

# 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*

## ***Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 22nd November***

The Church's Year is drawing to an end and we are called upon to celebrate Christ the King. What I love about this Solemnity is that it reveals Jesus Christ holding together peoples of every place and time. The First Reading today from the prophecy of Ezekiel highlights the Shepherd who stands in the midst of his scattered flock, keeping an eye on them and wanting them to be safe. From his vantage point the Divine Pastor can hold in view everyone and everything. The sheep are in mist and darkness; the Lord rescues them. His concern is to show them where to rest. Those which are wounded or lost find healing through him. Even the fat and healthy are not neglected. Ezekiel says God is a true shepherd! As we ponder Jesus in this role, we consider that this Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep by dying on the Cross. He brings healing and salvation too by his Resurrection. Rest comes from knowing he is there and will reach fulfilment in the glory of heaven. No matter how lost we are or fragile through our woundedness, there IS hope and the prospect of a future which will last for eternity.

There is a week and a half of lockdown left! How are you coping? What have you found challenging? What are you looking forward to most of all? I am sure that every single one of us would express our feelings with different words and images. In many ways 'mist and darkness' sums up for me how trying this whole experience of 'pandemic' has been. I keep trying to think of ways forward which are life-giving and founded on faith and community; yet as circumstances change and regulations alter, the rug is pulled away and I have to rediscover a firm footing. The converse is also true when I have felt the warmth of golden sunshine and witnessed the smiling faces of so many on my daily walks. The totally unexpected encounters have been uplifting and are definitely signs of the presence of Christ the Shepherd-King. Even when stuck in an extremely long

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tunnel, there is a glimmer of light which Jesus shines in my direction - the sparkle in his eye, the glow of his radiant face.

Today, allow the Lord to hold you together with others - perhaps family members or friends whom you cannot share moments with in reality because of shielding and/or lockdown. Let the Lord be the bond between you. In this month of November in particular, ask him to grant eternal rest to those who have died. Let him keep you united with them in the Communion of Saints. Next Sunday we will enter the Season of Advent and a fresh start with a New Year in the Church's life. May this afford us opportunities to be open to Christ's Coming and a redoubling of our efforts to remain connected to him.

Fr. Tony and I pray for you to stay safe and well. God bless you.  
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: Tracey Laycock RIP 2nd Anniv, Sebastiano Scarso RIP, Richard Brett Int, Augustus Joachim RIP Funeral, Marion Hobbs Int, Gus Grieco RIP Anniv, Michael Connolly RIP Funeral, Patrick Creamer RIP, Michael Connolly RIP, Jacqueline Leonard RIP, Danny RIP, Holy Souls.

**LATELY DEAD** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Raymond Walsh RIP, Albert (Mattie) Matthews, Chris and Sonia Leonard's mother, Jacqueline, and Keith Kerrison 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](mailto:foodbank@newzioncf.net) and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

**METANOIA** On Thursday we had the sixth session in our online course, "Metanoia". The theme this week was our hunger and thirst for God.

*Summary:* Every human person is hungry. The human heart experiences this hunger. Men and Women are created with a sense of incompleteness, with an eternal longing. This longing sometimes masks itself as desire or loneliness, but ultimately, all these pangs humanity experiences reveal a deep longing and hunger for God. Jesus fills emptiness and satisfies hunger. In the Scriptures, he reveals himself as the Bread from heaven. God humbles himself and becomes the Bread of Life that can fill and satisfy. This revelation of the Eucharist proves to be a hard teaching for many, and Jesus loses followers over it, but his disciples stay even though they struggle to understand. They do not turn to anyone else because they know that Jesus alone "has the words to eternal life." Only Jesus fills the hunger of the human person.

*Spiritual reflection: Come, Holy Spirit.* When Jesus asked his disciples if they too would leave, they responded, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Ask the Holy Spirit to make these words of the disciples the prayer of your own heart. Take these moments to turn to God with your own loneliness, fears, frustrations and feelings. Allow yourself to encounter God as an intimate friend to whom you can go.

**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.

**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.

**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?** This Friday (27th), 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>

**ADVENT SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** on BBC Radio 4 Sunday 6th December at 0810 from St. John's, Digswell, celebrating the Centenary of Welwyn Garden City. With the Rev Dr Rob Marshall, Rector of Digswell, Welwyn Garden City. Reading: Revelation 21: 22 - 22:5. Something to look forward to!

**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 is on previous newsletters

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.

**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](https://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.*

**THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** are seeking to appoint a new Foundation Governor. An opportunity for you to support our Catholic primary school has arisen. Governors have oversight of the curriculum and the appointment of staff and are accountable for the performance of the school. They have a strategic role to play as well as acting as a critical friend to the Head teacher. More information about the role is available on <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2.-being-a-foundation-governor-booklet.pdf>

Also, <https://holyfamilyschoolwelwyn.secure-primariesite.net/topic/governors>

If you are interested in supporting our school, please speak to Fr Norbert, our Chair of Governors for more details and contact Jackie Willcocks in the school office 01707375518. Thank you.

