

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***The Ascension of the Lord (page 277) 8th May 2016***

‘Going, going, gone...but not quite yet!’ These seem to me the words which sum up the mystery of today’s Solemnity as we gather to celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. Jesus, who suffered and died, who has been raised from the dead and spent time in his disciples’ company, is now taken from them and is seated in glory at the Father’s Right Hand. He intercedes for us. He is the pattern of humanity at its best, evidenced by his total obedience to his Father and his willingness to suffer for our salvation. His sacrifice is the source of salvation and he wants us ALL to join him and share in the Victory won on Calvary. In that sense *gone!*

However, he finds ways, through the power of his Holy Spirit, of staying with us: through the Sacraments, in his Real Presence in the Eucharist, in his Word which is proclaimed afresh in every generation, by the witness of the Church AND in, and through, people and situations, in quiet moments as well as in the amazing miracles of life, in the happiness and the sadness which come our way. *So not quite yet!*

Another aspect comes from our belief in his promise that he will return at the end of time, to bring the ages to their close and offer to his Father the Kingdom in its fullness. In the Book of the Apocalypse, we keep hearing about a new heaven and a new earth, the Holy City, the Heavenly Jerusalem. It is hard to grasp the totality of what Scripture is pointing us to, but what is clear is that there will be an end of time, that he will come back and that there will be a transformation beyond compare. So in the end, not gone for ever but *coming back!*

The Ascension reminds us that the Easter Season is drawing to a close. All that awaits us is Pentecost with the Coming of the Holy Spirit to remind us of all Jesus said and did, to kindle our faith and to encourage us in our proclamation of the Good News through the way we live, the words we speak and our conviction. Next Sunday will be the Fiftieth Day! Let each one of us beg the Spirit to come to us. Let us yearn for the Spirit’s Gifts to bear even more fruit in our lives. Let us hope with all our hearts that the Spirit will renew the face of the earth.

God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**BILLIE JOYCE RIP** Billie's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 16th May at 12.30pm. His body will be received into the church at 7.30pm on Sunday 15th.

**ANITA ARTHUR RIP** Anita's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 20th May at 11am.

**PATRICK KENEALLY R.I.P.** Patrick's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 16th May at 9.30am.

**THANKS** to all who helped with the Special Needs Mass and Reception to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. It was a wonderful celebration and enriched by the Welwyn Garden City Brass Band. Thanks also to all who prepared the Mass Devotions and refreshments last Monday.

**CONFIRMATION** Congratulations to our young people confirmed on Friday. We are very proud of them and so grateful to our catechists for their hard work in preparing them. Our thanks to all who helped with the liturgy and making the church look so beautiful.

**SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** There are many couples from Welwyn Garden City going up to the Cathedral on Saturday afternoon for the Mass to celebrate Marriage. We wish them every blessing and a wonderful time!

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES** Our Lady's Sundays at 11.30am: 15th May and 5th June. Holy Family Sunday 22nd May at 12noon. St. Bonaventure's Sunday 12th June at 10.30am. Please keep the children in your prayers.

**HCPT GROUP 183** is having its reunion today (8th); after 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's. Members will gather in the Hall.

**PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL** will be meeting in Our Lady's Sacristy on Monday 9th at 7.30pm. Minutes of the last meeting are available at the back of our churches. If you would like any matters raised, please send them into Fr. Norbert. On Monday 19th September there will be an Open Parish Meeting at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Hall for our three churches at which the accounts of the three churches will be presented and various updates given. You are all welcome. Please keep this date free.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** Michael Cole is stepping down from Holy Family's Finance Committee which he has served for 30 years, many of those years as Chair. We are very grateful to him. New members are now needed for the Finance Committee - an expertise in buildings would be great! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

**FILIPINO MASS** The Filipino Community will lead Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 11th June at 6pm. There will be a gathering in the Hall afterwards with lots of Filipino delights!

**AFRICAN MASS** will be on Sunday 10th July at 11.30am. The next planning meeting will be after Our Lady's 11.30 Mass on Sunday 22nd May.

**PLANTS** Nicholas Breakspear School has plants for sale: Tomatoes, Alicante, Moneymaker, and Gardener's Delight @40p per plant; Marigolds and Lobelia @£2.00 per tray; Later Petunias, Begonias, Impatiens. Contact the school on 01727 860079 and leave a message for Mr Short with a contact number.

**ST. THOMAS BECKET** The relics of St. Thomas Becket will be coming to England from Hungary for a week long pilgrimage and tour of the country. There will be a Mass of Welcome at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 23rd May at 5.30pm to which all are invited.

