

# 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*

*Seventh Sunday of the Year 24th February page 142 of the Mass Book*

Jesus is on the level plain with so many gathered around him. St. Luke told us in last week's passage that Jesus fixed his eyes on them and uttered a series of blessings and woes - a complete reversal of people's expectations. Now he speaks about love! Sounds good? On the face of it, are we going to get that warm, cosy feeling? Will it be God's love we hear about: strong and affirming? A new, fresh understanding? I suppose my answer to each of these questions is 'Yes and No' ! Never simple!

Firstly, the Lord invites us to love our enemies. That is difficult. It's so challenging. What hope is there for me? We have to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, especially when he is hanging on the wood of the Cross. Jesus forgives those putting him to death. He cries out to his Father, saying '...they know not what they do.'

Next the Lord focuses on the Most High '...who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.' That is so hard to take. Why should I bother to be 'good' if God is the same with everyone anyway? We should look at this from another perspective. Jesus' words open us up to the generosity of God. He is forgiving. He is always on the lookout for the returning sinner. This God radiates unconditional love. Just reflect on the parable of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15. Is it possible that I want to strait-jacket God and place my own conditions on him, so that he responds to people in the way I want?

Finally, the Father is compassionate. Jesus is so steeped in this knowledge that he wants to reflect it in his ministry and lead his disciples to the confident proclamation of this gift. The picture the Lord gives us of his disciples is one where: hearts are moved to love, minds are not closed to the Good News brought by God's Son, bodies are ready to be incarnations of a challenging message which brings life. This is our call. This can only become a reality with the help and example given by Jesus Christ, God's Son. Let's never stop trying!

*Fr. Norbert*

**ASH WEDNESDAY** this year will be 6th March. Masses with the imposition of ashes will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. We remind you that it is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

**LENT** During the Season Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at Holy Family (after 9.30 Mass) and Fridays at St. Bonaventure's (after 9.30 Mass) and at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes on Mondays at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass), Thursdays at Holy Family (after 9.30 Mass) and Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's (after 10am Mass). There will be the early morning 6.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 5th April and the Restoration Holy Hours at Our Lady's on Friday 8th March and Friday 12th April after 7pm Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be as usual on Thursdays at Holy Family (10.00 - 10.30am), Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's (10.30 - 11.00am) and at Our Lady's (5.00 - 5.30pm). The Confirmation Group will lead Stations of the Cross on Friday 29th March at Our Lady's at 7.30pm followed by Confessions when a number of priests will be available. The main Service of Reconciliation for Welwyn Garden City will be in Holy Week on Tuesday 16th April at 8pm at Our Lady's.

**LENT BOOKLETS** Walk with Me for adults and Day by Day for children are available today in preparation for Lent. Also Lent calendars. All are free so please help yourself if you will use them.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere this year or in 2020 should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019. This 'Day' gives couples a chance to step back from the usual organisation of the Wedding Day and to focus on themselves and their relationship. They have the serious, privileged experience of getting ready for a lifetime of Marriage as well as the fun and enrichment of being with other couples in the same boat.

**MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY** at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th June at 3pm for couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to receive an invitation from Cardinal Vincent Nichols to this Mass please give your names, full postal address, email/phone number and date of Wedding to Fr. Norbert by 23rd March. Many couples from our parishes have gone up to Westminster for this event and have found it very uplifting.

**SIGNED MASS** Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service of the Diocese will be coming to help with the signing of Mass on Saturday 30th March at 6pm at Our Lady's. There will be two 'practice' sessions to prepare on Tuesdays 19th and 26th March at 7.45pm for an hour in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. Those who took part in the Deaf Awareness Course should let Fr. Norbert know if they can come. Others too may come to these sessions but the maximum number for a fruitful session would be 16 people.

**DAVID FOX RIP** David's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 27th February at 12.30pm.

**FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION** Next parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm. Our children will soon be making their First Confession: at St. Bonaventure's at 11am on Saturday 9th March, at Holy Family at 2pm on Saturday 9th March, and at Our Lady's at 11am on Saturday 16th March. Please keep the children in your prayers.

