

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*

Corpus Christi 18th June 2017 p. 83 of Mass book

Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes: The words of today's Gospel contain a remarkable promise: 'Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever' (John 6:58). This promise of everlasting life comes to its fulfilment in the death and resurrection of Jesus, in which He not only shares our human nature, destined for death, but also gives to us the gift of new life after that death. This promise lies at the very core of our faith and it is made real, within our reach, in every celebration of Mass. In the Eucharist we come before the Lord, present to us for ever in the very act of fulfilling His promise through the breaking of His Body and the shedding of His Blood. This is the great feast we celebrate today. In the presence of this Sacrament, whether at Mass, at Benediction or reserved in the tabernacle in the silence of a church, our stance is always that of adoration.

This call to adoration, in Latin *adoremus*, is the title being given to an initiative of all the bishops of England and Wales to create a special opportunity for us to reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives. From 7th to 9th September 2018 there will be a 'National Eucharist Congress' in Liverpool called 'Adoremus'. Through this event, and all the preparation taking place before it, we seek to rejuvenate Eucharistic adoration in our parishes as the source of strength for our lives and for our mission, that of making present the love and compassion of Jesus in our society. Every diocese will be taking part and I hope that many of you will be willing to make the pilgrimage to this Eucharistic Congress next September. Incidentally, the last National Eucharistic Congress took place in 1908 and permissions for a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament were refused!

There is good reason why our participation should be strong. Tucked away in Covent Garden, in central London, is the Parish Church of Corpus Christi. In October 1874, one of my predecessors, Cardinal Manning, preached there, saying how it was the first church in England since the Reformation to be graced with the dedication 'Corpus Christi'. Today that church is being rejuvenated and rendered beautiful once more, a centre indeed for our Eucharistic adoration.

And there is another reason for our special attention to the Blessed Sacrament. A priest of this diocese, Fr Francis Stanfield, composed the wonderful hymn to the Blessed Sacrament, Sweet Sacrament Divine. He was for a while parish priest of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph in Hertford and priest in charge at St Edmund of Canterbury, Old Hall Green,

also in Hertfordshire. But it was as parish priest of Corpus Christi in Covent Garden that he wrote this famous hymn which I sincerely hope is well known to you all.

In prayer before the Blessed Sacrament we slowly discover that there we find a home for every heart. For this reason we pray with suppliant hearts, full of love and heartfelt praise. We come into the presence of our Blessed Lord with our anxieties and troubles. But there all restless yearnings cease and sorrows all depart. There, in the peace of His presence, we can speak freely, telling our tale of sorrow and distress, whispering as it were into His ear. This is a Sacrament of shelter and a shoreline of safety.

In my experience, it takes time spent in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the Body and Blood of the Lord there in front of our eyes, before we realise that in its far depths our Godhead's majesty is softly shining. This is indeed the true light of the world, the world's true Jubilee. And seeing this with the eyes of faith, and sensing it in our open, loving hearts, we pray most fervently that this sweet light may always shine upon us so that we never lose our sense of direction, our instinct for our heavenly home.

I pray most earnestly today that this Solemnity of the Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord will draw us more deeply into the glory of this sweet Sacrament. I pray that our preparation for 'Adoremus', the Eucharistic Congress of September 2018, and our participation in it, will reawaken in us all the deep desire to share our faith, to invite others to come to its consolations and find again its joys.

In this way we will take to heart again the wonderful words of our Blessed Lord: 'As I, who am sent by the Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me' (John 6:57). In receiving this food, in prayer before this Sacrament, let us always remember: 'Adoremus', Come, let us adore Him.

FR. MARTIN has been appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Stoke Newington. He will take up his new appointment at the start of September. We wish him every blessing. The Diocese will be sending us Fr. Tom Montgomery as the new Assistant Priest to serve our three parishes based at Holy Family Church.

THANKS to the SVP and all who made last weekend's Mass with the Anointing of the Sick such a powerful and prayerful experience and the Reception afterwards a wonderful experience of Community. God bless you all!

