

# 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*

## ***Fourth Sunday of Easter 12th May page 269 of the Mass Book***

We are already half-way through Eastertide! We've had a dose of winter, continuing April showers, the political scene is still challenging and the world needs God's help desperately. Has anything changed?

Firstly, we have the confident hope of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. He understands his sheep and he gives eternal life won through his willingness to suffer, die and rise for the salvation of the world. Our Gospel passage today from St. John is short and sweet! And yet it says so much as it highlights the relationship between the Lord and his sheep: he knows us and we recognise his voice. Would you say that is the case in your life? How do you feel the love of this Good Shepherd? Have you felt his support, guidance, forgiveness, patience? What does his voice sound like to you? A gentle breeze, a roaring whirlwind, a stranger's word, a long conversation with a loved one?

Secondly, we have the example of the Early Church - the Apostles! Paul and Barnabas, in our reading from the Acts of the Apostles, have to reach out from the community they know to the pagans to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. In spite of being expelled, we are told that they are filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Their realisation of the wonders of God revealed in Jesus and their openness to the Holy Spirit's thrust impels them to find fresh ways and new places for evangelisation. Do you ever feel like giving up? Have there been times where you have put things on hold? Do you consider you are quite alone in your faith? Take heart from the Apostles!

Finally, if we turn to our Second Reading from the Apocalypse, we are given the vision of the sanctuary of heaven. There is some amazing imagery: the persecuted have their robes washed white again in the blood of the Lamb; God spreads his tent over them; they will be led to springs of living water. What would this water taste like? Feel God's tent thrown over you! Picture your sacrifices turned into something even greater by Jesus! This IS our destiny.

Easter will unfold for a few weeks longer. Let each one of us allow the Good Shepherd to enrich us with his life-giving grace. Have a great week! ***Fr. Norbert***

**ROISIN TOOLE RIP** Roisin's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 17th May at 11am.

**BRIAN HAUGHTON RIP** The Funeral Service for Brian (husband of Pamela) will be at St. Peter's Church, Tewin, on Friday 17th May at 2pm.

**STEPHEN LEHOLA RIP** Stephen's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Thursday 16th May at 11.45am.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL** will meet on Friday 17th May at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. If there are any items you want raised, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**ASCENSION DAY** this year will be on Thursday 30th May. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. The Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

**WALSINGHAM** This Saturday (18th May), we have a coach going to Walsingham in Norfolk. The Shrine dates back to 1061 and has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. It is always a glorious day and we have the joy of joining the National Deaf Pilgrimage. We will leave from Our Lady's Church at 8am, arriving in time for a Service in the village at 12 noon at the Church of the Annunciation (NR22 6DB). Fr. Norbert has been asked to lead this Service and the 'signing group' from WGC will help with the signed hymns. We will then walk the Holy Mile into the Catholic Shrine at the Slipper Chapel (NR226AL). There'll be a picnic lunch (please bring food and drink!), Mass and time to visit the Slipper Chapel, cream tea or ice-creams and we'll depart at 5pm. Please fill out a form available at the back of our churches to secure a place on the coach. Price £15 adults and £10 for children. **There are 12 places left.** Contact Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579) as soon as possible!

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** Our Lady's today (12th May) and 9th June at 11.30am, Holy Family 19th May 12 noon and St. Bonaventure's 16th June at 10.30am.

**FINANCE COMMITTEES** St. Bonaventure's will meet on Tuesday 21st May at 10.15am, Holy Family's on Wednesday 12th June at 7.30pm and Our Lady's on Wednesday 17th July at 7.30pm. Every few years there is an internal audit of each parish by the Diocese. Ours will take place over the first three weeks of June. Fr. Norbert is very grateful to the parishioners who are preparing all the documentation!

**SEAN COX** Sean will be 80 on Tuesday 21st May and invites you to a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady's at 5pm on that day.

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next First Friday early Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am on 7th June followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome.

**MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 14th June at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION** St. Bonaventure's children meet again on Saturday 10.30am. Parents need to come to a short meeting at the end of the lesson.

