

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*

Third Sunday of Lent 15th March page 158 of Mass book

Everything is moving so quickly, locally, nationally and internationally with the coronavirus pandemic. The Bishops of England and Wales have issued guidelines which we must carry out. Please read the attached sheet carefully and ensure the safety and care of the old and vulnerable as well as protecting yourself and your loved ones. ***If you are unwell, it is best to stay at home. Exercise great caution with hygiene. Keep in phone contact with those you know who may be isolated.*** It is a complicated time in history and in some ways many things we take for granted or do on autopilot will need careful thought and response. Some countries have already taken the decision to 'lockdown'. If this happened here, we would have to comply. This would be unprecedented for the huge majority of the population. The parish website www.wgc-catholics.org.uk is the best way of checking the 'latest' in our three churches. Obviously not everyone is on-line, but maybe we could keep those we know informed by phone or text.

Today we start a series of Gospel readings from St. John. In all three passages there is an encounter between Jesus and various people: first the Samaritan woman at the well (chapter 4), then the man who was born blind who received sight from Jesus (chapter 9) and finally Martha and Mary whose brother Lazarus is raised from the dead (chapter 11). Jesus crosses religious barriers, he calls people to a decision in faith - he makes a difference! Through conversation and disputation, we are led deeper and deeper into the mystery of who Jesus is: the Saviour of the world, the Light of the world, the Resurrection and the Life. Find these passages in your Bible or on-line; mull over the words, phrases, imagery and meaning. Let this Word of God nourish and sustain you in the midst of the uncertainty we face at this time.

Let us pray for one another and intercede for our world. May God shower his blessings upon us all.

Fr. Norbert

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, 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. 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 Mass** at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30 followed by breakfast (3rd April).

OUR LADY SCHOOL The whole school will join parishioners for 9.30 Mass on Monday 16th March, staying for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

LEN BONNER RIP Len'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.

EASTER RAFFLE On Sunday 29th March, Jenny Wilson (senior altar server at 10.30am Mass) will be holding an Easter Raffle after the 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's Church. The money raised will go towards Loreto College 6th Form Lenten fundraising charity, which this year is the Peace Hospice. She will be very grateful for your support. Thank you.

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.

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 will meet on Monday (16th) at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be today (Sunday 15th) at 7.15pm in Our Lady's Church. The young people will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday at Our Lady's. Afterwards there will be priests available for Confessions.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The final meeting for parents of First Communion children from our three churches will be on Wednesday (18th) at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Congratulations to the children from Our Lady's who made their First Confession yesterday (Saturday 14th).

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.

ASSISI 2020 We are waiting for news from Pax Travel as to whether or not this pilgrimage will go ahead.

OBERRAMMERGAU Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th September, 2020. The brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

PLACES AVAILABLE AT OUR LADY SCHOOL We have 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.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk/admissions/ or call the School Office on 01707 324408.

PLACES AVAILABLE AT HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Reception – 3 places, Year 2 – 4 places, Year 3 – 1 place and Year 4 - 1 place.

PLEASE SPONSOR The White family are swimming 5km in the Swimathon on Sunday 29th April. Raising money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie. Please sponsor them through their Just Giving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/spencer-white2018> or donate in person to Spencer, Beth or Anna who will be at the Holy Family Church on Sundays.

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

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. Tony 01707 327434
welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk
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

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S There will be an Easter Workshop for children on Tuesday 7th April from 2 - 4pm. Come and help plant our outdoor Easter Garden, make your own garden, make some Easter things, join in an Easter egg hunt, prepare for our Way of the Cross, have a 'Happy Easter Tea' (bring and share) and listen to the Easter story. More information nearer the time.

LIVING SIMPLY GROUP asks us to: 1) Try swapping your meat, dairy and fish dishes for more plant-based ones, bbcgoodfood.com has some great recipes. 2) Drive less and walk more. Try taking the bus or train for long distances, walk or cycle locally. Or if you must drive then try car sharing. 3) Buy second hand and repair. You can pick up great quality, unique items in the plentiful charity shops in the town. 4) Eat seasonally and locally. Eating within the seasonal rhythm of nature gives us better tasting food and cuts our carbon foot-print. 5) Go single use plastic-free. Buy a reusable coffee cup and water bottle to refill as you go and reduce the harmful plastic that ends up in our oceans.'

16 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Lent feria
17 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Patrick
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Lent feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
19 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Joseph
20 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Lent feria

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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	



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](tel:01438285138) (24/7)**
Urgent need: [01438 314 333](tel:01438314333) via text message: [07876 526935](tel:07876526935).