

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*

29th March 2020

I have just watched Pope Francis leading the world in prayer asking God our Father to save us from the perils we face. What a great sense of solidarity! What a powerful moment focused on Jesus Christ! What faith and trust in the midst of the storms we face!

Sunday's Gospel reading from St. John takes us to another group of people - the friends and family of Lazarus who has died. They gather in sadness and confusion at the loss of a young one, asking the question we so often pose 'Why?' People wonder where Jesus is in the midst of such pain. He loved the family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus in Bethany; Lazarus was his friend. When Jesus hears that Lazarus is sick, he tells his disciples that 'this sickness will end...in God's glory and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' These are enigmatic words. They test us to the core of our being when our lives are shattered and we witness so much suffering and feel utterly helpless. Jesus himself experienced the Cross of Suffering and Death; he has come to the Triumph of Resurrection. This is not an easy answer but the Lord asks us to walk with him as he carries his Cross which includes our crosses. He invites us to be patient as we long for the Light of Resurrection to shine out. He will not let us down!

As we start another week which will take us to Holy Week, remember the many ways we can be united with others in loving trust. Let us constantly allow the Lord Jesus to remind us that he is so intimately close to us. Let us pray for the countless people bringing support and care in vital ways. Let us not give up. Fr. Tony and I are offering Mass each day for you and for our world. Let us support one another through this crisis and look forward to the day when we will be able to rejoice.

May God bless you. With prayers and much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

SUNDAY MASS

We are live-streaming Sunday Mass at 10am using the newly created YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMRar5c56VdIMK7v7aQLaRg/>

There was a technical hitch at 10am last week but this has been sorted out! So Mass at 10 o'clock every Sunday.

ROSARY ONLINE

This Wednesday evening (1st April) at 7.00pm we are going to have a live Rosary online. We will use 'Zoom', an application which allows users to see and interact with each other via the internet. You are warmly invited to join in this parish prayer. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Tony at tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk, and he will send you further details. Please note that numbers are limited so respond as quickly as you can. Many thanks.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

As our nation faces the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, Churches Together in England (CTE) is encouraging Christians across our nations to continue uniting in prayer, praying #PrayersOfHope in their homes at 7.00 pm each Sunday evening.

Following the overwhelming response which the National Call to Prayer and Action received on Mothering Sunday, CTE has prepared a candle poster for those who would like to place a permanent symbol in their front windows of Christ's light shining in the darkness. Visit www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope

This poster has been made available due to our awareness of the potential fire risk posed by lighting live candles, particularly on windowsills. We are keen to avoid adding any pressure to our emergency service personnel, particularly at this difficult time.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' John 1:5
Please join us prayer at this challenging time.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony will celebrate the weekday Mass Intentions as far as is possible. On Sundays the Mass will be celebrated for the 'People of our Parishes'. Any intentions we cannot celebrate will be carried over. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

So far Masses have been celebrated for Mrs Josie Rodger RIP Anniv, Chris Neumann RIP Anniv, Michael Cade (sick), Lucy Dias RIP (birthday), Joseph D'Souza RIP, Annette Gurjao (birthday), Michael Cade (sick), Bernard Eason RIP, John Connolly RIP, Kitty Booth RIP

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Funeral Services will only be conducted at the graveside or at crematorium until further notice.
There cannot be large gatherings of people.

Renate Kempe RIP

Kathy Booth RIP

Rosemary Livingstone RIP

Stefan Jurek RIP

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

CONNECTING WITH THE VULNERABLE AND NEEDY Many thanks to all those parishioners who have volunteered to help the vulnerable and isolated during these difficult times. We now have a team of people who are happy to do shopping, collect prescriptions, chat on the phone, walk the dog 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. *By giving us your contact details you are agreeing that the parishes can use them for the support of vulnerable people during the coronavirus outbreak.*

FROM DIOCESAN CATECHISTS

Diocesan Resources During The Period Of Mass Suspension, including Liturgy & Prayer, Reflection and Faith in Action

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/resources-during-mass-suspension/>

RCIA

In RCIA groups Elect and Candidates will continue their journey towards Baptism and full communion with the Church. The above resources will be helpful to catechists in supporting their journey and continuing to walk alongside them.

Some Gospel resources:

Fr Denis McBride CSsR from Redemptorist Publications looks at three Lenten narratives from the Gospel of John <https://www.rpbbooks.co.uk/three-narratives-from-gospel-john>

The Diocesan resource for small groups offers material with opportunities for Gospel reflection, discussion and prayer. The material for the current season is downloadable and also the resources from the last three years. Most have audio versions available. <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/small-groups/>

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Most of the children in our parishes will be at home for potentially a long period of time. The Domestic Church comes to the fore here and we can offer opportunities to enrich the faith life of our families, encouraging parents to spend time talking to their children about our faith while having some fun.

Wednesday Word, familiar to parishes and schools, offers activities that families can do at home. <http://www.wednesdayword.org/>

CAFOD's KidzZone offers games, films, prayers and printable activities <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone>

Also resources for the time of school closures: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Resources-for-school-closures>

CAFOD'S Confirmation resource might be helpful in engaging confirmation candidates in their continuing journey

These two American websites, Catholic Mom and Catholic Icing offer activities and crafts for children & families: <http://catholicmom.com/2020/03/21/when-you-cant-get-to-mass-15-at-home-resources-for-families/>

<https://www.catholicicing.com/coronavirus-home-resources-for-catholics/>

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

CAFOD are offering a webinar of a Liturgy of the Word with Children at home. The first liturgy, on 22nd March was excellent. Parents and children are encouraged to join online for prayers and reflection on this Sunday's Gospel. The liturgy will be led by catechists who would usually be leading children's liturgy in their parish and will be based on CAFOD children's liturgy resources. The link to register is: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5095942131288155403> After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar

OTHER RESOURCES

A beautiful prayer/reflection:

<https://www.praytelligblog.com/index.php/2020/03/20/fasting-then-feasting/>

An update on Wintershall Good Friday 'Passion of Jesus' performances. Wintershall's plans may provide a useful resource for RCIA groups as well as providing us all with a Good Friday experience. <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay/>

An article from US Catholic on staying at home during this time: <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202003/life-under-lockdown-8-ways-handle-staying-home-31994>

Taizé are live streaming evening prayer through their Facebook page each evening at 7.30pm. <https://www.facebook.com/taize>

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK

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

Saturday 28th March

Jeremiah 11:18-20 'I have committed my cause to you.'

John 7:40-52 'There has never been anybody who spoke like Jesus.'

Sunday 29th March

Ezekiel 37:12-14 'I shall put my spirit in you and you shall live.'

Romans 8:8-11 God will give life to your bodies through his Spirit living in you.

John 11:1-45 Jesus raises Lazarus to life.

Monday 30th March

Daniel 13 The story of Susannah

John 8:1-11 Jesus said 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.'

Tuesday 31st March

Numbers 21:4-9 Moses fashions a bronze serpent; the people struck down look at it and live.

John 8:21-30 Jesus said 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He.'

Wednesday 1st April

Daniel 3:14 -28 The three young men in the fiery furnace are rescued.

John 8:31-42 'If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.'

Thursday 2nd April

Genesis 17:3-9 God establishes a covenant with Abraham.

John 8:51-59 Jesus said '..before Abraham ever was, I Am.'

Friday 3rd April

Jeremiah 20:10-13 'Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy...'

John 10:31-42 Jesus said '...you will know for sure that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.'