

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

Corpus Christi 14th June 2020

The Eucharist is such a wonderful gift left to us by the Lord at the Last Supper - as a Memorial of his Passion, Death and Resurrection - and handed down from generation to generation until our own day. Mass has been celebrated in people's homes, in magnificent cathedrals, out in the open air and hidden away in times of persecution. There have been periods in the Church's history when very few received Holy Communion, when the fast in preparation to receive was from midnight, when only Confession first was the practice. So, a variety of experiences, languages, traditions and disciplines. The fashions of liturgical vestments have altered over the centuries too!

Today on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, we gather for Mass in a time of lockdown and pandemic, a unique moment in history in which we are living. What do you *miss* about not being able to attend Mass in church? This list is not exhaustive but have you thought about: receiving Holy Communion, being in the church building, meeting your friends, exercising ministries, having an hour of quiet for yourself as you prepare for another week? There are so many significant points of life celebrated in the context of the Eucharist: Funerals, Weddings, Confirmations, First Holy Communions, Anniversaries etc. At the heart of the Eucharist is Christ's Presence in Word and in Sacrament, in the Community which is his Body and in his minister, the Priest; all are caught up in the dynamic love of his perfect Sacrifice on Calvary offered to the Father for the salvation of the world. We have our gaze fixed on heaven and heaven is joined to us on earth. How marvellous! The Church invites us especially to proclaim that the Bread and Wine consecrated in the Mass are truly the Body and Blood of Christ, that this was the Lord's intention when he said 'This is my body...this is my Blood...do this in memory of me.'

next page

In this time of crisis, much has changed and we will be left with a fresh approach to the Mass, perhaps for a very long time: no Sign of Peace, Communion in the hand only, no drinking from the Chalice AND distancing from one another. Whenever we return to public Mass it will feel very different and there will be plenty to ponder. Try and reflect on the *positive* dimensions of the present moment. For now you are still connected to the Mass through the internet. You are called on to feel Christ's presence but through a 'modern' means of communication. I know some of you are all over the world for Mass and maybe a few Masses in one day! Others have told me that the streamed Masses on YouTube and Facebook help them feel connected to the rest of our community even though they can't see one another.

Let us continue to pray for our world and the many individuals desperate for help and encouragement. Let us thank God for the Eucharist, albeit not quite as we have known it in the past. Let us be grateful that we have opportunities to be together as we are now able. Fr. Tony and I wish you every blessing. 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.

On Sunday 14th June, the Sunday Worship Programme, which airs at 8.10am on BBC Radio 4, will broadcast Mass celebrated by the Cardinal in Westminster Cathedral. Please share this welcome news with parishioners, and family and friends who do not have access to the internet and are thus unable to watch livestreamed Masses.

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?

OPENING OF CHURCHES In response to the permission for churches to open for private prayer, we are going to take things gently. For the next two weeks our churches will be open as follows:

St. Bonaventure: Tuesday 16th June 9.30 - 10.30am and Tuesday 23rd June 9.30 - 10.30am.

Holy Family: Thursday 18th June 9.30 - 10.30am and Thursday 25th June 9.30 - 10.30am.

Our Lady's: Friday 19th June 7 - 8pm and Friday 26th June 7 - 8pm

To meet the regulations, there will only be *quiet, private prayer* allowed. There will be stewards at the entrance of the church and at the exit which will be a different door so that movement is only in one direction. Hands will be sanitised on entry and departure. A further steward will be in the church to give support. We have created distancing by blocking off and bunching up benches. This inevitably has reduced the number of places available. In **St. Bonaventure's only 8 individuals, couples or families** can be in at once, in **Holy Family this will be 17** and in **Our Lady's 20**. If the church is full, then people will have to wait outside. After the particular hour of prayer the benches will be sanitised and the church prepared for the following week. After two weeks we will review how the system has proceeded. There will NOT be the opportunity for Confession in the church. Also toilets will remain closed.