ME AND MY MUSIC at St John's Digswell (off Knightsfield) Fr. Norbert has been asked to reflect on his life and choose his favourite music on Monday 10th July at 7.30pm with a delicious cheese and wine at the interval. Fr Norbert will select his 6 favourite pieces of music and be interviewed by Fr Rob Marshall about his life and work and why the chosen music means so much to him. The cost is £7 per ticket and all proceeds from the evening will be put to one side to assist those charities which St John's supports. To book: text your attendance and how many are coming to 07766 952113 - or email stjohnsdigswell@gmail.com

RCIA For those who want to join the Catholic Church or to find out more, the next RCIA Course will begin after the summer. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

DAVID BRADLEY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for David Bradley will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 27th June at 1pm,

BRIDGET (BRED) GODKIN R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Breda Godkin will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 28th June at 12.15pm.

LOVING HOME needed for very affectionate, playful, three year old female cat. Neutered and chipped, jabs up to date (boosters due in July). Comes with scratching post, carry case, hooded litter tray, toys and food. Contact Tim Hogan on 07752031462, tg.hogan59@gmail.com or choir loft at Holy Family after 9:30 Mass.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to each and every dad. God bless you.

ST. BONAVENTURE will be 800 years old this year! We will mark this on the Feast of St. Bonaventure, Saturday 15th July, at the 10am Mass followed by cake and coffee/tea in the parish garden.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATE St. Bonaventure's: Sunday 25th June at 10.30am. Mass of Thanksgiving for the children and families of our three churches Sunday 2nd July at 3pm at Our Lady's.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP on Saturday 1st July 10am until 3pm in Our Lady's Hall. This 'Day' will discuss mental health awareness in parishes, faith and mental health and how to support those with a mental health problem so that the parishes become even more welcoming and inclusive. Ben Bano who has championed 'Welcome me as I am' will lead prayer and give input. Sonia Clarke from MIND Mid-Herts will speak about local services. The Day is aimed at care-givers and key leaders in parish groups who would then be able to inform/train others. The outcomes/hopes are: ·A few parishioners trained with the mental health 'first aid' course, Carers Support Groups, to strengthen the 'ministry of welcome', displays in parishes for MIND services and signposting to find help for mental health support. For more information and to book a place visit www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/mentalhealth or email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

HOLY FAMILY'S 50TH PRAYER SERVICE AND BARBECUE Sunday 16th July at 3pm. There will be a 30-minute Service with Benediction followed by a Parish Barbecue hosted by the Hedgehog.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND & WALES have organised a 'Mega Youth Poll'. In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call. If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you: what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. Please use this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll>. If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link. For queries about the Youth Poll please email: synod2018@cbcew.org.uk.

AFRICAN MASS Sunday 9th July at 11.30am at Our Lady's followed by a reception in the Hall.

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS will be celebrated on Saturday 7th October at 6pm at Our Lady's.

QUIZ NIGHT HCPT group 183 will be having a quiz night on Friday 30th June to help raise money for a child's place on next years pilgrimage trip. Teams of up to 8 people and £5 per person. In Our Lady's church hall, starting at 8pm, prizes for the winning team as well as a raffle. To book your table please contact Barbara Moore on 07789 743703.

TRANSPORT TO MASS Following a good response we now have 25 volunteer drivers and have begun a pilot with several parishioners who would like a lift to Mass. These parishioners have welcomed the opportunity to attend Mass which allows them to continue to be included in our church community. In order to extend the service we would need some more drivers, so please volunteer and if you know of any other people who would like a lift then please complete one of the forms at the back of the church, or contact Joe Galloway on 01707 894207.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Fr. Martin 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

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

CARITAS VOLUNTEER SERVICE This Diocesan Agency is seeking to recruit volunteers to be involved in social action. For more information pick up one of the leaflets at the back of our churches or email Verity Sykes on caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS The Diocese is always looking for volunteers to take on the role of being a foundation governor in our Catholic schools. Indeed here in Welwyn Garden City we need more. If you are interested take one of the leaflets at the back of the church and let Fr. Norbert know if you are interested.

WANTED A bike for a Syrian lady. Contact John Fogarty if you can help.
john.fogarty@ntlworld.com

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

MASS TIMES

19 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
20 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Alban
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Aloysius Gonzaga
22 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family SS	John Fisher and Thomas More
23 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Sacred Heart of Jesus
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Nativity of John the Baptist

Twelfth Sunday of the Year

24 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
25 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 Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138** (24/7) **Urgent need: 01438 314 333** via text message: **07876 526935** email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net