

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

Pentecost Sunday 31st May 2020

Today is such an important day in the life of the Church - it's OUR day! We mark our completion of the celebration of Easter with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost - the Fiftieth Day. This Solemnity is major and yet it cannot be separated from Easter (the First Day) and the Ascension (on the Fortieth Day). God's glory, majesty and love are revealed in the Rising of his Son from the dead, in the Return to the Father's Right Hand AND in the bestowing of the Gift which keeps us in touch with the Mystery we have celebrated, empowering us to proclaim, live and share the wonders of what God has done for humanity and creation.

As we have kept noting, in St. Luke's portrait of the events in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples, Our Lady and many others gather, wait and pray. Only then do things start to happen! They hear, they see and are filled with the Holy Spirit manifested in a variety of ways: powerful wind, tongues of fire, speech in many languages communicating the marvels of God. It is not a personal or private revelation. Other people - a multitude - hear the sound and assemble, curious as to what is taking place and trying to understand. After today's First Reading, we are told that it is Peter who calls for attention and speaks - boldly and with conviction. Yes, the same Peter whom we saw in St. Luke's Gospel weeping bitterly because he denied he knew Jesus! Some in audience think it is due to the influence of wine that the apostles can speak in this way. However, there are those who are interested and want to know more. **THE CHURCH IS BORN! ALLELUIA!** First and foremost to be Church is to be a gathering of people who remember Jesus Christ, the Son of God who opens minds to the Scriptures and reveals himself in the Breaking of Bread; people who proclaim this Good News to others; believers whose faith is infectious and life-changing - that's US!

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Is this how you feel today? Are you still in isolation? Or are you anxious at the prospect of another spike in the coronavirus as the lockdown is relaxed? Maybe many of you are facing uncertainty with your jobs and the future? Perhaps you just aren't sure what to make of everything because of bereavement, illness or helplessness? Pentecost gives us an opportunity in humility to tell God that we cannot do things on our own, that we need the Gift of the Holy Spirit. God is listening out for us - tell him about your joys, sorrow and worries. God is looking out for us - let him see you as you are, open to the action of his grace. God feels with us and for us - trust in his compassion and ability to save. Finally, as we gather virtually on the Fiftieth Day of Easter, let us reflect on what it does mean for us to be Church: we are definitely united in the Holy Spirit; we are in turn pouring our love upon others - surely a sign of the Spirit's presence; and by hanging on in there, we radiate a faith and a hope for the present moment which we pray, in the Spirit, will find fulfilment in heaven.

Fr. Tony and I continue to keep you in prayer. God bless you and watch over you and your loved ones. Don't forget a prayer for us! With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:
[youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/>

We have a Facebook page for our three parishes. Please search for 'Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches' to find us. There are Gospel reflections, the latest news, live rosaries and so on. Do 'like' this page so that any updates appear in your own news feed, and share it with your friends too!

MASS ON RADIO

If you are aware of someone not on the internet who would like to follow Mass, RTE Radio broadcasts Mass on 252 Longwave. For those who have a digital radio, Radio Maria broadcasts in London on DAB+ and in the Cambridge area on DAB.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy Team at Our Lady's will have a session on Zoom for children this Sunday after the streamed Mass goes out. There will be a song with actions, Gospel reading and an activity. For more information, please contact Sarah (david.cafferty@ntlworld.com) or Eddy (eddyga@hotmail.com). Whichever parish you attend, why not give it a go?

THY KINGDOM COME PENTECOST EVENT will be premiered at 6pm on Pentecost Day https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR364-_KwEgko9Sq5i7jsw This Service includes the many Christian Churches from across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and would have taken place in St. Albans Cathedral.

OPENING OF CHURCHES There is no clear date for the opening of churches for worship. The Cardinal is hoping that private prayer might be possible with all the necessary precautions to be taken. We will keep you posted.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. On Sundays the Mass is offered for the 'People of our Parishes'. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let Fr. Norbert know. Donations for the Masses can be made at a later stage.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Mary Cachia RIP, Joe Fernandes RIP Anniv, Brian Hall RIP Anniv, Jonathan and Felicia 30th Wedding Anniv, Mary McClelland RIP, Mary McClelland RIP, Cecilia Silvester RIP Anniv and Alan Livett RIP

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Funeral Services will only be conducted at the graveside or at crematorium until further notice with only immediate family attending.

Charlie Botwright RIP Alan Livett RIP

As well as praying for the repose of the souls of all who have died, let us remember the many bereaved families at this sad time of pandemic.

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, FIRST COMMUNIONS, WEDDINGS are now on hold until the situation changes.

