

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*

Fifth Sunday of Lent 18th March 2018 page 170 of the Mass Book

‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus’ is the request made by the Greeks to Philip in today’s reading from St. John’s Gospel. Philip goes to Andrew and the two go to tell Jesus. The Lord speaks for some time elaborating on what will happen to him and a voice from heaven confirms his word. It is not clear whether or not the Greeks get to see Jesus in the way they expect! Something much deeper will unfold.

In St. John’s Gospel ‘seeing’ is vital in drawing us into an understanding of who Jesus really is. Seeing is believing! A relationship is created and one beholds the Son of God. ‘When I am lifted up from the earth...’ are words at the end of today’s passage. Soon the crowds will see Jesus lifted up on the Cross, pouring our love for the salvation of the world. His execution becomes a glorification; his dying brings eternal life. Jesus is the grain of wheat falling to the ground and bearing much fruit. This is the mystery of Easter!

Our joy and responsibility is to look out for the presence of Jesus. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey. He shares a Last Supper with those closest to him and washes their feet. He is betrayed and denied by friends. He carries a cross to Calvary. He breathes his last. On Easter Day the Empty Tomb is found. Perhaps the Greeks got a lot more than they bargained for! Maybe they just wanted to gawp at the wonder worker they had heard about. Now - if they are willing to walk in his footsteps - they see him being treated brutally but willingly giving himself as a Paschal Lamb. The Beloved Disciple sees and believes. That is our task too!

Soon we will enter Holy Week. The Sacred Triduum - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil taking us into Easter Sunday - is the most important time in the Church’s Year, beckoning us to come and see Jesus, to experience his love and to recommit ourselves in faith to him as we journey through life. This week let us reflect on the words ‘We should like to see Jesus’ and find ways of discovering him anew and putting others in touch with him.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

CONFIRMATION The next session for candidates will be at Holy Family today (18th) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room. Our thanks to the Confirmation Group for leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday 9th in such a prayerful and reflective way.

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,

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.

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY on Saturday 19th May at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. 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). *Three couples have given their details so far. Any more?*

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.

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

JULIO VARGAS RIP Julio's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 21st March at 12.30pm.

CHRISTINE BALABA RIP Christine's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 21st March at 4pm at Our Lady's.

DEIRDRE DAVIS RIP Deirdre's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 28th March at 3pm. Reception of the body takes place at 4pm on Tuesday 27th.

ADAM LINDSAY RIP Adam's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 18th April at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure's.

MARGARET PENNANT RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's, details of which are yet to be confirmed.

MARGARET SCANLAN R.I.P. Margaret's funeral will take place in Ireland.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place this Saturday (24th) in Our Lady's Hall. Fr. Norbert has sent 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.

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

NEWSLETTER The Easter newsletter on Sunday 1st April will cover the weekends of 7th/8th and 14th/15th April, so please get all your information to Kathryn Hubbard in time for Easter. Thank you.

HCPT GROUP 183 will be going to Lourdes on Easter Monday setting off at 4am! Please keep them in your prayers. If you would like any intentions taken to Lourdes, please give them to Fr. Norbert by Easter Sunday morning. Group 183 will remember you in prayer and light a big candle for our parishes at the Grotto.

RCIA Next session Monday 19th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. The RCIA Group will have an Afternoon of Retreat next Sunday afternoon. Please keep them in your prayers as they get ready for the Sacraments at Easter.

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.

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 or email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

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?

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 27th March from 3.45 - 5.30pm. Come and help plant our outdoor Easter Garden, make your own garden, make some Easter things, join in an Easter egg hunt, prepare for our Way of the Cross, have a 'Happy Easter Tea' (bring and share) and listen to an Easter story. We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover some of our costs. It would be helpful if you could email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk or phone 01707 322579 if you are going to come. Thank you.

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

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.**

CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER

HOLY FAMILY Tuesday 27th March at 11am
ST. BONAVENTURE'S Maundy Thursday 29th at 10am
OUR LADY'S Holy Saturday after morning prayer at 10am.
All are welcome to come and help make our churches beautiful for Easter

MASS TIMES

19 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Joseph
	11am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Nora Ashmore R.I.P.
20 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Julio Vargas R.I.P.
	4pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Christine Balaba R.I.P.
22 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
23 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Palm Sunday

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