**CALENDARS** Luke will be selling Calendars again this year using photos from within the three churches. All profits going to CAFOD. Due to lockdown they will be sold online from his website

[www.lukesphotography.co.uk/shop](http://www.lukesphotography.co.uk/shop) [1] and will be delivered to your home.

Please call 07710 097122 if you would like a calendar but do not have online access.



**‘GIVING TREE 2020’** This year, more than ever, there are a number of families in real need in our parish. Due to the pandemic we can't hold our usual 'Giving Tree' mass at Holy Family Church, where we usually collect Christmas gifts for such families. This year it has been suggested we provide vouchers for supermarkets, which is a Covid-friendly solution, and allows families to buy food, toys or clothes - depending on what is most needed. We would like to support around 60 families with a £10 voucher if possible, through charities including 'HomeStart' and 'For Baby's Sake'. So, if you feel you can help, please put your donation in a sealed envelope labelled 'Giving Tree' and put it through the door of the Presbytery at either Holy Family or Our Lady's by 6th December. For further information please contact [suzanne.meenan@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanne.meenan@btinternet.com). Thank you.

**CLOTHES FOR REFUGEES** *Joy from Focolare writes:* ‘My colleague is involved with local charity to support refugees who need warm clothes especially men's clothes but also women's clothes. I wanted to ask if people could look through and see if they have any warm clothes they could donate All clothes are for adults of all sizes. Donations are sent to London and Calais. Please drop your donations to the Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway by November 27th. If no reply to door please leave clothes in bags in the porch at the rear of the building accessed via The Cloisters AL8 6DU. Thank you.’

**ONLINE QUIZ** The Saint John Henry Newman School Association would like to invite parishioners to join them for a free online quiz on Saturday 28th November at 8pm. The quiz will be live on YouTube and questions will be presented by the teachers.

We are joining together for an evening of light entertainment and fun to brighten these uncertain times so please join in and spread the word. The YouTube channel can be found by following this link: [tinyurl.com/JHNA-Youtube](https://tinyurl.com/JHNA-Youtube)

The quiz will go live at 8pm on 28th November with questions starting at 8.15pm. Everyone is welcome so please share the details and invite your family and friends.

## **THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

### **Applications for Reception**

If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, they will be due to start school in September 2021.

Applications will open from Monday 2nd November. Please follow the link to the admissions page on our school website for further guidance. Applications close on 15th January.

<https://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>

Please note that a certificate of Catholic practice will not be required this year.

### **Applications for Nursery**

If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, they are eligible for a nursery place from the day they turn 3.

Alternatively they are eligible for a nursery place from September 2021. Applications are open, please follow the link below to the admissions page on our school website or phone the school office for further details.

<https://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>

**Cardinal's personal statement, 20 November 2020**

On Tuesday 10 November I received the IICSA Report. It has brought together a picture of abuse inflicted in the Catholic Church over a period of 50 years, together with detailed accounts of that abuse. It is a terrible picture. I remain shocked and ashamed. It is a reality that hangs like a dark cloud over my heart and mind.

I know that the publication of the Report has renewed in so many the lasting pain and wounds they carry as a result of that abuse, no matter how long ago it happened. My first thoughts were and are for them. Indeed many have written to me in these last days. To each and every one, I express my profound sorrow and apologies.

Abuse is a terrible wickedness. It can destroy, or severely damage, a person's capacity for trust and love. It can create of a life an empty shell. One letter I received from a survivor speaks eloquently of its deepest wickedness. She writes that, in the eyes of faith, these are wounds inflicted on the very Body of Jesus Christ, and inflicted by a person who claims to represent Christ and who uses faith, that most precious gift, as a means of controlling their victim. It is a very terrible evil.

I have spent many hours listening to survivors. I have sat and talked with them, shared meals with them and wept with them. Nothing removes from my soul the horror of what has happened to them. I will continue to listen to survivors: hearing them is a humbling and learning experience for me.

I say again: I am so sorry. I say this for many bishops who have gone before me over these 50 years. Many hearing this will feel that we let you down. Yes, we did let you down in many ways, in different times, in different places, for different reasons. I apologise again. I am so sorry for all that has happened over these years.

In these last few days, I have received many letters expressing anger and disgust at what has taken place. I have also received many more letters and messages of respect, support, esteem and encouragement for my continuing ministry. I cannot remove the damage that has been inflicted, but I can tell you that I hear clearly and feel keenly the content and impact of this Report, the messages from survivors, from the public and from so many of the faithful. I take them all to heart.



With profound feelings of both pain and support I came on Monday to our bishops' meeting. I came to be with my fellow bishops, united as we are, in a common life-long commitment, to a ministry we have been given, in a love for this Church of sinners. I came to continue as their President, to guide and lead our work, to press ahead with the work we have done and are to bring into action, including and beyond the IICSA Report.

