

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*

Eighth Sunday of the Year 3rd March page 144 of the Mass Book

In today's Gospel reading from St. Luke, Jesus is speaking to his followers and therefore to us. He focuses on relationships: firstly, between a teacher and his disciple, secondly between siblings, and thirdly between what is in a person's heart and the fruits/actions which result. His words are particularly pertinent for us as we prepare to embark on the Season of Lent and so it would be worthwhile pausing and reflecting on how we can and should respond to the Lord.

'The fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher.' Is that the case in our lives? Lent offers us an opportunity to focus on Jesus and to learn from him. He faced temptations but did not give in. He modelled his love on the unconditional love of God the Father and did not stint on mercy. He searched for the lost and was a champion of the poor and downtrodden. We are in training! We haven't quite made it; we still have time - but not for ever. Lent is a period of grace which filters into our lives, helping to perfect us in our attempts to be more like the Lord, our teacher.

'Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own?' Jesus understands us so well! It is easier to focus on someone else's inadequacy, faults or inefficiency than to ponder one's own frailty (especially those we think we know really well!). It is natural to let the hurts of the past remain as sores festering and bringing deep anger, rather than be open to forgiveness and reconciliation - the experience of healing love. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a challenge to admit our sins before God through the ministry of his priest. We must never forget God's passionate outreach to sinners evidenced especially in his Son's Cross.

'Every tree can be told by its fruit.' Lent is a time to try and live out God's generous spirit through giving to charity, by offering a listening ear to a person who is alone, by being prepared to give up even good things in order to train ourselves to become more and more like Jesus Christ. Those 'outer' actions have to be in harmony with a deep-down attempt to have Christ-like hearts.

Let us pray that this Word of God in today's Gospel may not only resonate inside ourselves but may help us in our striving to turn back to God and bear the rich fruits of Lent. It is not always easy but the Lord is there to be our guide and offer us the example of his life. ***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. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be the Main Celebrant at Holy Family's Mass.

OLD PALMS If you have old palms branches, please bring them into one of our churches by Tuesday morning and these will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

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 Hour** at Our Lady's on Friday 8th March and Friday 12th April after Stations of the Cross (around 8pm). 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.

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. *Please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.*

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.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Our Annual Mass organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be on Saturday 6th April at 12noon in the Focolare Centre (next to St. Bonaventure's). After the Mass there will be refreshments. All are welcome.

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.

FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION Next parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 13th March 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.

The CAFOD group will meet in the parish room at Holy Family on Tuesday 5th March at 2pm. All are welcome.

OUR LADY'S Many thanks to all who came to clean and maintain the church on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated with this vital work.

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 4th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Members of the RCIA Group are being presented at various Masses this weekend in readiness for the Rite of Election on Sunday 10th March when they will go up to the Cathedral and meet the Cardinal and Bishops of the Diocese. 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 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.

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

SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE There will be a gathering on Saturday 27th April after 6pm Mass at Our Lady's in the Sacristy of any pilgrims who would like to meet up before the pilgrimage in May. It will take the form of a bring and share. Also, any pilgrims who would like to be on a coach to and from the airport should let Fr. Norbert know.

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 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.

NEED A GARDENER? Then contact Daniel on 07751992492 for lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting, pruning, weeding.

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

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.

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 the Celebrant on 22nd March and 5th April.

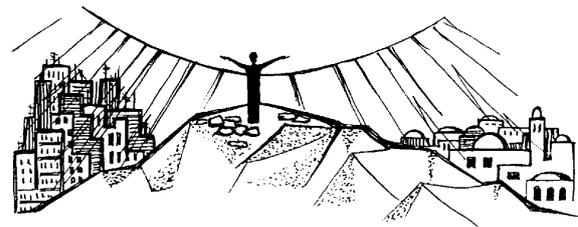
SYMBOLS OF FAITH WORKSHOP This trains adults in the preparation of children and adults with special needs for the Sacraments using symbolic catechesis. The workshop will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (16 Nightingale Road SG5 1QS) on Saturday 9th March 10am - 2pm. More details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

THE CWL are having their Lenten Lunches this year in The Salvation Army Rooms at the bottom of Mill Green Road next to Our Lady's Church. Starting on 16th March until 13th April. From 12.00 and 1.30pm. Soup, Roll, Cake, Tea or Coffee only £3.00. All very welcome. If you would like to come and need a lift please ring Sally Rand, 01707 884492

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CLEANING This Thursday at 10am. All welcome to help.

MASS TIMES

04 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
05 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Ash Wednesday
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure's	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
08 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
First Sunday of Lent				
09 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 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