

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*

First Sunday of Lent 10th March page 153 of the Mass Book

We've begun! The journey, the transformation, the grace of God - these are all parts of the Season of Lent. The destination is Easter with the joy of Jesus being raised from the dead, have suffered so grievously. The yearning is to undergo a change/conversion so that we can take on the likeness of Christ and reflect him in our lives to others. The grace is the reminder that our efforts in Lent are not determined solely by what we do; we have God to help, support and enrich us. This year Lent is starting so late! The school holidays will come before we know it - well before Easter. In the middle of it all is Brexit and what might or might not happen. It will certainly be a very different Lent!

The First Reading today from the Book of Deuteronomy has the theme 'The creed of the chosen people' and sets before us an account of what happened to the People of Israel when they went to Egypt and faced ill-treatment from Pharaoh: God saw their suffering and saved them. They came to the Promised Land where milk and honey flowed. Now they bring before God the first fruits of the land. God was the one in charge; they received the gifts. Now they show their gratitude through the offering to be made.

I was thinking about us as followers of Jesus Christ. What is our own personal story? Where has life taken us? What is the pain or misery we have had to endure? How do our lives resonate with the suffering of Christ? Do you reflect on how God has saved you? Have there been specific moments, events, people, places who/which have given you a taste of salvation? Are you still waiting or searching? Finally, what is the offering you want to bring before God at the end of the Lenten journey? The fruits of charity and kindness, the deepening of prayer and sacrifice or the healing of hurt and sadness? Taking time to stop, think and respond can make a real difference to ourselves and to so many others.

May God richly bless your Lent. Remember that each effort no matter how small is a gift to God and that Easter will be God's gift to us! ***Fr. Norbert***

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 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.

CAFOD FAST DAY will be this coming Friday (15th) and is an opportunity for us to support our brothers and sisters around the world. By eating a simple meal or by going without a luxury or something else, we can help to save those who have been devastated by floods, storms and other natural disasters. As you leave Mass today you will receive a CAFOD envelope. (CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.) Please return it next weekend when there will be a retiring collection. If you are a tax-payer and are able to GiftAid your contribution that would make a big difference too. Thank you.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL is another way of observing Lent. Take one of the special envelopes from the back of the church. Money raised through this appeal will support areas of Diocesan life: Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, the Church's Service in Society which now will include a new programme focusing on food poverty. Envelopes can be put in the church collection and will be sent on.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION The Marriage Preparation Day for Welwyn Garden City will be on Saturday 23rd March at Our Lady's from 10.30 am until 5pm. There will be the Blessing of Engaged Couples at 6 o'clock Mass that evening. This week Fr. Norbert will be contacting the couples who have already signed up. Whether you are marrying here in our town, in another part of this country or abroad, a Preparation Course is required. Couples marrying in 2020 are most welcome too! Please give your details to Fr. Norbert.

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. After Mass on 30th March, there will be a bring and share gathering in the sacristy. All are welcome.

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.

MICHAEL O'HARE RIP Michael's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Wednesday 13th at 2.45pm.

SVP REQUEST Double and Single sheets and pillow cases needed for a single Mum. Phone Janet if you can help 01707 326456.

NURSERY REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will be available on Monday 11th March at Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm to sign Certificate of Catholicity Forms.. 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.

FRIENDS of WELWYN CARE HOMES have been visiting local care homes since 2011 to have tea and a chat, a singsong, knit and natter or hold a simple prayer service. We are always looking for more volunteer visitors to bring 'Friendship, Companionship and Laughter' to the residents who appreciate our visits greatly. There will be an appeal (for people, not money!) at all Masses this Sunday and further information is available at the back of each church or from Anne Horsman: anne.horsman@btinternet.com/ 01438840566. **Dementia Prayer Week** takes place from 12th to 19th March.

RCIA Next session on Monday 11th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. **CONFIRMATION** The next session will be today (10th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION Next parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm. Congratulations to the children of St. Bonaventure's and Holy Family who made their First Confession yesterday (Saturday). Our Lady's children have theirs at 11am on Saturday 16th March. Please keep the 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.

SCHOOL VISITS A Year 9 class from Stanborough Secondary School will come to Our Lady's on Thursday 14th March in the morning. **OUR LADY SCHOOL** Years 1 and 2 will be attending 9.30 Mass on Monday 11th and staying for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

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 MASS This Saturday (16th) at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a gathering in the sacristy. There will be a quiz, bingo and a taste of St. Patrick! All are welcome. Please bring food to share.

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.

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. Keep the date free!

NEED A GARDENER? Then contact Daniel on 07751992492.

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.

LENTEN LUNCHEAS 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

SYRIAN FAMILY need a table/desk to fit 36 x 26 in space, also a chair. Phone John on 327771

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.

MASS TIMES

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

First Sunday of Lent

16 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
17 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**

