

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas

Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard

First Sunday of Lent 1st March page 151 of Mass book

It's March and Lent has begun! Time is racing by with the year progressing and much to be thought about and reflected on in this holy season. As many of you are aware 'time' in the Bible can mean *days and years* ('chronos') - the passage of time as we count it. However, there is another word 'kairos' - meaning *a moment or opportunity to be seized and acted upon*. Sometimes we just seem to be running out of time to get things done. Lent is a series of invitations to us to be open to God's life-giving and transformative grace so that we might become more and more like Jesus: through forgiveness and reconciliation, by fasting and making sacrifices, in the efforts to do extra things which can make a difference to ourselves and so many others. Prayer, generous giving and learning to say 'no' to temptation can put us in touch with Jesus Christ, God's Son, in his 40-day sojourn in the desert...not always easy!

In our passage today from St. Matthew, we see Christ preparing for his public ministry with a long period of temptation and testing in the desert. We cannot help but think of the People of Israel journey through the desert for 40 years, giving in to many temptations as they make their way from slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. They were hungry and grumbled frequently at the manna God gave them to eat; Jesus refuses to turn stones into bread to assuage his hunger, preferring to live by God's Word. They put God to the test asking 'Is God in our midst or not? (Exodus 17); Jesus trusts totally in his Father and will not throw himself off the parapet of the Temple - he knows his Father is with him. They gave up on God (and Moses when he went up the mountain) and chose to worship the Golden Calf; Jesus says that worship is for God alone.

Perhaps this week we might ponder some of the challenges Jesus faced. What makes us frustrated and angry with God and others in our lives? What makes us lose patience and feel like giving up? Do we really believe God is in our midst? What helps or hinders that understanding? Are there things which have taken over our lives to such an extent that the Lord is being pushed out of the way? These are many questions and it is not as easy to face up to the truth and change our ways for a whole variety of reasons.

Let us pray for God's grace. Let us not forget the multitude of people around the world and closer to home who are suffering. Let us seize the moment and make the right choices day by day! May God bless your week. ***Fr. Norbert***

CORONAVIRUS We are reviewing the situation in terms of our practices here in our three churches. We will keep you posted. The full guidance from the Bishops of England and Wales may be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/>

LENT During Lent there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour on a Monday after 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's (except 9th March), on a Thursday after 9.30 Mass at Holy Family and on a Saturday after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's. There will be Stations of the Cross on a Wednesday after 9.30 Mass at Holy Family, on a Friday after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's and on a Friday after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's (except 13th March). The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available on Thursdays at Holy Family Church 10.00 - 10.30am and on Saturdays - at St. Bonaventure's 10.30 - 11.00am and at Our Lady's 5.00 - 5.30pm. There will be priests also available at Our Lady's on Friday 20th March after Stations of the Cross and the Holy Week Service on Tuesday 7th April at 8pm at Our Lady's. Don't forget the First Friday early morning Masses at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30 followed by breakfast (6th March and 3rd April).

EXTRA MASS on Monday 9th March at 8am at Our Lady's.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL If you would like to support this charity Lent 2020, there are special envelopes available. The money raised will fund initiatives in Marriage and Family Life, Evangelisation through support given to young people in their faith and Service in Society especially in regard to those who have to make use of food banks because they cannot feed their children properly. Put the envelopes in the weekend collection and they will be sent on. Thank you.

DEANERY GATHERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE will take place on Friday 13th March at Our Lady's. Young people from a number of Confirmation groups from parishes in the Stevenage Deanery will come with their catechists for 7pm Mass which will be followed by the usual 'Restoration Holy Hour' which will end around 8.45pm. There will be refreshments at the back of the church to round off the evening. The event has been promoted by the Westminster Youth Ministry through its 'Summit' outreach programme and there will be some input from the WYM as well as from the group usually leading. There will still be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture, prayer, music and silence ending with Benediction.

MARGARET MORRIN RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 3rd March at 2pm.

NUALA AUSTIN RIP Nuala's Funeral Service will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 5th March at 12 noon.

JIMMY BYRNE RIP Jimmy's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 9th March at 10am. *There will not be 9.30 Mass or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament that morning.*

LEONARD BONNER RIP Leonard's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Wednesday 18th March at 12.30pm.

TOBY MURPHY RIP Toby's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 23rd March at 12.30pm.

