

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*

Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year 8th November

When I prepared last week's piece for the newsletter, I could not have imagined we'd have entered a fresh lockdown so quickly. It is sad that the coronavirus is spreading rapidly and it is worrying that pressure is on our hospitals and frontline workers. Where is the vaccine? Test and trace? No easy answers. What is clear from Government regulations passed by Parliament is that public worship is not allowed: no Masses, Baptisms, Confirmations. This is a real pity when we had planned so much in our parishes here in Welwyn Garden City and when our systems and procedures were as rigorous as possible to ensure everyone's safety. 'Private prayer' is possible. However, I have thought long and hard about this - and Fr Tony is in agreement - we need to use this next month as a period to take stock of all the positive things which have taken place through the public celebration of Mass and Sacraments. Now is an opportunity for the many stewards who have worked tirelessly since July to have time to rest and prepare for when we can open again for public Masses. The weather is getting colder and the nights drawing in. So, in Welwyn Garden City, we will not open churches in this way. Prayer at home using the Bible, the Rosary, music and silence are such fruitful means of encountering God. The internet with many services, reflections and teaching has opened us up to a richer experience. Do not let this month of November go to waste. Discover your faith anew.

Returning to the present moment, this is the month of remembering! Crucially St. Paul says to us as he wrote to the Thessalonians: 'Do not grieve about those who have died...like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again...' Grief is a wound which hurts tremendously. Grief lurks when we least expect. Grief is a sign of the depths of love for someone who has died.

next page

We cannot pretend it isn't there; but in acknowledging its presence, we turn to the Lord for healing, comfort and strength. Conviction in the love experienced and given is a sure sign of hope for a future where we pray we will be reunited in the embrace of God's compassionate love and join the angelic song of praise for eternity. Jesus died and rose again *AND it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus!* The Lord himself longs for us all to be with him and he through his great Sacrifice is the source of redemption. The passage in today's Second Reading concludes with the words: 'With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.' November affords us opportunities to pray for the dead. Today we especially remember the dead of the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. We cannot help but think of those who have died of the coronavirus and tragedies near and far. Let us offer our loving concern to all who are bereaved and pray for them.

May God take good care of you and your loved ones. May we all stay safe and protected, especially the vulnerable and frontline workers. May this global pandemic soon come to an end. Fr. Tony and I continue to pray for you. Pray for us as we strive to serve you faithfully in complicated circumstances.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

STREAMED MASS

[youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

We continue to stream **Mass on Sunday at 10am**

FACEBOOK PAGE

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

There will be a 'Facebook' Mass on **Wednesdays at 9.30am**

Also, Gospel reflections, the latest news, live rosaries and so on.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let Fr. Norbert or Fr. Tony know. Donations for the Masses can be made at a later stage. The intentions will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Gay Sealey's Intention, Derek Relph RIP & Deborah Martin RIP, Brian Davidson RIP Birthday, Roza D'Cunha RIP Anniv, Holy Souls (3), Mary Tempany RIP, Tom Stapleton RIP, Regina Naughton (sick)

LATELY DEAD Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Connolly, Augustus Joachim and Jesus Muniz Castelo (father of Mia Connolly) who died recently.

SACRAMENTS With the new lockdown, most Sacraments cannot be celebrated. Only Funerals are permitted with 30 people present. Sadly, this means that Confirmations and Baptisms already scheduled will have to be postponed. Given that lockdown might continue further, it is better to wait before setting new dates. *Preparation for Sacraments in 2021 will be published in the New Year. Don't worry. You and/or your children will not miss out!*

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES The financial support of parish life is crucial and needed. Please consider using the Virgin Money Giving links on the parish website. There are standing order forms available to download on the website too. We realise that things are very challenging financially at present and do not want to put any extra burden on you. However, for those in a position to contribute to our churches, we ask you to find the best way of giving. Our thanks to you for your generosity and co-operation.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. 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.

REMEMBRANCE DAY There will not be the usual Remembrance Sunday Services in Howardsgate or at Hatfield Hyde. Instead Welwyn Hatfield Council will have an online pre-recorded Service 8th November 2020, please log in from 10.40am, Service starts 10.45am WHBC: website and Facebook: @welwynhatfield
Stories from around Welwyn Hatfield from 1–7 November 2020
Facebook: @welwynhatfield Twitter: @WelhatCouncil Instagram: welwynhatfieldcouncil

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST Please write down the names of loved ones who have died and give the lists to Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony in sealed envelopes with NO money. ONLY the priest will put these envelopes in the container to avoid possible contamination. The envelopes will be left near the altars in our churches during the month of November. The deceased will be remembered in prayer every day.