**SEMINARIAN** Remy Pignall from the Diocese of St. Denis in Paris will be with us from Monday 4th to Friday 8th March. Bienvenue!

**OUR LADY'S** The monthly cleaning and maintenance of the church is on Saturday 2nd March at 10am for ONE hour followed by refreshments. Many hands make light work, please do come along to help!

**NURSERY REFERENCES** Many parents came to Fr. Norbert before Christmas to get the Certificate of Catholicity forms signed. Fr. Norbert will be available on Monday 11th March at Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to make a 5-minute appointment. At the back of our churches is the 'extra' form (gold or yellow) which should be filled in and brought to the appointment. Fr. Norbert would like to meet the child as well as parent/s.

**CONFIRMATION** The next session will be on Sunday 10th March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**RCIA** Next session on Monday 25th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Members of the RCIA Group will be presented at various Masses on Sunday 3rd March in readiness to be presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election on Sunday 10th March. Please keep these adults (and their children) in your prayers.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** Holy Family's Finance Committee will meet in the Parish Room on Tuesday 12th March at 8pm.

**CANTERBURY OUTING** Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong in Cathedral. Flyers including booking forms are at the back of the churches and must be filled in and returned well in advance. It should be a brilliant day. Forms and money have already started coming in! Don't miss out.

**MARY'S MEALS** is a global movement of people from all walks of life, united by their belief that no child in this world of plenty should endure a day without a meal. The idea is that one daily meal is provided in a place of learning to attract chronically poor children into the classroom where they receive an education which in the future can be their ladder out of poverty. The work of Mary's Meals is built on the power of prayer. Each day 1,425,013 children in 18 countries receive school meals. (£13.90 feeds a child for a whole school year). For more information, contact [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk) or phone 0800 6981212. At present the Government is matching donations.

**OUR LADY'S 60TH** The Foundation Stone of Our Lady's Church was laid on 30th September 1959. The Cardinal has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 15th September at 11.30am. A date for your diaries!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES** Saturday 16th March 6pm and Saturday 11th May at 6pm. Watch this space!

**AFRICAN MASS** The celebration for 2019 will be on Sunday 14th July at 11.30am. The African Community will hold a planning meeting in Our Lady's Sacristy, on Sunday, 3rd March after 11.30am Mass.

**FILIPINO MASS** Saturday 6th July at 6pm has been chosen for this celebration.

**2020** Don't forget that the Centenary of Welwyn Garden City will be celebrated in 2020. Hence the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May. Also, the Passion Play in Oberammergau only happens every 10 years and so we have booked the 9th - 11th September for a trip. We're waiting for the brochures.

**SCHOOL VISITS** Swallow Dell Primary School's Year 2 children will visit Our Lady's on Friday 1st March in the morning. A Year 9 class from Stanborough Secondary School will come to Our Lady's on Thursday 14th March in the morning.

**STORY TELLING EVENT** By popular request the Khayaal Theatre Company are making a return visit to present their Tales of Wisdom. This will take place at the Focolare Centre on Sunday 17 March from 4 - 5pm followed by afternoon tea. Tickets priced £5 for adults (£4 for members of the inter faith group) and £2 for children up to the age of 13, available from Valerie Skottowe 324828.

**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 6J

**Fr. Tom 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
Holy Family Church  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

### CONFESSIONS

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

**Website for our 3 parishes**  
**www.wgc-catholics.org.uk**

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

**HERTS WELCOMES SYRIAN FAMILIES** Bicycles are still needed (boys 7-11) also helmets, lights etc. Gardening tools are needed for a family. If you can help please contact Vicky Woodcraft woodcraftvicky@gmail.com. Thank you.

**SYMBOLS OF FAITH WORKSHOP** This trains adults in the preparation of children and adults with special needs for the Sacraments using symbolic catechesis. The workshop will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road SG5 1QS) on Saturday 9th March 10am - 2pm. More details from Sue Day 020 8202 3999 or sueday@rcdow.org.uk

**DO YOU KNOW** anyone who would like to attend Mass but cannot manage the journey? We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399.

### MASS TIMES

25 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
01 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. David
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
<b>Eighth Sunday of the Year</b>				
02 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 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**