**INTERFAITH** The inter faith group has chosen a very topical subject for their next evening meeting.... Faith and Politics. It will take place at Hatfield Fire Station, on Tuesday 21 May 7.15 - 9.30 pm. The speaker will be Michal Siewniak and he has chosen the title 'Politics, Activism & Spiritual Life - A magical combination or dangerous mixture?'.  
**MARRIAGE** Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert.

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**CONFIRMATION** The final session will be today (12th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church. The Confirmation Rehearsal will be on Sunday 2nd June at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church and the Confirmation Mass on Friday 7th June at 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** We welcome this weekend the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, to the Special Needs Mass at Our Lady's Church (Saturday 11th).

**MAY DEVOTIONS** on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima this Monday (13th) after 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's. There will be tea/coffee and cake afterwards.

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** The demolition of the old hall is almost complete! Our thanks to all who came to help after Easter with the packing of things and transfer of items to the church tower of our Lady's.

**ONE CANONICAL PARISH** We have recently been told that we will have to wait until the new Parish Centre is built before any changes can be made. Fr. Norbert will keep you posted!

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

**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. 115 people have signed up from across our town. **The closing date will be Friday 24th May.** So please return the forms with your money as soon as possible. Don't miss out! The coaches will set off from Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout (AL7 1FT) where there is ample space for cars to be parked safely and securely.

**SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE** 40 pilgrims will set out on a 100 km walk from Tui in Portugal heading for Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain Saturday 26th May until Sunday 2nd June. If you would like Fr. Norbert to take any special intentions on this pilgrimage, please put them in a sealed envelope (no money!) and let him have the envelope by Friday 24th May.

**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

**POLISH-ENGLISH MASS** will be on Saturday 29th June at 6pm at Our Lady's. Serdecznie zapraszamy cala Polonie do udzialu w dorocznej Polsko-Angielskiej Mszy Sw, ktora odbedzie sie w Sobote, 29 Czerwca o godz 18:00 w kosciele Our Lady, Welwyn Garden City.

Po mszy sw, zachecamy do pozostania aby wspolnie swietowac poczucie wspolnoty. Zachecamy aby dolaczyc sie do wspolnej radosci oraz przyniesienia cos slodkiego do podzialu.

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

**AFRICAN MASS** The celebration for 2019 will be on Sunday 14th July at 11.30am.

**MISSIO/RED BOXES** A big thank you to everyone in the three churches who give their support by having a Red Box or by direct donations. The total raised in 2018 was a magnificent £4789.74. The grand total in Westminster was £199,283.73. Also a big thank you to all involved in collecting and counting the pennies.

**USED STAMPS** Please continue to save your used stamps. The ones given to St. Bonaventure's and Our Lady's are sent to St. Patrick's Missionary Society. The money then raised helps to fund various projects such as a new hospice in Zambia.

**LIVE SIMPLY** Poverty is never far from our doorstep. Hidden hunger is one of its effects. There are some 1.8 million school-age children at risk of hunger in the morning."Magic Breakfast", founded by Carmel McConnell and Family Action are in 1,775 schools and soon will be serving 200,000 breakfasts - but government funding is due to end in March 2020. More information [www.magicbreakfast.com](http://www.magicbreakfast.com)

**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**

**EXPERIENCED LOCAL GARDENER AVAILABLE** Call Daniel on 07751992492.  
**DO YOU NEED A CLEANER?** Then Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770. One off cleans, regular or weekly, fortnightly, etc.  
**NEED A MOBILE HAIRDRESSER?** Then call Tracey on 075812129417 for competitive rates. Husband James is also available for any property maintenance , rubbish clearance or house clearance with no job too big or too small. Contact James on 07572527731  
**LIFTS TO MASS AVAILABLE** - Phone Kay 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399.

**MASS TIMES**

13 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Our Lady of Fatima
14 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Matthias
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
16 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
17 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	11am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

<b>18 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>19 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	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**