

# 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*

***Seventh Sunday of Easter 24th May 2020***

Today in our Gospel passage from John 17, we enter Jesus' great prayer to his Father. Whilst it is directed heavenward, we are drawn into it as Jesus thinks of us and holds us in his prayer. At this moment so close to his Passion, his thoughts are unselfish, his love total and his concern for us such a gift to support us.

How do you pray? What helps you to pray? Where do you pray? I'm sure that if we had a 'Zoom' meeting, we would hear multifarious responses and realise that due to the uniqueness of our temperament, personality and circumstance we express our relationship with God in different ways specific to who we are.

As I grew up, my family prayed the Rosary every evening. We would gather in my parents' bedroom, the candles would be lit and each of us had a decade to lead. Of course, there would be times when as children we would get the giggles and that would disrupt the prayerfulness. However, the togetherness defined our identity and belonging as believers and as family. Now I love praying the Rosary as I go for a walk; I feel the power of the Rosary as a pilgrim prayer and looking around, thinking and remembering many things helps me. Sometimes I sing as I go along and that lifts my soul too!

As a priest, one of the promises I made at Ordination was to pray the Office - the Prayer of the Church with many psalms, Scripture readings and other reflections. It can at times feel like a huge burden with five moments of prayer in the day based on a monastic way of life. In my early years as priest, I found that by offering the Hour for an intention gave extra impetus to my time of prayer. Especially as a hospital chaplain at Watford General, I would offer the moment of prayer for the patients I had visited in an afternoon. Now I often dedicate an Office for the dead trying to remember them by name and for the living, including the people I serve...it can take some time!

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The Mass is for me the greatest form of prayer because it is Christ's Prayer, offering himself to the Father out of love for him and for the world. It is absolutely amazing being caught up with Christ, holding bread and a chalice of wine which truly become God's Son, united in the dynamic love of Passion, Death and Resurrection. As I celebrate Mass, I try to bring all of you into this Sacrificial Offering - obviously at a distance but in such an intimate and profound way. The Mass is Divine Worship! Wow! I really look forward to when we will be together face to face beholding the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the Father's Gift for the life of the world.

As we look forward to Pentecost next Sunday which will complete our celebration of Easter, I invite you to ponder this aspect of our lives which we call 'prayer'. Make room for the Spirit. Desire the effects which God offers. Allow the Spirit to work in you. Fr. Tony and I pray for you that you may stay safe and well.  
God bless you. 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](mailto:david.cafferty@ntlworld.com)) or Eddy ([eddyga@hotmail.com](mailto:eddyga@hotmail.com)). Whichever parish you attend, why not give it a go?

**NOVENA OF PRAYER** In the final part of the Easter Season (Ascension to Pentecost) as we look forward to the bestowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (31st May), the Church invites us to pray for the Holy Spirit to come and bestow gifts in abundance. Why not pray each day this traditional prayer?

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.  
O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the gift of that same Spirit,  
we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Reflect on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord.

Consider the twelve fruits of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

Which do you especially need at this time? Ask, open yourself up and receive this grace from God.

**HOLY ‘HALF-HOURS’** There will be two 30-minute Services of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from the Chapel of Our Lady’s streamed on our YouTube channel available from 9.30am on Monday. You are invited to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in readiness for Pentecost. Maybe watch one at a time in a moment of peace and quiet? Perhaps create some space for reflection a couple of times in the week. There will be Scripture, hymns, prayer and silence. All welcome!!!

**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 Ryszard Zapolska RIP, Anna Liza Sabalvaro RIP Anniv and Guillermo Muceros RIP Anniv, Patrick Coyle RIP Anniv, Sarah Cafferty and family Intention, Tricia Knights RIP Anniv, Jerry Kelly RIP, John Almeyda RIP, Genevieve Almeyda Intention.

**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 Middlesbrough Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Terence Drainey.

## **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.*

John Almeyda RIP     Charlie Botwright 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:foodbank@newzioncf.net) and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

**ASSISI** A group of parishioners were due to go to Assisi on pilgrimage this Sunday (24th). Let us pray that the peace, tranquillity, beauty and silence of St. Francis and his home town may inspire us.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 24TH MAY**

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

### **Saturday 23rd May**

Acts 18:23-28 Paul and Apollos

John 16:23-28 Jesus says: 'Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete.'

### **Sunday 24th May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 1:12-14 Mary and the disciples join in continuous prayer

1 Peter 4:13-16 '...you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you.'

John 17:1-11 The Prayer of Jesus to the Father concludes the Last Supper discourse of Jesus

### **Monday 25th May St. Bede the Venerable (673-735) Monk in the north of England and Doctor of the Church**

Acts 19:1-8 Paul asks: 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit?'

John 16:29-33 Jesus said: '...find peace in me..'

### **Tuesday 26th May St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) Founded the Congregation of the Oratory. He experienced 'enlargement' of the heart - being ignited with God's own Spirit!**

Acts 20:17-27 Paul speaks of his desire to carry out the mission entrusted to him by Jesus

John 17:1-11 Jesus prays: 'Father, glorify your Son...'

### **Wednesday 27th May ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY (Died in 604) Sent by Pope Gregory to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons in England**

1 Thessalonians 2:2-8 'God gave us the courage to proclaim his Good News to you...'

Luke 10:1-9 The Lord sends out the seventy-two ahead of him

### **Thursday 28th May**

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11 Charges against Paul are brought before the tribune

John 17:20-26 Jesus prays that we may be one

### **Friday 29th May**

Acts 25:13-21 Paul appeals to be sent to Rome to be tried

John 21:15-19 Peter is asked by the Lord: 'Do you love me?'