

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*

Sixth Sunday of Easter 21st May 2017 p. 268 of book

In each of our readings today the 'Spirit' is mentioned! In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter and John are sent to Samaria to lay hands on those who have already been baptised in the name of Jesus but who have not as yet received the Holy Spirit. Once hands are laid on them the Spirit comes! I suppose two things strike me about this: firstly, how did the Church in Jerusalem know that the Spirit had not come down on those in Samaria? What signs are there that the Spirit has come? What do you see in yourself and others that makes you confident of the Spirit's presence? The other aspect of this reading is that it reminds us of Confirmation as the completion of what was begun at Baptism. I had a phone call on Thursday night from someone who had read on Facebook that her relation had been confirmed here in Welwyn Garden City and was absolutely delighted now to be a full member of the Church! There are many reasons why some miss out on Confirmation as teenagers, but there is always the time and the opportunity to celebrate this Sacrament as adults. Don't think it is confined to those who are young!

In our Second Reading from St. Peter's Epistle, we read: 'In the body he (Christ) was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.' At the heart of our Faith is the belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that out of love he willingly died on the Cross in obedience to the Father for our salvation, that is, to carry our burdens and to take away our sins. Hand in hand with this is the fact of his Resurrection - that this body which experienced death was totally transformed by the Spirit and released a life which is new and takes us to eternity. What will your risen body look like? Hard to say exactly! Perhaps a better question: What do you *hope* it will be like given your experience of the Risen Lord?

Finally in our Gospel passage from St. John, Jesus tells his disciples at the Last Supper: 'I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth...' Jesus' Spirit comes from the Father at the Lord's request and puts us in touch with the truth, remaining with us for ever as our support. In what ways do you need the Spirit's help? With what truth do you want the Spirit to enlighten you?

Our celebration of Easter has just two more weeks and then we will celebrate Pentecost and complete what started with the Death and Resurrection of Christ. Let us each day reflect on the Gift of the Spirit and be as open as possible to what God is sharing with us.

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

ASCENSION In this country, the Ascension the Lord will be celebrated next Sunday and not on Thursday.

SCHOOLS 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 on Saturday 27th May (returning Sunday 4th June). You will be in their prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES 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). 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.

ELECTION HUSTINGS on Tuesday 23rd May 8.00 - 9.15pm at Christchurch Baptist Church, 20 Tewin Road, beginning with refreshments at 7.30pm with an opportunity to meet the candidates. This event is being hosted jointly by the Churches in Welwyn Garden City and Isabel Hospice. Why not come?

KICA Music Mission: I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored me on my 60-mile bike ride, organised to raise money for my summer trip to Uganda with John Henry School to teach disadvantaged children music. I completed the bike ride around Hertfordshire in about five hours and raised over £500. I am very grateful for your generosity. Daniel Newman-Sanders.

HCPT Our HCPT group returned home from an amazing week in Lourdes, and what a brilliant week it was. I can't thank the parish enough for the generous support financially and spiritually, as without your help we would not have been able to give 7 amazing children a fantastic time away. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and look forward to sharing our experience with you. Emma and Group 183.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet every Tuesday during term time to learn a little more about our faith in a fun and relaxed way. 3.45pm - 4.45pm. All children are welcome and parents too. St. Bonaventure's hall.

MOTHER AND TODDLER This friendly group meets every Wednesday in St. Bonaventure's hall from 10am. Come along with your little ones - lots of toys to play with and it is good opportunity for mums and dads, grandparents, carers, to get to know one another.

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.

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 or email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

THEY 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.

THE HEBREW COMMUNITY of Welwyn Garden City cordially invite you to visit the synagogue on Thursday 8th June from 8 - 9.30 pm. If you would like to go, please give your name and postcode to Paul Gateshill email: paulghill@hotmail.com or tel: 01707 695351. The synagogue is situated behind the Barn Theatre in Handside Lane.

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH PRAYER SERVICE AND BARBECUE Sunday 16th July at 3pm. There will be a 30-minute Service with Benediction followed by a Parish Barbecue hosted by the Hedgehog.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND & WALES have organised a 'Mega Youth Poll'. In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call. If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you: what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. Please use this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll>. If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link. For queries about the Youth Poll please email: synod2018@cbcew.org.uk.

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

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.

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

MASS TIMES

22 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
23 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
25 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Bede
26 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Philip Neri
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Augustine of Canterbury

The Ascension of the Lord

27 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
28 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-tr@nhs.net