**SEMINARIANS** Cedric de la Serre from the Diocese of Nanterre will be ordained priest on Saturday 18th June. David Krupa from the Diocese of St. Denis will be ordained priest on Sunday 26th June. Please keep them in your prayers as their ordinations approach. The experience of being in Welwyn Garden City in our parishes over the last few years has been very important for them. On Saturday 2nd July two more seminarians from Seville will be arriving for three weeks: Fran Trigo and Alfonso Pascual.

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** organised by the SVP will be in Our Lady's on Saturday 21st May at 12 noon. All are welcome to come to this Mass and if you wish to come and are in need of a lift please fill in your name and phone no. on the list at the back of church.

**THE 400 CLUB** the results of the April draw were: 1st prize £100 no: 011 Mrs Bharrat 2nd prize £50 no: 050 D. Savage 3rd prize £25 no: 120 Mrs O. Merry . The next subscription/draw will take place on the weekend of May 28th and 29th, with the draw on Monday 30th.

**DVD'S** The DVD of the 90th anniversary is ready if anyone would like one, the cost is £5 per copy. DVD'S of the Padua Pilgrimage are still available. Please phone Martin 07768650660.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** 24th July - 2nd August in Krakow, Poland. Steveage Deanery is definitely on for Krakow! Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. The price is £750 including a deposit of £80. Here in WGC our finance committees have agreed to subsidise each young person by £300. So sign up! The next gathering of the group from the Deanery is on Friday 13th May at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall. The young people will put on a fundraising Quiz Night on Friday 8th July at 7.45pm.

**QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY TEA** The Christian Churches in WGC are going to put on an afternoon tea in Howardsgate on Sunday 12th June 3 - 5pm followed by a 'Songs of Praise'. There will be tea and cakes, bouncy castles, games and face painting. Help will be needed for this event which will be our way of marking this great occasion and reaching out to the wider community. Various permissions are required for an event like this and these are in the process of being sorted out. More details in due course but keep the date free!

**AYLESFORD** Parish Pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy to Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 14th May. The coach will leave Our Lady's at 9am. There will be the Rosary Way at Aylesford, picnic lunch (bring all you need!), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass. We should be back by 6pm. The cost will be £10 for adults and £5 for children. Please sign up your name on a list at the back of our churches. Eight places left! After today the lists will be with Kathryn Hubbard at St. Bonaventure's should someone want to sign up at the last minute!

**OUR LADY'S** : Many thanks to all who came on Saturday morning to clean the church and maintain the grounds. Your help is much appreciated.

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING** this takes place on Thursday at 1.15pm. Please do come and help. Refreshments will be available.

**DO YOU HAVE A LARGE VAN?** Fr. Martin is in need of someone who can remove 2 small sofas from a parishioner's house to the presbytery at Holy Family. Phone Fr. Martin on 327434 if you can help.

**SURVEY** One of our parishioners is doing research for her doctorate and needs people **AGED 50 YEARS OR ABOVE** to spare 15 minutes of their time to complete an online survey regarding online communication media being used in the public sector. The aim of this research project is to find out the views of the UK's 50+ population in order to understand what are the reasons underlying their choice of online communication channel. The online survey can be accessed from all computers, PCs, laptops, iPads and Smartphones at the following website address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFDJLQQ> *Please be assured that any information you provide will be used for academic research purposes only.* Thank you.

**MISSION OF MERCY** Week beginning Monday 6th June. Each evening (Monday to Friday) there will be a Service in Our Lady's Church led by the priests of the Stevenage Deanery from 7.30 - 9pm.

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 6JF

Fr. Martin 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

**INTERFAITH EVENTS** Ladies Lunches have moved to a new venue: The Focolare Centre for Unity and will be meeting on Tuesday 10th May from 12.30 until 2pm.

On Thursday 12 May from 7.15pm - 9.30pm there is an invitation to all faith communities to share Common Ground Between Faiths through story and festivals at the Quaker Meeting House in Handside Lane.

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION** 'Breathe in Mercy. Breathe out Mercy' led by Bishop John Crowley, retired Bishop of Middlesbrough on Saturday 10th September for our Deanery in Our Lady's Hall, WGC.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN** We meet again on Saturday when we learn about God's Greatest Gift to us. Parents should come for a short meeting at 11.15am. **CHILDREN'S MASS** Next Sunday 10.30am at St. Bonaventure's.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE BROCHURES** for next year will be ready any day now and will be at the back of our churches.

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

**MASS TIMES**

09 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
10 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
12 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
13 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Our Lady of Fatima
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Matthias

			<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	
14 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
15 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 you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on