

# 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*

## ***Third Sunday of Lent 24th March page 169 of the Mass Book***

Today's First Reading from Exodus takes us to the 'Call of Moses' and his discovery of God's name. It is a powerful passage for us to reflect on this Third Sunday of Lent and should prompt us in our response to the grace of this season which transforms us within.

The call takes place when Moses is going about ordinary, everyday things - he is looking after sheep and out in the open. There is no temple or shrine for the encounter. This is holy ground because of God's presence. There is a flame of fire from a bush which speaks to him; this is God. God calls Moses by name and Moses answers 'Here I am.' God then proceeds to tell Moses that he is aware of the suffering of his people and intends to deliver/save them. During Lent we are offered many opportunities to encounter God. Some are in church but considerably more are waiting to be found at home, work, school or in the community. The difference we can make to other people's lives can bring good to a multitude, including the hungry, the homeless, the downtrodden. God is looking out for us and calling to us. We need, with Moses, to reply with enthusiasm 'Here I am!' Our Lenten journey will take us to the Easter Vigil when a raging fire will be a sign of Resurrection breaking into a darkened world. The flame of fire reminds me of Pentecost and the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire which enabled the Apostles to be courageous witnesses of the Good News of the Risen Lord.

Moses enters into conversation with the Lord. He is ready to ask questions and God tells him his name - 'I Am who I Am'. It is a very strange, mystical name! The sense is 'I am God and that's that!' Lent is a time of discovery of who God is - the One revealed in Jesus. God understands our sufferings, difficulties and disappointments, fear and pain, our sins too. God wants us to pour out our hearts to him and to allow the Cross of his Son to be the instrument which brings salvation. When Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, there we see our God abandoned, humiliated, tender, forgiving and shining with a glory beyond measure. Like Moses, we should speak to God who is listening with love. We too ought to open our ears with love to the voice calling out to us. We must be aware of God in search of us and, in turn, look for signs of God's presence.

May God bless this week of Lent! ***Fr. Norbert***

**DON'T FORGET...**next Sunday is Mothering Sunday AND the clocks will go FORWARD one hour as British Summer Time begins!

**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 this evening (Sunday) 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 this Friday (29th) 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.

**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.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** A huge thank you to all who helped with last week's celebration - the Mass and the party afterwards. Everyone had a brilliant time. The next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 11th May at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**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 another 'practice' session to prepare on Tuesday 26th March at 7.45pm for an hour in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. 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 12 noon in the Focolare Centre (next to St. Bonaventure's). If you would like to attend or know of someone who requires a lift please contact Janet 01707 326456. After the Mass there will be refreshments. All are welcome.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Years 5 and 6 will be attending 9.30 Mass on Monday 25th and staying for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** at St. Bonaventure's, next Friday at 10.30am. For Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday. All welcome.

**REPOSITORY** at Our Lady's. Easter, Communion and Confirmation cards and gifts now on sale. Open before and after most Masses.

**RCIA** Next session on Monday 25th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** Today (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.

**POLISH-ENGLISH MASS** will be on Saturday 29th June at 6pm at Our Lady's.

**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.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**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.

**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 5th April.

**LIVE SIMPLY**-so that others can simply live.

During Lent we can choose to eat more plant-based meals and live more sustainably on the earth. Many of us enjoy meat and are grateful for the farming families who produce our food..Enjoying meat as an occasional treat will reduce carbon and methane emissions which damage the ozone layer.

**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.

**LENTEN LUNCHEES** 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. **Saturdays** 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

25 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	The Annunciation of the Lord
26 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
29 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

<b>30 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>31 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**