people. We are opened up to listen and really hear. How wonderful!

At the end of the passage, Jesus gives the disciples the following order: 'Tell no-one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.' Lent takes us to Easter, to a new life which breaks into our world and summons us to a taste of eternity. Only with the Resurrection do the disciples fully understand what happened to Jesus on that mountain. What a revelation! Every Lent as we leave the mountain of Transfiguration and continue walking with Jesus for a few more weeks, the Lord transforms us too by the intimate love of the Cross with suffering and the forgiveness of sins, preparing us for his triumphant Victory - eternal life in his presence. That is why the Church gives us this passage on the Second Sunday of Lent! May God be with us in all the challenges we face at this time.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

CORONAVIRUS We are reviewing the situation in terms of our practices here in our three churches. We will keep you posted. The full guidance from the Bishops of England and Wales may be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/>

LENT During Lent there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for half an hour on a Monday after 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's (except 9th March), on a Thursday after 9.30 Mass at Holy Family and on a Saturday after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. There will be **Stations of the Cross** on a Wednesday after 9.30 Mass at Holy Family, on a Friday after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's and on a Friday after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's (except 13th March). The **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will be available on Thursdays at Holy Family Church 10.00 - 10.30am and on Saturdays - at St. Bonaventure's 10.30 - 11.00am and at Our Lady's 5.00 - 5.30pm. There will be priests also available at Our Lady's on Friday 20th March after Stations of the Cross and the Holy Week Service on Tuesday 7th April at 8pm at Our Lady's. Don't forget the First **Friday early morning Mass** at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30 followed by breakfast (3rd April).

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE: Fr Tony writes: 'On Thursday this week we held the fourth session of our bible study programme. This session covered the period of Israel's slavery in Egypt, the Exodus, and Israel's 40-year wandering in the desert. During this period, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to replace the 'false Gods' Israel had followed in Egypt. Saint Pope John Paul II called the Ten Commandments '...the law of freedom: not the freedom to follow our blind passions, but the freedom to love, to choose what is good in every situation, even when to do so is a burden'. This week we might consider the question: what kind of 'false Gods' do the Ten Commandments free us from?

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL If you would like to support this charity Lent 2020, there are special envelopes available. The money raised will fund initiatives in Marriage and Family Life, Evangelisation through support given to young people in their faith and Service in Society especially in regard to those who have to make use of food banks because they cannot feed their children properly. Put the envelopes in the weekend collection and they will be sent on. Thank you.

DEANERY GATHERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE will take place this Friday (13th) at Our Lady's. Young people from a number of Confirmation groups from some of the parishes in the Stevenage Deanery will come with their catechists for 7pm Mass which will be followed by the usual 'Restoration Holy Hour' which will end around 8.45pm. There will be refreshments at the back of the church to round off the evening. The event has been promoted by Westminster Youth Ministry through its 'Summit' outreach programme and there will be some input from the WYM as well as from the group usually leading. There will still be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture, prayer, music and silence ending with Benediction.

JIMMY BYRNE RIP Jimmy's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday (9th) at 10am. *There will not be 9.30 Mass or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament that morning.*

LEN BONNER RIP Len's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 18th March at 12.30pm.

TOBY MURPHY RIP Toby's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 23rd March at 12.30pm.

PATRICK WEBB RIP Patrick's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 25th March at 12.30pm.

OUR LADY SCHOOL The whole school will join parishioners for 9.30 Mass on Monday 16th March, staying for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE The annual Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 30th May 2019 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 2020. 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). Fr. Norbert will then send them on. **SIGNED MASS** on Saturday 14th March at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by refreshments. There will be a practice for 'signers' at Our Lady's on Tuesday 10th March 7.45 - 8.45pm. If you would like to come to the practice, please let Fr. Norbert know.