PATRICK WEBB RIP Patrick's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 25th March at 12.30pm.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE The annual Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 30th May 2019 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Norbert will then send them on. Many couples over the years have attended this Mass and found it very uplifting.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS will be this Saturday (7th) at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by bingo and a Lenten quiz. Please bring food to share. The Deputy Mayor Peter Hebden is planning to attend. All are welcome.

SIGNED MASS on Saturday 14th March at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by refreshments. There will be a practice for 'signers' at Our Lady's on Tuesday 10th March 7.45 - 8.45pm. If you would like to come to the practice, please let Fr. Norbert know.

CAFOD FAST DAY will be this coming Friday (6th) and is an opportunity for us to support our brothers and sisters around the world. By eating a simple meal or by going without a luxury or something else, we can help to save those who have been devastated by floods, storms and other natural disasters. As you leave Mass today please take a CAFOD envelope. Please return it next weekend when there will be a retiring collection. If you are a tax-payer and are able to GiftAid your contribution that would make a big difference too. Thank you.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP meets on Tuesday in the parish troom at 2pm. All welcome.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY There will be refreshments after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's on 17th March. Mass at Our Lady's will be at 7pm as usual.

RCIA for those preparing to join the Catholic Church at Easter. The Group was presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Saturday 29th. The Group will meet on Monday (2nd) at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION The next evening session will be next Sunday (8th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church. The young people will be attending the 'Summit' Deanery Youth Gathering in Our Lady's the following Friday (13th) arriving at 6.45pm.

FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION The next meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will be on Wednesday (4th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Our children will be making their First Confessions as follows: St. Bonaventure's on Saturday (7th) 10.30 for 11am, Holy Family on the same day at 2pm and Our Lady's on Saturday 14th March at 11am. *Please keep them and families in your prayers.*

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome. Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 27th March.

ASSISI 2020 Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of our churches. The pilgrimage will be from Sunday 24th May until Friday 29th May 2020. *There are 8 places left* 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.

OBERAMMERGAU Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches. Let Fr. Norbert know if you require an electronic version. Europe was affected by a terrible plague at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1633 the people of the village of Oberammergau in Germany prayed and promised that if the plague left their village, a play commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ would be performed every ten years. Their prayers were answered and the first Passion Play was performed in 1634. *There are 12 places left on this pilgrimage so if interested sign up as soon as possible!*

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL PLACES: Reception 3 places, Yr.2: 4 places, Yr.3: 1 place, Yr 4: 1 place.

OUR LADY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Admissions for September entry to the Nursery at Our Lady School is open and closes on 13th March. We also have In Year places available for children currently in Nursery, Reception and Years 2 - 5, and would be delighted to provide further information for any parents who might be interested in applying for a place for their child. If you are interested, or would like to arrange a visit to the school, please do visit the Admissions section of the school website www.ourlady527.herts.sch.uk/admissions/ or call the School Office on 01707 324408

PLEASE SPONSOR Spencer White, one of our parishioner's and Governor at Holy Family school, who will be attempting to complete the 5km Swimathon on Saturday 28th March. This is the equivalent to 200 lengths of a normal sized pool! He is raising money for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie end of life care and would like your help to do this. This can be done by speaking to him at Mass at Holy Family or through his Just Giving page, which can be found at: www.justgiving.com/Spencer-White2020.

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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tony 01707 327434
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 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS

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

You can read the newsletter on the Website www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

Catholic Schools 6th Form Public Speaking Challenge 1st March (today) at 2pm The University of Hertfordshire Province 14 of the Catenian Association organise this annual challenge, with the winner going onto the National Final in September. This year our event is on a Sunday afternoon to give interested people an opportunity to attend and listen to our young people speak for four minutes on a topic of their choosing. John Henry Newman School Stevenage and NBCS St Albans, are two of the schools taking part. Visitors will also have the optional opportunity of viewing the university's full size replica Crown Court building.

CWL LENTEN LUNCHESES on Saturdays. 12noon -1.30pm. At Salvation Army Hall, next to Our Lady's Church. Do come along.

CHURCH CLEANING The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's Church and the maintenance of the grounds will take place on Saturday 7th March. Come for an hour at 10am. St. Bonaventure's monthly cleaning will take place on Thursday 12th at 10am.. Refreshments provided. New volunteers are most welcome.

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
03 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	2pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Margaret Morrin R.I.P,
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
05 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
	12noon	Funeral Service	St. Bonaventure	Nuala Austin R.I.P.
06 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Second Sunday of Lent

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



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.