

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*

***Easter Sunday 1st April/ Second Sunday of Easter 8th April and
Third Sunday of Easter 15th April 2018***

HAPPY EASTER! At last we have made it to the destination we embarked upon on Ash Wednesday (Valentine's Day!) and set our sights on last Thursday at the start of the Sacred Triduum. It's April Fools' Day!!!! Many might think that we who are Christians have a strange belief in 'Resurrection'. They sometimes challenge us that this is wishful thinking or just a story made up to keep people happy. Was the first Easter a hoax? Certainly not! We are gathered today and in these next weeks to continue proclaiming the message which the first Apostles did: Jesus has risen from the dead! He is no longer in the Tomb. They encountered him: eating, drinking, talking, listening, feeling his risen body. He was not a resuscitated corpse but there was an extra quality to his Body - Risen Life! What they experienced they shared with another generation and they were willing to die for their Faith in the Risen Christ. The Good News has been handed on; it has been received, mulled over, lived out and passed on. This is the process by which we find ourselves here today!

Each person is very important to God. And each person has his or her unique journey in life. At times everything falls into place and we feel the power of faith. At other moments searching, wondering, questions are uppermost. The key is to be open to the presence of the Risen One. He says to us 'Do not be afraid' and offers us words of peace. He allows us to feel the wounds of his suffering which now radiate glory. And he can open our minds to come to a deeper understanding of who he is and where he is leading us.

It is really good to be able to welcome visitors here in Welwyn Garden City. For those who have been away I hope your Easter has been a time of grace and peace. May God bless you and your loved ones this Easter. Thank you for all the support you give me as your Parish Priest. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

EASTER MEMORIAL SERVICE: HOPE AND PEACE 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, 21st April at 12pm in St Bonaventure's Church for a short Service of prayer followed by refreshments in the parish Hall. *The Bereavement Group*

EASTER SACRAMENTS Congratulations to the adults and children who received the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil! May the Light of the Risen Lord continue to shine upon them as they develop their faith. Our thanks to the catechists who have worked so hard sharing their faith and love with the RCIA Group.

EASTER THANKS A heartfelt word of thanks to the many people who have helped us in our three churches with the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. In the Liturgy: Musicians and Singers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Children's Liturgy Catechists and Welcomers. Behind the scenes: Sacristans, Cleaners, Flower Arrangers, those who prepare the Easter Candles, booklets and newsletters; also, in the background, a great team ready to help in any way in Holy Family, Our Lady's and St. Bonaventure's. Then there are the hundreds who come to worship, hallowing the church buildings with faith and devotion in the midst of the joys and sadnesses of life. Fr. Tom and Fr. Norbert would like to thank you for your Easter cards, gifts and good wishes which are much appreciated. On a personal note, Fr. Norbert would like to thank Fr. Tom - celebrating his first Easter in the Garden City - and Kathryn Hubbard, our parish secretary, for their tireless service and dedication.

PAUL CONNOLLY RIP Paul's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 6th April at 12.30pm.

BRIDGET GOODWIN RIP Bridget's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 12th April at 12.30pm.

ADAM LINDSAY RIP Adam's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 18th April at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure's.

MARGARET PENNETT RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 20th April at 11.45am.

PHILIPPINE SUPPER Saturday 14th April 2018 (6-9pm) at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. You are invited to an evening of Philippine food, together with music and fun to raise funds for Genfest 2018, an international meeting of young people who want to show the world that universal fraternity, a united world, is an ideal worth living for. The inspiration for Genfest is to work towards the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer 'Father, May they all be One'. Genfest 2018: 'Beyond all Borders' is being held in the World Trade Centre in Manilla from 6th – 8th July 2018. To book for the 14th April (suggested donation £10) please contact Sarah on 01707 339706.

CAFOD The next CAFOD meeting will be on Tuesday 10th April at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are very welcome. A list of the winners of the Easter raffle will be on the notice board from Sunday 8th April please check in case you are one of the lucky ones.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Many, many thanks for all your support at the Catholic Women's League's Lenten Lunches. We made an amazing £600 to be shared between Cafod, HCPT and SVP. Considering the weather and having to cancel one of the Saturdays, you are all very generous and we appreciate the support you give us. Many thanks once again and we wish you a Happy Peaceful Easter with God's Blessings and hopefully a little bit of sun.