BLESSING OF GRAVES *Fr. Norbert writes:* Aware that the lockdown was going to start on Thursday, I visited Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Welwyn New Cemetery and Hatfield Hyde Cemetery on Wednesday. The sun was shining and each place was more or less deserted. I walked down every path, praying the Rosary and, on your behalf, prayed for those buried in these cemeteries. I have a pretty good idea of where people lie and so thought of you, their loved ones. I sang a hymn and below are the words of a prayer I found. Even though we haven't been able to gather as in the past, know that you and your loved ones who have died have not been forgotten.

May God grant them eternal rest and give you comfort and strength.

God of Abraham and God of Moses, Lord of the living,

who visited Jesus within his own grave and filled him with the fullness of eternal life, hear our prayers as we come to this holy place of burial.

With reverence, we visit here where the sacred bodies of our loved ones have been placed in the womb of the earth to await the final day of glory.

Lord, we have come on this pilgrimage of prayer to keep the flame of love alive in our hearts.

As we bless these graves with our prayers, we give thanks that the names of these loved ones buried here have been written for all ages in the palm of your hand.

May the breath of Creation that surrounds these holy graves - the trees, the grass, the birds, the wind, and the sun - join us today in prayer.

May this pilgrimage remind us of what our faith teaches us - that after we die, we are transformed into new life through Christ.

Holy are these resting places. Holy is the earth that has held in gentle embrace the bodies of all who are buried in this cemetery.

Lord, with reverence we leave our prayers and love at these graves, and we remember in faith the reality of that first Easter morning, trusting that all the dead will rise in the splendour of your glory.

Until that day, eternal rest be to those whose graves we visit today and to all the holy dead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SIGNED MASSES On the first Sunday of the month at 4.30pm, there will be a signed Mass streamed with a split screen: Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service, will respond in sign as Fr. Norbert celebrates the Mass in sign. This will be in place of the monthly Mass from the Cathedral. All welcome to follow and please give the details to any deaf or hard of hearing people you know.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Parents who will need a 'Certificate of Catholicity' for Reception class or Nursery should download the form on this website called 'Request for a Certificate of Catholicity'. Fill it in and return to Fr. Norbert who will then contact each family to arrange for a Certificate to be issued.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

5 November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

As we enter this second 'lockdown' and loss of communal celebration of Mass, I wish to add these few words.

This is a time for us to show our strength. And by that I do not mean strength in defiance. I mean strength in mutual support; strength in service; strength in perseverance and hope. I mean, then, the strength of our faith in action.

The first act of faith is the praise of God. It is deep and constant prayer. This must be at the root of our lives, as individuals, as families, as households. I urge you, then, to stay faithful to daily patterns of prayer. Pray privately; pray together at home; come to church to pray; pray without ceasing. I thank God that our churches remain open to be places of peace and prayer, and the live streaming of the Mass, celebrated every day in our churches, is a great help. But that too must be rooted in our own life of prayer.

Only by receiving the living water from the Lord will we pass through this arid time. Indeed, if we stay close to the Lord, we will be changed for the better by this time of crisis.

The second act of faith is humble service. This is the road we are to follow: service of each other; outreach to the lonely; nourishment for the hungry; compassion for the sick, the isolated, the dying, especially those facing death alone, and those who mourn. Let's do it.

These are the strengths we have, the strengths we must contribute to our society's way of life. Only in this day-to-day practice can we shape a different future, a better future, one that is more compassionate, more just, more charitable. This is the future which must come out of this crisis. We cannot just wait to 'get back to normal'. This is a time to rebuild a better family, a better household, a better neighbourhood, a better world.

May God bless and sustain us all in the weeks ahead.

