

# 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*

***Second Sunday of Lent 17th March page 157 of the Mass Book***

We have only reached the Second Sunday of Lent! How are things going? I have already been told off when eating chocolate biscuits or sweets with the strict voice of a parishioner saying 'It's Lent, Fr. Norbert!' We have had non-stop purple each day with no feasts to break up the austerity of penance. This week St. Joseph's Solemnity breaks into our Lent with the opportunity to cherish the Guardian who took such good care of Jesus, giving him the security of a home, the dignity of a trade as carpenter and a role model of a husband in the wonderful, humble way he loved Mary, wanting the very best for her no matter how hard it must have been for himself. In another week and it will be the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord which will mean just nine months to Christmas!!!! Isn't it so easy to look ahead and forget about the present moment?

Today we are high on a mountain with Jesus caught up in prayer! St. Luke tells us that Jesus was transfigured - such an amazing event foreshadowing the glory which is his as Son of God and as the One who would suffer, die and rise. Each of the Synoptic Gospels has an account. The Synoptic Gospels are Matthew, Mark and Luke; they can be read almost in parallel and have many similarities though there are some marked differences. St. Luke emphasises that the Transfiguration happened as Jesus prayed; in Luke's Gospel prayer is often a springboard for something significant. Jesus, we are told, talks with Moses and Elijah about his passing - *exodus* - which surely makes us think of the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, their journey to the Promised Land and their conviction that God was on their side. For us as Christians, Jesus is the Paschal Lamb whose sacrifice we will celebrate at Easter. It is he who wants to save us and his self-offering affords us the grace of passing over from sin/death to forgiveness and eternal life.

May God continue to be your inspiration, drawing you even deeper into the riches of his love revealed in Jesus. Have a good week! ***Fr. Norbert***

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** to parishioners from Ireland and other countries which have him as a patron saint. Happy feast to all Patrick's. God bless you!

**PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE** Are you interested in answering God's call? Why not go to an evening of prayer and conversation with like-minded people on Sunday 24th March at 6pm at St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ. Westminster Diocese Vocations Team will be at 6pm Mass. Seminarians and others will speak about their calling. After Mass there will be an opportunity to relax and speak to each other and to priests, religious and seminarians about the call of God, closing with Night Prayer at 8pm.

**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** was last Friday (15th). As you leave Mass today there will be a retiring collection for CAFOD - the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. If you are a tax-payer and are able to GiftAid your contribution that would make a big difference too. Thank you for your generous response. .

**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 next Saturday (23rd) 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. 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!

**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 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.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Years 3 and 4 will be attending 9.30 Mass on Monday 18th and staying for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

**RCIA** Next session on Monday 18th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** The next session will be today (17th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Next Sunday (24th) the young people will have a Retreat Day in Aylesford led by their catechists and Fr. Norbert. They will reflect on different kinds of prayer. Please remember them in your own thoughts and prayers.

**FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION** Final session for parents will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm. Congratulations to the children of Our Lady's who made their First Confession yesterday (Saturday).

**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. One coach is now full. Please return the forms with your money as soon as possible. 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.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**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!

**ASSISI 2020** Brochures and booking forms are now available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will have Christians from WGC to mark the Centenary and will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. There will be limited places so if you are interested, please return your booking form to Pax Travel as soon as possible. If anyone needs an electronic version, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**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 **this Sunday afternoon** 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.

**CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 16th April from 2- 4pm. 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 the Easter story. More information nearer the time.

**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 LUNCHESES** 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

**NEED A GARDENER?** Then contact Daniel on 07751992492.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 to discuss your cleaning requirements.

### MASS TIMES

18 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
19 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Joseph
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
20 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
21 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
22 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
23 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

### Third Sunday of Lent

23 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 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**