Please keep in your prayers adults and children who were due to be baptised at Easter as well as the babies whose Baptisms have been postponed, the young people who were meant to be confirmed and the children who would have made their First Holy Communion in our three churches. There are couples whose Weddings have had to be rescheduled for later in the year or next year. May God watch over them all and their loved ones.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK would have taken place on Saturday 30th May, organised by our local SVP Group. Let us pray for all who are sick at this time and for their carers. The sterling work of the SVP continues in this time of crisis. May God bless them and their important ministry of serving the poor and vulnerable.

CATHEDRAL MASS On Saturday 30th May, there was going to be the Cardinal's Mass at the Cathedral for couples with significant Wedding Anniversaries. Sadly this cannot take place. However, we wish every blessing and offer congratulations to those who would have attended.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Some parishioners contribute regularly through standing orders; for this we are grateful. A number of parishioners have asked about their planned giving envelopes and weekly collection contributions. We have set up for each of our parishes Virgin Money Giving pages which allow you to make a donation which can also be GiftAided. This can also be done on your mobile phone. The links are on the parish website. We wish to thank those of you who will be able to offer support in this way. We are also acutely aware of the financial hardship which the present circumstances of pandemic have created for so many and respect totally the fact that some of you are now unable to make contributions. God bless you all.

HELP DURING TIME OF CORONAVIRUS We now have a team of people who are happy to do shopping, collect prescriptions, chat on the phone, etc. If you need any such help, please do contact Fr Tony, and he will put you in contact with someone who can assist you. Fr Tony can be reached on 01707 327434, or at tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Unfortunately with our churches now closed, we cannot collect items each week. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food for the needy members of our community, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, please email foodbank@newzioncf.net and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

SIGNED MASS Next Sunday 7th June there will be an extra signed Mass which Fr. Norbert would have celebrated with the deaf at the Cathedral. It will be streamed at 4.30pm and will have a split screen with the Director of the Deaf Service, Shell Roca, responding and interpreting.

SPECIAL MASSES will be livestreamed from Cathedrals in this country every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock for the intentions of frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. This week from Salford Cathedral celebrated by Bishop John Arnold.

www.clicktopray.org is a free app which links you with thousands of people on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and is co-ordinated by the Jesuits. Each day there are phrases or inspirational thoughts to accompany you in your prayer.

LAUDATO SI From our Parish Live Simply Group: In May we have celebrated the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato Si" in which he addressed the world with a sense of urgency about our care for our brothers and sisters and our common home in the light of the damage of Climate Change to the Environment.

Just as the COVID 19 pandemic is impacting on every nation in the world, so Climate Change impacts on all our lives in a more hidden way. We must make our personal commitment to change in many small but practical ways whilst encouraging the government to take the bigger steps so urgently needed. Consider saving water and electricity, turning off lights and machines on stand-by, reducing what you buy before reusing what you have and then re-cycling, avoiding food waste, eat seasonally and locally, reducing meat and dairy, reducing car journeys and walking or cycling for short trips.

And if we are to provide a healthy environment for future generations we must never under-estimate the importance and power of prayer, asking God to guide us and our leaders in the right way and for the strength to achieve our goals.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 31ST MAY

Why not take out your Bible and reflect on these passages? Or do a Google search!

Saturday 30th May

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Conclusion of the Acts of the Apostles

John 21:20-25 Conclusion of St. John's Gospel

Sunday 31st May PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11 Pentecost Day

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 To be under the influence of the Holy Spirit

John 20:19-23 Jesus breathes upon them, saying 'Receive the Holy Spirit'

Monday 1st June Mary, Mother of the Church (Ordinary Time Week 9)

2 Peter 1:2-7 The Lord has given us all the gifts we need.

Mark 12:1-12 Parable of the vineyard

Tuesday 2nd June

2 Peter 3:11-15, 17-18 Keep growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ

Mark 12:13-17 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.'

Wednesday 3rd June St. Charles Lwanga and his Companions *Ugandan Martyrs* (1885-1887)

2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12 '...always I remember you in my prayers.'

Mark 12:18-27 'He is God of the living.'

Thursday 4th June OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

Genesis 22:9-18 Sacrifice of Isaac or Hebrews 10:4-10 Jesus' offering

Matthew 26:36-42 Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane

Friday 5th June St. Boniface (675-754) *Bishop and Martyr. English monk who took the Gospel to Germany.*

2 Timothy 3:10-17 'You know what I have taught...you know my faith, my patience and my love...'

Mark 12:35-37 The people heard what Jesus said with delight