

# 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*

## ***Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 14th April page 190 of the Mass Book***

We have nearly arrived! Today, on Palm Sunday, we enter Jerusalem with Jesus and so begin Holy Week. Each day we will get closer to the Sacred Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday-into-Easter Sunday) with the intensity of Christ's love poured out generously upon the human race, bringing us salvation. This year, the schools are well into their Easter holidays and the calendar is speeding through April - thus creating a strange kind of feeling! Nevertheless we must not forget that these Three Days define our identity as Christians: we re-live the moments of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection, we remember and experience once more the saving grace, we are drawn more deeply into the eternal life of God made visible in his Beloved Son, the Incarnate Word who triumphed over sin and death...we are even nearer to heaven!

Today we will be meditating on the Passion following St. Luke. In this Gospel Jesus prays: "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." We also have the encounter between the Good Thief and Jesus summed up as follows: ' "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom"... " Today you will be with me in paradise." ' Jesus concludes his Passion with the words: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Just ponder these last hours in Jesus' life as he forgives, promises and prays - all in the midst of acute pain and suffering. These are not empty words but the powerful expression of God's Son calling out to his Father and longing for us to share with him in the forgiveness and eternal life which flow from the Cross. Are there people we still need to forgive or be open to their forgiveness? Are there promises we have not kept or which we should make to God? Can we use our voices to pray to our God who is approaching us through his Son us and is offering us everything?

As a community we will be blessed with the presence of many visitors in our midst this week; others will be away celebrating with family and friends elsewhere. May God watch over us all with tender care and guide us safely and lovingly to the glory of Easter next Sunday.

Let us pray for each other!

***Fr. Norbert***

**LENT** During this final week of Lent, there will be **Stations of the Cross** on Wednesday at Holy Family (after 9.30 Mass). There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for 30 minutes on Monday at Our Lady's (after 9.30 Mass). The **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will be on Thursday at Holy Family (9.30 - 10.30am), Saturday at St. Bonaventure's (10.00 - 11.00am). The main **Service of Reconciliation** for Welwyn Garden City will be on Tuesday 16th at 8pm at Our Lady's at which there will be 5 priests available.

**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.

**GOOD FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE** is a time of reflection at 8pm at Our Lady's, a chance to think back over the events of the day. There will be Scripture, music, silence and chance to pray before the Cross. It will last 45/50 minutes. Everyone is welcome.

**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.

**CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** There is an Easter Workshop for children this 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.

**NEW PARISH CENTRE** 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. A number of parishioners have offered to help; if anyone else is free, please let Fr. Norbert know. On **Sunday 28th April between 7pm and 8pm** the hall will be open for whatever is left to being taken by parishioners.

**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.

**LIFTS TO MASS AVAILABLE** - Phone Kay 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399.

**EASTER NEWSLETTER** Next Sunday's newsletter will cover three Sundays, so please send in any information to Kathryn Hubbard by Wednesday evening. The next newsletter after that will be the weekend 11th/12th May.

**RCIA** There is a retreat afternoon for the group in the Focolare Centre today (14th). Please for the adults and children who will be baptised, confirmed and make their First Holy Communion on Saturday at the Easter Vigil. Our thanks to their catechists for all the support they have given.

**MARRIAGE** Any 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.

**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.

**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!

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

**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.

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

**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 the Focolare Centre the local interfaith group will be presenting an event entitled 'The Supernatural in Religion'. Everyone welcome.,

**LIVE SIMPLY** so that others can simply live. Pope Francis in his document 'Laudato Si - on Care for Our Common Home' says "One Person of the Trinity [Jesus] entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross" 'By your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world'. We have a part in this saving action to restore and replenish our planet.

**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**

**THANK YOU** to all those who came and cleaned our churches this week in preparation for Easter.

### **TIMES OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>8pm</b>	<b>Reconciliation Service</b>	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family

### **EASTER TRIDUUM**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>7pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	Holy Family
<b>8pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	Our Lady's

#### **Good Friday**

10am	Children's Way of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
12noon	Children's Way of the Cross	Our Lady's
<b>3pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>3pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</b>	Holy Family
<b>5pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</b>	Our Lady's
<b>8pm</b>	Good Friday Service	Our Lady's

#### **Holy Saturday**

<b>9pm</b>	<b>Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>
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#### **Easter Sunday**

<b>8am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Holy Family
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	St. Bonaventure
<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Our Lady's

**No evening Mass today**

**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**