The Catholic Women's League are having a Speaker on 10th April. It is a Local Parishioner and she will be speaking to us on 'Dentistry'. Please come and support her and enjoy a sociable and friendly evening and learn all the secrets of modern dentistry. The Family Centre at 8pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY A huge thank you to all who helped with the Day on 24th March. There were 19 couples who will marry this year and next; many in WGC, though some abroad. Lots have commented on how welcome they felt and the sheer delight in meeting other couples who will be getting married. Please keep them in your prayers.

HCPT GROUP 183 is in Lourdes until Saturday 7th April. Please keep them in your prayers. Group 183 will remember you in prayer and light a big candle for our parishes at the Grotto.

VISIT TO ST. EDMUND'S There will be an afternoon at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm with an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake! Please give Fr. Norbert your name, the number coming and a contact phone number. This is essential as St. Edmund's will have to know the numbers (preferably by Easter). Many of you will be able to get there by your own cars (postcode SG11 1DS) However, if you need a lift, please let Fr. Norbert know. 36 have signed up so far!

AYLESFORD On Saturday 5th May we will have a pilgrimage to Aylesford in Kent. The present shrine dates from 1958 and it is a place of peace and serenity, welcoming people from many backgrounds, languages and cultures. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 9am sharp and will return by 7pm. We will be joining about 900 pilgrims. There will be Mass, the Rosary and quiet time. Altar servers are welcome to take part: just take your alb and cincture. Please bring a picnic lunch. Price: £12 for adults and £8 for children. To book a seat on the coach, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 or email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

AVIGNON 2018 Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Between 1309 and 1377, seven successive popes resided in Avignon. There is an amazing Palace of the Popes and the renowned Bridge of Avignon where we are going to sing 'Sur le pont d'Avignon'. Close by is Chateauneuf-du-Pape where we will do wine tasting! Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches. 27 have signed up already; just a few places left! Why not take a brochure from the back of the church and find out more?

CONFIRMATION The final session for candidates will be at Holy Family on Sunday 22nd April at 7.15pm in the Parish Room. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 4th May at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. (Rehearsal on Friday 27th April at 7.45pm at Our Lady's)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT The First Holy Communion families of our three parishes will have a Retreat Afternoon at St. Albans on Sunday 29th April.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES Our Lady's: Sunday 13th May and Sunday 10th June both at 11.30am. Holy Family: Sunday 20th May at 12 noon, St. Bonaventure's Sunday 17th June at 10.30am.

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD will be celebrated on Monday 9th April (transferred from Holy Week)

ST. GEORGE'S DAY will be on Monday 23rd April. After Our Lady's 9.30 Mass there will be refreshments in the sacristy. All welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will be on Saturday 28th April at 6pm at Our Lady's. The whole Mass will be signed - members of the Diocesan Deaf Service will be here. Afterwards there will be bingo, a quiz and refreshments in the Hall. All welcome...please bring food to share.

ASCENSION DAY this year is back to a Thursday! It will be celebrated on the 40th day of the Easter Season, that means 10th May.

TRANSPORT TO MASS SERVICE Several parishioners are now being given regular lifts to the Mass of their choice by our volunteer drivers. If you know of anybody in need of transport or feel you could offer a regular or occasional service as a driver please fill in a yellow or pink form at the back of each church. Thank you,

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 13th April at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

INTERFAITH The Joy of Faith. Tuesday 24th April 7.15pm at Oxlease Methodist Hall. Posters at the back of church.

Week of 2nd April

02 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	Octave of Easter
03 Tuesday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
04 Wednesday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
05 Thursday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
06 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
07 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter

Week of 8th April

07 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 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	
09 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Annunciation of the Lord
10 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Stanislaus
12 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
14 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	

Second Sunday of Easter**Week of 15th April**

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	
16 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Alphege
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	11.45am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
21 Saturday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	12noon	Easter Memorial Service		St. Bonaventure
21 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
22 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	

Third Sunday of Easter**Fourth Sunday of Easter**