

# 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*

## *Sixth Sunday of Easter 26th May page 274 of the Mass Book*

As you read this newsletter 40 of us will be embarking on the walk - Camino - to Santiago de Compostela along the Portuguese route from Tui. There is a special passport issued to pilgrims who manage 100km and so the journey will be this length with stamps attached at various points along the road. I have twice visited Santiago but never on foot! It will be challenging but very fulfilling. So many on this pilgrimage are coming because it is on their bucket-list of things they want to do in life. I am sure you have seen the television programmes and films about the Camino. Walking and talking, silence and prayer, togetherness and solitude, eating and drinking, sleeping and then more walking...! Pilgrimage brings people together and is life-changing. Pilgrims carry many intentions in their hearts. YOU are in mine and I will be thinking of you every step of the way. The great Cathedral of Santiago is the destination with its massive thurible - the botafumeiro. Unfortunately there is restoration work going on so it might not all be as we expect. Please keep us in your prayers too.

In our Second reading for this Sunday from the Book of the Apocalypse, we are giving an incredible vision of the holy city - Jerusalem. It is so beautiful and is illumined by the glory of God and the Lamb is a torch for it. John the Elder is in effect saying to us with confidence: 'This is how it will be' - absolutely amazing! Can you picture yourself in the image? How is God's grace perfecting you, preparing you for the ultimate encounter with him? Is there anything possible for you to do to get you more ready to enter the New Jerusalem? In our Gospel reading from St. John's Last Supper account, Jesus speaks to his friends about love - given and received; he offers them peace which is that well-being rooted in God's presence. Why not ask for these gifts today?

However, this week goes for you: work, half-term holiday, pilgrimage or the unexpected, may it be a time of blessing.

*Fr. Norbert*

**THY KINGDOM COME** This is a global network initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York a few years ago. Christian Churches across the world join in continuous prayer from the Ascension (30th May) with Our Lady and the disciples waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (9th June). Our desire is that people at home and abroad come to know Jesus Christ. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, leaders from the Methodist, Baptist, Free, Catholic, Pentecostal, Eastern and Oriental Churches have signalled their support. The launch event will be at the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Stevenage on Thursday 30th May. Every day afterwards at St. Albans Cathedral there will be prayer at 8pm in the Lady Chapel following different styles of worship/liturgy including Taize and *ex tempore* prayer. On Friday 31st Monsignor Harry Turner (who often helps in Welwyn Garden City) will lead prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration). There will be a Beacon Celebration at St. Albans on Sunday 9th June at 6.30pm to which everyone is invited.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** Our Lady's 9th June at 11.30am and St. Bonaventure's 16th June at 10.30am.

**FINANCE COMMITTEES** 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!

**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.

**CHAPEL** at Our Lady's will have to remain closed while the new Parish Centre is being built. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused.

**MARRIAGE** Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert.

**CONFIRMATION** 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.

**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

**DO YOU HAVE A MAN'S BICYCLE YOU NO LONGER NEED?** The gardener at St. Bonaventure's had his locked bike stolen from outside Sainsbury's last week. If you can help him please contact his mum on 01707 327284. Thank you.

**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.

**OUR LADY'S CLEANING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE** takes place next Saturday at 10am for one hour. Refreshments afterwards for your hard work.

**PARKING AT ST BONAVENTURE'S** The Medical Centre close to St. Bonaventure's has become a GP Surgery. Fr. Norbert met with the Practice Manager earlier in the week and he has now been informed that the car park will not be available on Saturdays or Sundays which is such a pity. It is important that the decision is respected by our parishioners. Please give yourselves plenty of time to park before Mass.

**SEMINARIAN** Dániel Vörös from the Diocese of Szombathely in western Hungary will spend a month with us this July improving his English and sharing in the life of our parishes. We look forward to welcoming him.

**LETTER FROM MAYOR** Barbara Fitzsimon, (former) Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, wrote a card following her visit to our Special Needs Mass on 11th May. She said: 'A really special Mass with lovely music and even sign language. I felt so welcomed by the congregation. Also, supper and games...a memorable evening!'

**WALSINGHAM** Last Saturday's pilgrimage to Walsingham was brilliant! There were 52 of us from our three parishes, different ages and a diversity of nationality and language. The signing group did so well at the Service which Fr. Norbert led. The children who served at Mass were a credit to Welwyn Garden City and many of our adults helped to carry the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham on the Holy Mile. One of the organisers of the Catholic Deaf Association Pilgrimage rang from Manchester to thank us for joining them and asking if we could join them next year! Saturday 16th May, 2020...Let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested!

**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. The coaches will set off from Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout (AL7 1FT) at 8am (there is ample space for cars to be parked safely and securely). Please bring a packed lunch. The day will include a Prayer Service, guided tours, free time and end with Evensong. If anyone would like to come to Mass before setting off, Fr. Norbert will celebrate Mass in Our Lady's Church at 7am. *No pressure!!*

**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.

### **PUPIL VACANCIES at Holy Family School**

Nursery - 5 places available (Free 30hrs Nursery places available)

Year 1- 2 places available

Year 2 - 1 place available

Year 5 -1 place available

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP** This group is in need of more people who would like to help with arranging the flowers. If you are interested or just want to know more then please phone Kathryn in the office on 01707 322579 or speak to her after Mass. You don't need to be an expert flower arranger!

**LIVE SIMPLY.** At a recent Meeting of all the Bishops of England and Wales they stated that humanity is facing an "*unprecedented ecological crisis*". They went on to pass a resolution that there is "*a moral duty to act with urgency and enable the faithful to make informed decisions, that care for creation and will assist in repairing the damage*". How do we 'the faithful' of WGC get involved? More to follow next week.

**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

**MASS TIMES**

|              |        |      |                 |                           |
|--------------|--------|------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 27 Monday    | *10am* | Mass | Our Lady's      | St. Augustine             |
| 28 Tuesday   | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | Easter feria              |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                           |
| 29 Wednesday | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family     | Easter feria              |
| 30 Thursday  | 9.30am | Mass | Holy Family     | The Ascension of the Lord |
|              | 12noon | Mass | St. Bonaventure |                           |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                           |
| 31 Friday    | 9.30am | Mass | St. Bonaventure | Visitation of the BVM     |
|              | 7pm    | Mass | Our Lady's      |                           |
| 01 Saturday  | 10am   | Mass | St. Bonaventure | St. Justin                |

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

|                    |                |             |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>01 Saturday</b> | <b>6pm</b>     | Mass        | Our Lady's      |
| <b>02 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>     | <b>Mass</b> | 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**