Yours devotedly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Vincent Nichols". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A small cross symbol is visible at the beginning of the signature.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

LEARNING FROM THE PANDEMIC Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum on Saturday 5th December 11am – 1.30pm. Zoom online event for the whole Diocese of Westminster. A time of reflection on the experience of the pandemic so far and conversation about the journey that now lies ahead. Speakers helping to facilitate the Forum include Anna Gavurin (Caritas Food Collective), Fr Richard Nesbitt (Parish Priest, White City) and Dr Pat Jones (Theologian). Chair: Fr Dominic Robinson SJ (Chair of Westminster Justice & Peace). Hosted by Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Bishop Paul McAleenan. Co-sponsored by Caritas Westminster & Westminster Justice & Peace. Please register in advance to receive the Zoom link.<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127452079601>

FR. TONY ON THE RUN? On 27th November, Fr Tony is going to run a 'Virtual Runner' half-marathon (<https://www.virtualrunneruk.com/>) at Panshanger Park, to raise funds for the Welwyn Garden City Society of St Vincent de Paul. As you know, the SVP does wonderful work supporting elderly and vulnerable members of our community, and any sponsorship money raised will help them in particular during this year's challenging Christmas season. If you would like to support Fr Tony and the SVP, please go to this JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tony-thomas-876>

SVP REQUEST FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS The SVP is trying to source furniture/household items for a lady setting up home, having moved out of the YMCA. She needs the following items: fridge, freezer, cooker, washing machine, tumble dryer, bedside drawers, TV, TV stand. If you are able to donate any items, or can suggest where they could be obtained, please contact Fr Tony (01707 327434). Any help would be greatly appreciated.

SVP REQUEST FOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES A single mother needs clothes for a 3 - 4 year old boy and for an 8 - 9 year old girl. Please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456 if you can help.

SVP The Welwyn Garden City St Vincent St Paul Society does wonderful work in our local community, supporting people in any kind of need. They currently assist 70 Friends in a variety of ways. A full summary of the SVP's work can be found in their annual report, which you can read in last week's newsletter.

Normally the SVP hold an annual collection at Mass, but because of COVID the collection will not take place this year. However, the SVP's work continues and requests for their support are still being made in these challenging times. If you would like to make a contribution to support the SVP, in lieu of their annual collection, please send a cheque payable to 'St Bonaventure's SVP' to Fr Tony at Holy Family Church (194 Knightsfield, AL8 7RQ). Many thanks.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The annual collection would have taken place this weekend. If you are in a position to offer support, you can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations Thank you

MISSIO RED BOXES At present it is not possible for your Red Box to be collected or taken to church as normal. The suggestion is to count your money and :

Send a cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

Give on-line to missio.org.uk/redbox

Give via text. Text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085

By phone on 020 7821 9755 (in office hours)

Bank transfer Account: Missio Sort code: 16-00-16 Account number: 10824230

Reference: RB + your postcode

This money supports missionaries who share God's love and the communities they serve.

INTERFAITH GROUP You are all invited to the AGM, on Tuesday 10th November at 2.30pm by Zoom. For a Zoom invitation, contact theresa.whifg@gmail.com

During InterFaith Week in mid-November, there is usually a bring & share supper, which has been cancelled due to COVID.

Other Dates for your diary:

18th November - Interactive Inter Faith Group

8th December - The history of the Focolare

CALENDARS Luke Kelly will be making calendars again this year using new photos from the three churches in the parish, with all profits donated to CAFOD. These will be available to order both online and via paper order forms. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 8TH NOVEMBER

Saturday 7th November

Philippians 4:10-19 God will fulfil all your needs

Luke 16:9-15 The use of money

Sunday 8th November THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 6:12-16 Wisdom is bright, readily seen.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 We believe Jesus died and rose again

Matthew 25:1-13 The parable of the wise and foolish virgins.

Monday 9th November DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA *The Mother and Head of all churches of the City and World. The Pope's Cathedral Church in Rome.*

Ezekiel 47:1-2.8-9, 12 The stream from the Temple

John 2:13-22 The cleansing of the Temple

Tuesday 10th November St. Leo the Great (Died 461) *Pope and Doctor of the Church*

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14 Jesus sacrificed himself to set us free

Luke 17:7-10 The life of a disciple

Wednesday 11th November St. Martin of Tours (316-397) *Bishop of Tours*

Titus 3:1-7 God the Father has generously poured out on us the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ

Luke 17:11-19 The ten lepers healed by Jesus

Thursday 12th November St. Josaphat (1580 - 1623) *Bishop and Martyr*

Philemon 7-20 'Put new heart into me, in Christ'

17:20-25 'The kingdom of God is among you.'

Friday 13th November

2 John 4-9 'Live a life of love' Luke 17:26-37 The day of the Son of Man