

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 6th May 2018 page 266 of the Mass Book

‘I have loved you...I call you friends...I chose you...’ These are snippets of what Jesus says to his disciples at the Last Supper in St. John’s Gospel. Think of your own life and unite yourself with the Lord. Allow the full import of his words to sink in and then consider what action is required!

Firstly, he has loved us. Wow! Obviously that might kindle warm feelings within. However, this kind of love is rooted in the reality of our lives. Jesus shared in our joys and our sorrows, times of acceptance and moments of rejection. And yet, he did not give up because his love for us is so powerfully available. This huge desire to do what is best for us led him to the Cross and his love is victorious!

Secondly, he counts each one us as his friend. He wants to talk to us personally. He listens - and really listens - as we speak to him from the heart. He takes us as we are; though it is likely that as he spends time with us we begin to take on a likeness to him! He walks by our side carrying our burdens for us. He teaches us the true value of friendship enabling us to grow in friendship with each other.

Thirdly, he has chosen us! What does he see in you? What have you done which has caught his notice? What plan does he have for you so that you begin to wonder why he has chosen you? How will he equip you for the future and the unfolding of his dream for you? Sometimes this is so obvious...at other times you are left wondering ‘Why me?’!

What is going to be your response? Judas left the table to betray him. Peter denied three times that he knew him. So many, apart from the Beloved Disciple, scattered. What about you? Let us pray for the courage to love as he has loved, to keep his commandments, to be filled with his joy! God bless your week ahead. *Fr. Norbert*

ASCENSION DAY will be celebrated this Thursday. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. Masses will be as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family Church, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's, 7pm at Our Lady's. Also, 9.15am at Holy Family School and 2.15pm at Our Lady School.

NOVENA OF PRAYER We are invited every day from the Ascension to Pentecost (20th May) to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us personally and upon the world. There is a link: www.catholicnews.org.uk/pentecost-novena. The daily prayer is

Grant to your Church that, being one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of Blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of the Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.

MONTY MONTGOMERY RIP Fr. Tom's Dad's Funeral Service will be in Corby on Friday 11th May. Fr. Tom invites us to a Month's Mind Mass at Holy Family Church on Thursday 24th May at 9.30am. There will be refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. All are welcome.

EARLY MASS A big 'Thank you' to the dedicated team providing breakfast after the early morning Mass on the First Friday of the month. It is always great to see so many coming out to the Mass too!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our thanks to all who helped with last Saturday's Mass and the refreshments after. It was a wonderful evening. The Deaf Service have written to express their gratitude to our parishes for the warm welcome and hospitality.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP A couple of weeks ago there was an Easter Memorial Service arranged by the Bereavement Support Group. Many people - adults and children - came and there was a tremendous sense of peace and comfort as the light of the Risen Lord shone upon us in Eastertide. Thank you to everyone who prepared the celebration and helped afterwards in the Hall.

JOE FERNANDES RIP Fr. Norbert's family will be marking Joe's First Anniversary of death on the day itself, Saturday 26th May, with Mass at 6pm in Our Lady's with a Get-together in the Hall afterwards concluding with the Rosary around 8.45pm. You are most welcome.

JANET SEELEY RIP Mrs Janet Seeley, Deputy Head of Our Lady Primary School died last Tuesday morning. She had battled with cancer but worked up to two weeks before her death. We offer our condolences to her family and to the School community. Thursday's School Ascension Day Mass at 2.15pm will be offered for the repose of her soul.

BANK HOLIDAY Mass will be at 10am on Monday 7th May and will be followed by a procession into the Peace Garden where there will be devotions to Our Lady to mark May as the month of Mary. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Garden Room. All welcome.

WESTMINSTER VISIT Fr. Norbert and a group of Christian Leaders from Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield will be going to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday to meet our MP, Grant Shapps. The purpose of the visit is to raise with him local issues and to pray for him and his family as he serves our area. Please be united with us in prayer!

EXAMINATIONS Many of you are getting ready for examinations. Be assured that you will be remembered in prayer at Mass. May God's Spirit guide you and help you to do your very best!

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

GARDENER AVAILABLE to maintain the beauty of your garden. Lawn cutting, edging, hedge cutting, pruning shrubs and roses and weeding. Call Daniel on 07751992492.

CHURCH CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE Many thanks to all those who came and cleaned our churches and maintained the grounds this week.

CAFOD The next CAFOD meeting will be on Wednesday 10th May at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. You are all very welcome to come along.

DEAN Fr. Norbert has been reappointed by the Cardinal as Dean of Stevenage and so enters his third term in office. Our Deanery extends from Hatfield to Royston and includes Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Knebworth and, of course, Welwyn Garden City.

CONFIRMATION Congratulations to the 48 young people confirmed last Friday evening. Our thanks to all who helped with the Liturgy and getting the church ready. We are so grateful to our catechists for their tireless work in preparing the young people for their Confirmation.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES Our Lady's: Sunday 13th May and Sunday 10th June both at 11.30am. Holy Family: Sunday 20th May at 12 noon, St. Bonaventure's Sunday 17th June at 10.30am.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be this Friday (11th) at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be on Saturday 23rd June at 12 noon at Our Lady's

FILIPINO MASS will be on Saturday 23rd June at 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS will be on Sunday 8th July at 11.30am

LOOKING AHEAD Pax Travel is arranging for us some pilgrimages: 25th May - 2nd June 2019 Walking the 'Camino' from Opporto to Santiago de Compostella, Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May 2020 and the Passion Play in Oberammergau 9th - 11th September 2020. More details will become available in due course.

INTER FAITH EVENTS On Thursday 17th May Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Road, AL10 0DA from 7pm. The Rev. Dr. Callan Slipper will be speaking on the subject of Mysticism. Callan is the Ecumenical Officer of the Church of England and an Anglican Priest from the Focolare Community in WGC. Also, looking ahead, on Sunday afternoon on the 17th June from 3 pm - 6 pm. at the Focolare Centre the WHIFG warmly invites you to an afternoon of story telling which will appeal to all ages from 4 - 94! Tickets available from Valerie Skottowe on 01707 324828. Valerie saw this theatre company recently and said 'the children and adults were enraptured'.

LOURDES Another pilgrimage with HCPT 183 is over, but the memory we have from our week away are truly special. We got to take away 7 fantastic children with all kinds of different needs, and enjoy the magical place of Lourdes with a HCPT twist. From torch light procession, joyful Masses, fancy dress parties, face painting and lots more.

Of course none of this would be possible without the support from the amazing people of the parishes, from helping us bag pack, quiz nights, Christmas fairs and collections you have made it happen! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting HCPT 183 xxx

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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil
 Johnson 01707 377442

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

CONFESSIONS
 Holy Family: Thursday **10am**
 St. Bonaventure: Saturday **10.30am -11am**
 Our Lady's: Saturday **5pm -5.30pm.**

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm.

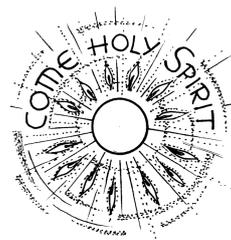
ZUMBA for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

MASS TIMES

07 Monday	*10am*	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
08 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
10 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Ascension of the Lord
	12noon	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria

Seventh Sunday of Easter

12 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
13 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**