HCPT 183 I would like to thank the Parishes for all the generous donations made to the group from the retiring collection. It is with great sadness we announce that HCPT HQ have taken the very difficult decision to cancel the Easter 2020 pilgrimage to Lourdes due to the risk posed by the Coronavirus to the vulnerable children. As you can imagine we are all very disappointed but completely understand why the decision was made. We hope to bring all the amazing children who were due to come this year on our pilgrimage in 2021. All funds raised for this year's trip will roll over to pay for the next one. We would like to thank you for your continued support. It is invaluable to us and we're very grateful to you all. Best wishes 183

ST. PATRICK'S DAY There will be refreshments after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's on 17th March. Mass at Our Lady's will be at 7pm as usual.

RCIA for those preparing to join the Catholic Church at Easter. The Group will meet on Monday (9th) at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be today (Sunday 8th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church. The young people will be attending the 'Summit' Deanery Youth Gathering in Our Lady's on Friday (13th) arriving at 6.45pm. Please note that on Sunday 15th March, the young people will have their session in Our Lady's Church.

FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION The next meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will be on Wednesday (11th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. St. Bonaventure's and Holy Family's children made their First Confession yesterday (Saturday) - Congratulations! Our Lady's children will make their First Confession on Saturday 14th March at 11am. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

SIGNED MASS on Saturday 14th March at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by refreshments. There will be a practice for 'signers' at Our Lady's on Tuesday 10th March 7.45 - 8.45pm. If you would like to come to the practice, please let Fr. Norbert know.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 27th March.

ASSISI 2020 Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. *There are 8 places left* so if you are interested, please return your booking form to Pax Travel as soon as possible. If anyone needs an electronic version, please let Fr. Norbert know.

OBERAMMERGAU Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version. Europe was affected by a terrible plague at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1633 the people of the village of Oberammergau in Germany prayed and promised that if the plague left their village, a play commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ would be performed every ten years. Their prayers were answered and the first Passion Play was performed in 1634. *There are 12 places left on this pilgrimage.*

OUR LADY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Admissions for September entry to the Nursery at Our Lady School is open and closes on 13th March. We also have In Year places available for children currently in Nursery, Reception and Years 2 - 5, and would be delighted to provide further information for any parents who might be interested in applying for a place for their child. If you are interested, or would like to arrange a visit to the school, please do visit the Admissions section of the school website www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk/admissions/ or call the School Office on 01707 324408

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White who will be attempting to complete the 5km Swimathon on Saturday 28th March. Speak to him at Holy Family or through his Just Giving page, which can be found at: www.justgiving.com/Spencer-White2020.

INTERFAITH On Tuesday 10 March 7 - 9.30 pm at Hatfield Fire Station AL10 0DA the local inter faith group will be holding the second of their Rites of Passage evenings when the topic will be Initiation where we will learn how people make their adult commitment to their beliefs.

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 Our Lady's Church
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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tony 01707 327434
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 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS

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

You can read the newsletter on the Website www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

EXTRA MASS on Monday 9th March at **8am** at Our Lady's.

LIVING SIMPLY GROUP asks us this Lent to 'consider what your contribution could be both to help the climate and nature emergency and to walk closer with those most affected by it as well as with Jesus. 5 ideas to get you started: 1) Try swapping your favourite meat, dairy and fish dishes for more plant-based ones, bbcgoodfood.com has some great recipes. 2) Drive less and walk more. Try taking the bus or train for long distances, walk or cycle locally. Or if you must drive then try car sharing. 3) Buy second hand and repair. You can pick up great quality, unique items in the plentiful charity shops in the town. Or try the repair drop-ins in Hitchin to fix your item rather than throw it away. 4) Eat seasonally and locally. Eating within the seasonal rhythm of nature gives us better tasting food and cuts our carbon foot-print. 5) Go single use plastic-free. Buy a reusable coffee cup and water bottle to refill as you go and reduce the harmful plastic that ends up in our oceans.'

CWL LENTEN LUNCHESES on Saturdays. 12noon -1.30pm. At Salvation Army Hall, next to Our Lady's Church. Do come along.

CHURCH CLEANING. St. Bonaventure's monthly cleaning will take place on Thursday 12th at 10am.. Refreshments provided. New volunteers are most welcome.

MASS TIMES

09 Monday	8am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
	10am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
10 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
12 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
13 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Third Sunday of Lent

14 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
15 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.