Our aim is to make sure that at all times people are safe, distanced and able with confidence to pray. If you are unwell, a vulnerable person, shielding, or at risk because of your age, it is worth considering whether it would be the right thing to come to church. At each time of opening, Fr. Tony and Fr. Norbert intend to be there.

We do not know when public celebrations of Mass will be allowed. Streamed Masses will definitely continue. Thank you for your prayers and your patience!

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 John and Eithne McShane RIP, John Almeyda RIP, Margaret Kemhadjian RIP 1st Anniv, Virginia Rees RIP Anniv, In thanksgiving, Jerry Kelly RIP Birthday, John Rodger RIP Anniv, John and Maureen McEvoy RIP, Theodore Daniel Bossman 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.

Alan Livett RIP

Martin Fogarty 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.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS This Friday is the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr. Tony will celebrate Mass at 9.30am which can be followed on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

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.

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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S STONE CROSS Back in January the Health and Safety review of our churches revealed that the stone cross at the top of St. Bonaventure's has moved and the recommendation was for it to be stabilised and strengthened. The work is being carried out.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TOWER Work has progressed well in recent weeks and is complete. The scaffolding will be removed soon. The Tower should look brand new!

NEW PARISH CENTRE The builders have been able to continue with the work these last few months and our new Parish Centre is taking shape inside with the underfloor heating in place, the walls plastered and the grounds being landscaped. It looks splendid and should be completed by the end of July.

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 St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley.

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.

POLISH/ENGLISH MASS Last Saturday's evening Mass was going to be led for us in English and Polish. Unfortunately we could not celebrate in this way. However, there is a hymn in Polish and English which you can watch with the link <https://youtu.be/htlQrEWCmvo>

FATHER'S DAY will be next Sunday 21st June. God bless each and every father and honorary dad!

ANNIVERSARIES OF PRIESTHOOD Fr. Tony will celebrate his fourth anniversary of Priesthood on 25th June. Fr. Norbert's 32nd was last Thursday (11th). Please pray for them. Thanks.

ORDINATIONS ABROAD Three of the seminarians from Seville who have stayed with us in Welwyn Garden City are due to be ordained priests on Saturday 20th June - Fran Trigo, Fran Lopez and Ruben Perez. As things stand the celebrations are going ahead with reduced numbers of people. Remy Pignall who has come to us many times from the Diocese of St. Denis in Paris should have been ordained priest at the end of June; his big day has been rescheduled for some time in September. Please keep them all in your prayers. Their time with us has been important in their formation. We have been enriched too by their presence.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 14TH JUNE

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

Saturday 13th June St. Anthony of Padua (1195-1231) *Franciscan Priest and Doctor of the Church. Born in Lisbon, a great preacher who died in Padua, Italy. Patron Saint of finding lost things!*

1 Kings 19:19-21 Elisha follows Elijah

Matthew 5:33-37 Jesus urges that we mean what we say.

Sunday 14th June CORPUS CHRISTI

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16 God fed his people with manna

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 The blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ and the bread broken a communion with the body of Christ

John 6:51-58 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Monday 15th June

1 Kings 21:1-16 Ahab, Jezebel and Naboth's vineyard

Matthew 5:38-42 Jesus' challenging teaching about how we respond to the wicked

Tuesday 16th June St. Richard of Chichester (1197 - 1253) *Bishop whose prayer concludes: O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly. Amen.'*

1 Kings 21:17-29 King Ahab described as a man known for double dealing and doing what displeased the Lord.

Matthew 5:43-48 Jesus wants us to imitate his Father

Wednesday 17th June

2 Kings 2:1,6-14 The Lord takes Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Prayer and fasting

Thursday 18th June

Ecclesiasticus 48:1-15 Elijah and Elisha

Matthew 6:7-15 Jesus gives us 'The Lord's Prayer'

Friday 19th June MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Deuteronomy 7:6-11 God has chosen you to be his very own people

1 John 4:7-16 God has loved us so much

Matthew 11:25-30 Jesus is gentle and humble in heart