

# 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 21st April/ Second Sunday of Easter 28th April/  
and Third Sunday of Easter 5th May 2019***

Happy Easter! The Lord has risen from the dead! This is the mind-blowing message we proclaim today and continue celebrating for Fifty Days. How amazing! We begin by pondering the Empty Tomb - something has happened which has affected the body laid in the grave. Then in the coming days and importantly on the next two Sundays, our Liturgy is enriched with various appearances of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who triumphs over sin and is victorious over suffering and death. The disciples encounter him: he is the same person they knew and yet he is also different.

Our Lenten journey has been a long one. Perhaps the giving up of things or those extras undertaken have been an ordeal? Maybe the prospect of sustaining these days of celebration is challenging? Crucially Christ walks by our side, coming close to us in our fear and worry, supporting us when we cannot manage on our own, forgiving us for the times when we haven't seized opportunities to stand up for him. The Risen Lord is there with us!

With this year's late Easter and the immediate return to school, these coming weeks will seem strange. The month of May will break in quickly and our children and young people will be getting ready for tests and public examinations...hard work, stress, tender loving care needed! Our country is still caught up in unresolved turmoil and the uncertainty created will put pressure on people for all sorts of reasons. Some of you have loved ones who are seriously ill and you are doing your best to care for them. Soon the building of our new parish centre will commence resulting in the disruption of builders and practical decision-making almost on a daily basis. Are you longing for the summer to come and the holidays?!

The early Christian Community faced persecution and possible death but they knew that the Lord Jesus was close to them in the midst of their trials. Let us be like them open to Christ and allowing him to support us. The Risen Lord is certainly with us in church in the Sacred Liturgy, but he is also breaking into our lives in the every day in all that we face. May God bless you and your loved ones. With much love and prayer for you this Easter, ***Fr. Norbert***

**HAPPY EASTER!** Fr. Tom and Fr. Norbert would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU!' to everyone who has helped in any way with the celebration of the Easter Triduum: up front in the Liturgy, behind the scenes making sure everything looked beautiful and ran smoothly; to those who have contributed through prayer, enthusiasm and joy to the power of the Easter message here in Welwyn Garden City! On a personal note, we are grateful for the cards, gifts and offerings for Easter. May the coming days bring us all the peace of the Risen Lord.

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

**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.

**MASS FOR MIGRANTS** will this year be at Westminster Cathedral (Ambrosden Avenue, Victoria SW1P 1QJ) on Monday 6th May at 10.30am. Come and celebrate the contribution so many different national groups have made and are making to London and the South East. Procession gathering will be at 9am with the Procession starting at 10am. Everyone is welcome to what should be a culturally diverse and thoroughly enjoyable celebration.

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next First Friday early Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am on 3rd May followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome. **MONTHLY ADORATION** The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 10th May at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

**MAY DEVOTIONS** on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on Monday 13th May after 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's. There will be tea/coffee and cake afterwards.

**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. 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.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next celebration will be on Saturday 11th May at 6pm at Our Lady's. Mass will be followed by a gathering in the sacristy with a quiz and bingo. Please bring food to share. The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, will be with us that evening. All welcome.

**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.

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

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

**CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** meets again on 30th April at 3.45pm. All welcome.

**RCIA CONGRATULATIONS** to the group of 18 adults and children who have joined the Church and/or completed their initiation! Our thanks to the catechists who have journeyed with them these past months. Any adults interested in joining the Catholic Church or knowing more should have a word with Fr. Norbert

**MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK** Thanks to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the many helpers who made the Mass in the Focolare Centre such a peaceful, comforting occasion.

**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.

**POLISH-ENGLISH MASS** will be on Saturday 29th June at 6pm at Our Lady's. Serdecznie zapraszamy cala Polonie do udzialu w dorocznej Polsko-Angielskiej Mszy Sw, ktora odbedzie sie w Sobote, 29 Czerwca o godz 18:00 w kosciele Our Lady, Welwyn Garden City.

Po mszy sw, zachecamy do pozostania aby wspolnie swietowac poczucie wspolnoty. Zachecamy aby dolaczyc sie do wspolnej radosci oraz przyniesienia cos slodkiego do podzialu.

**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

**SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE** 40 pilgrims will set out on a 100 km walk from Tui in Portugal heading for Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain Sat 26th May until Sun 2nd June. 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! The coaches will set off from Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout (AL7 1FT) where there is ample space for cars to be parked safely and securely.

**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.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then Phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770.

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

**LIVE SIMPLY** Spring has sprung and now is the time to enjoy 'God's Garden'. Why not go for a walk in one of the woods circling WGC? You can chose from Sherrardspark wood, Campus West / Rolls and Blackthorn woods, Black Fan Road / The Commons near QE2 or the woods above Tewinbury Farm. The bluebells might be there to greet you!

**PATRICK MCGEADY R.I.P.** Patrick's Funeral Mass is at Holy Family on Thursday 2nd May at 9.30am.

**CAFOD GROUP** meets at Holy Family, Tuesday 7th May at 2pm. All are welcome.

**The CWL** has come to the end of Lenten Lunches for 2019. Very many thanks to all our supporters. We made £330 to go to our chosen Charities. God bless you all and a very Happy Holy Easter to you. Also, the CWL are holding a Coffee Morning on Thursday, 2nd May at 11am in Our Lady's Church Sacristy. All welcome and bring a friend

**HWSF** are in need of the following: heavy duty sewing machine, toy box, wardrobe, a strimmer or light mower. If you can help email: woodcraftvicky@gmail.com

**Week of 22nd April**

22 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	Octave of Easter
23 Tuesday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
24 Wednesday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
25 Thursday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	Octave of Easter
26 Friday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
27 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Easter
	12noon	Easter Memorial Service St. Bonaventure		

**Week of 28th April**

<b>27 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
<b>28 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family	
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Holy Family	
29 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Catherine of Sienna
30 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. George
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
01 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
02 Thursday	9.30am	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	St. Athanasius
03 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	SS Philip and James
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	The English Martyrs

**Second Sunday of Easter****Week of 5th May**

<b>04 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
<b>05 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family	
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Holy Family	
06 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	Easter feria
07 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
08 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
09 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Easter feria
10 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
11 Saturday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Easter feria
<b>11 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
<b>12 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family	
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's	
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Holy Family	

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**