

# 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*

## ***Fifth Sunday of Lent 7th April page 176 of the Mass Book***

In February 2016, Pope Francis asked each Bishops' Conference to establish a Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. In response, the Bishops of England and Wales designated the Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent to be observed as this Day of Prayer. This year, therefore, the Day of Prayer is Friday 12th April.

*Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes:* I ask that this Day of Prayer is observed in all our parishes and chapels. It is important that we do so. Day by day, the pain of those who have suffered abuse, and its lasting corrosive impact, are brought more fully into the light. The pain of that betrayal of trust is all the more profound when the abuse took place within the community of the Catholic Church. We also see so clearly the failures in leadership in the Church that have exacerbated the sufferings of those who have been abused.

We have plenty of reasons to pray:

We pray for those who bear this pain. We pray for their strength and perseverance.

We pray for those who have been caught up in the circles of mistrust, silence and complicity which emanate from this abuse.

We seek repentance and renewal for all who have failed in their duty to protect and respond to the victims of these crimes.

We pray for a renewal in the life of our Church that has become a lodging place for this evil.

We pray in confidence that the Lord does not abandon His Church but constantly calls us to purify our ways of life.

We pray with Mary, our holy Mother, and finest expression of our Holy Mother, the Church.

Here in Welwyn Garden City we will reflect these intentions in the Stations of the Cross on Friday both in the morning after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's and at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. The Restoration Holy Hour will be filled with a spirit of peace, healing and hope. Please pray that day and come to what is possible. Thank you.

**CAFOD APPEAL** There will be a retiring collection this weekend for the peoples affected by the devastating cyclone in Africa. If you are able to GiftAid your contribution, please use one of the Special CAFOD envelopes. Thank you.

**ELLEN BROPHY RIP** Nellie's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 17th April at 12.30pm.

**WALSINGHAM** This year on Saturday 18th May, we will 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. 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. 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.

**CHRISM MASS** will be on Tuesday 16th April at 12 noon at Westminster Cathedral. If you are free, why not come and see the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the Cardinal, Bishops and priests renew their Promises?

**FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT DAY** Just to remind the First Communion families that they have their Afternoon Retreat at St. Albans on Sunday 28th April starting at 12.30pm. First Communion Masses will be on Sundays as follows: Our Lady's 12th May and 9th June at 11.30am, Holy Family 19th May 12 noon and St. Bonaventure's 16th June at 10.30am.

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** A pre-contract meeting took place during the week and it looks as though all systems are go! The builders should take possession of the site on Monday 29th April and the demolition of the old hall will follow. The project should take 12 'working' months, so our new Parish Centre would be ready by summer 2020. To get ready for the April date, we will need to have many helping hands to prepare items for storage and muscle to take things up the church tower into the rooms for safe keeping for the next year. On Friday 26th April at 11am, we are looking for volunteers to help wrap up glasses etc and box them up. On the same day from 6.30pm, we will move these boxes and furniture which is to be kept into the tower rooms. If you can help in any way, please let Fr. Norbert know. After that, whatever is left will be open to being taken by parishioners. Specific times will be published.

**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 Restoration Holy Hour at Our Lady's this Friday (12th) 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 main Service of Reconciliation for Welwyn Garden City will be in Holy Week on Tuesday 16th April at 8pm at Our Lady's.

**PALM SUNDAY** Any children who wish to take part in the Passion at the 11.30 Palm Sunday Mass on 14th April at Our Lady's should come to a practice the previous day (Saturday 13th) at 11am

**ALTAR SERVERS** In each of our sacristies there is a list of the Easter Services and practice times. Please sign up!

**EASTER VIGIL MUSIC** The music rehearsal for the Easter Vigil will be on Monday 15th April at 7pm in Our Lady's Church. All are welcome.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** this year in The Salvation Army Rooms on **Saturday** from 12pm to 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

**RCIA** Next session on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. This is the final session before Easter. There will be a retreat afternoon in the Focolare Centre next Sunday (14th).

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

**CONFIRMATION** The final session will be on Sunday 12th May 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.

**EASTER MEMORIAL SERVICE:** If you have been bereaved recently or long ago and would like to come together to remember your loved ones at this time of Easter, please join us on Saturday, 27th April at 12pm in St Bonaventure's Church for a short Service of prayer followed by refreshments in the parish Hall. The Bereavement Group.

**CHURCH CLEANING** St. Bonaventure's this Thursday 11th at 10am, and Holy Family after 9.30am Mass. Please do come along to help! And thank you to those who came and cleaned the church and maintained the grounds at Our Lady's this Saturday.

**BLESSING OF FOOD** Swieconka (sh-vee-en-soon-kah) is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish Easter traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. Blessing of the food will take place at Our Lady's Church, 20th April at 4pm. All welcome. Tradycyjnie w Wielka Sobote święcimy pokarmy, tzw. Święconkę, która ma się pojawić później na stole Wielkanocnym podczas niedzielnego śniadania w gronie rodzinnym. W naszej Parafii poświęcenie pokarmów odbędzie się w kościele Our Lady w Wielka Sobote, 20 Kwietnia o godzinie 16:00.

**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.

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

**LIVE SIMPLY** so that others can simply live. From the highest branch to the deepest root **TREES HEAL**, clean the air converting CO2 into Oxygen, providing medicines, **FEED AND SHELTER** insects, birds, mammals, as well as ourselves, **PROTECT** us by taking up flood waters through their roots and 'locking' the soil to prevent mudslides - even saving lives! *"Trees are Earth's endless effort to speak to the listening Heaven."* R. Tagore.

**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. £2 per child to cover some of our costs.

**EXPERIENCED LOCAL GARDENER AVAILABLE** Call Daniel on 07751992492.

**NEED A CLEANER** phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770.

**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.

**POLISH-ENGLISH MASS** will be on Saturday 29th June at 6pm at Our Lady's. Polish community would like to invite everyone for the Polish - English Mass on 29th of June at 6pm. After the Mass join us for the reception where you'll be able to taste Polish food.

Zapraszamy wszystkich serdecznie na polsko - angielską mszę która odbędzie się 29 czerwca o godzinie 18.00. Po mszy zapraszamy na spotkanie, podczas którego będzie można spróbować polskiego jedzenia. Zachecemos do pomocy w organizacji tego corocznego przedsięwzięcia.

**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

**INTER FAITH** On Tuesday 23rd April at 7.15PM in the Focolare Centre the local interfaith group will be presenting an event entitled 'The Supernatural in Religion'. Everyone welcome,.

### MASS TIMES

08 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
09 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
11 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
12 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

### Palm Sunday

13 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 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**