Yes, now I look to the future, to the renewal of our work of safeguarding and our response to survivors. There is new work to tell you about, new recommendations for action, shaped by the survivors who work with us and guide us, who give us the fruit of their suffering and wisdom. I thank them, as I thank everyone who works in this important ministry in our parishes and dioceses. Our commitment is strong and refreshed.

And now I hand over the Archbishop Malcolm who will report to you on the work of our Bishops' Conference. He will outline the measures on which we are fully agreed in order to revitalise our work of safeguarding, in order to correct our failings and build something better and stronger for the future. We pray that implementing these measures will help to restore the faith of our people and ensure respect and dignity for every person.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### Statement on Safeguarding

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The account given in the IICSA Report of abuse known to be inflicted on children in the Catholic Church in England and Wales in the past 50 years is shocking and overwhelming. At our meeting this week, we Bishops have stood together in profound shame. We express our sorrow and contrition before God.

We have reflected on our need to reach out afresh to those who bear the wounds of permanent damage caused by this abuse. We commit ourselves to listen more intently to those who have been abused so as to learn from them and benefit from their wisdom. It is through learning from their testimony that hearts are changed.

We are grateful to those survivors who have come forward, not only to lay before us their experience of abuse, but to help us understand the depth of their pain. We invite anyone who has experienced abuse to come forward, no matter how long ago the abuse took place. We undertake to listen carefully to them with open heart and mind and support them on a journey of healing.

We have carefully considered the recommendations of the IICSA Report and formally accepted them. We have already begun work towards their implementation.

The IICSA's generic hearings into the Church began last October. Around that time we commissioned an Independent Review of our Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This was carried out by Mr Ian Elliott, an experienced safeguarding professional who has worked across the world in this area.

This week, alongside the IICSA Report, we have also examined in depth the Final Report of the Elliott Review and fully accepted its recommendations. It is a searching analysis of our safeguarding work, in its weaknesses and strengths. It proposes a number of remedial and forward-looking recommendations, which accord with the IICSA Report's own recommendations. The work of implementation will begin immediately. It will be carried out in close cooperation with the Religious Orders who play such an important part in the life of the Church.

In all our activities, our desire and resolve is to be a Church in which every child and vulnerable person is not only safe but nurtured into human flourishing. These recommendations present us with steps towards this goal. Key to them is a standards-based approach to safeguarding together with a specially commissioned national body with powers of effective audit and oversight of safeguarding in both Dioceses and Religious Orders. Everyone in the Church will

be required to work to clear, published standards of behaviour and action. Most significantly, the Elliott Report has been fashioned with the participation of survivors of abuse. Their insight and wisdom has been crucial. We thank them for their great courage and generosity in working with us and we look forward to continuing this growing collaboration.

The Elliott Report builds on all that has been achieved in our safeguarding ministry in the past 20 years, achievements also recognised in the IICSA Report. Therefore we thank profoundly all who contribute to the work of safeguarding in the Church today: the thousands of Parish Safeguarding Representatives, the professionals who work in our Safeguarding Offices in every Diocese, the Safeguarding Commissions who oversee this work and give objective and professional advice to guide our decisions, the staff of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and those who serve on the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission. These, and many others, have contributed greatly to the current work of safeguarding in the Church.

Today, however, we acknowledge without hesitation, our failings, our mistakes, our lack of adequate cooperation. We express our deep sorrow and ask forgiveness, especially from victims and survivors. We affirm our resolve to effect the next step in our work of safeguarding and care for survivors. In prayer we turn to Christ the Good Shepherd, the fount of healing and compassion, asking that this moment of painful truth becomes a time of grace as we strive to fulfil the ministry entrusted to us as bishops in an unshakeable unity of purpose.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 22ND NOVEMBER**

### **Saturday 21st November The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Apocalypse 11:4-12 'God breathed life into them...'

Luke 20:27-40 'He is God of the living...'

### **Sunday 22nd November CHRIST THE KING**

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 The Lord's care of his flock

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits...'

Matthew 25:31-46 'In so far as you did this to one of the least of these, you did it to me.'

### **Monday 23rd November**

Apocalypse 14:1-5 The heavenly throng singing and praising God.

Luke 21:1-4 The poor widow who gives everything.

### **Tuesday 24th November Saints Andrew Dung-Lac and his Companions 117**

*Martyrs of Vietnam from 1625 - 1886 - Lay people, priests and bishops. Vietnamese, Spanish and French*

Apocalypse 14:14-19 'Harvest time has come!'

Luke 21:5-11 Signs of the end?

### **Wednesday 25th November**

Apocalypse 15:1-4 'How great and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty'

Luke 21:12-19 'I myself shall give you eloquence and wisdom.'

### **Thursday 26th November**

Apocalypse 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3,9 'Happy are those invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'

Luke 21:20-28 'Stand erect, hold your heads high because your liberation is near at hand.'

### **Friday 27th November**

Apocalypse 20:1-4,11 - 21:2 'I saw a new heaven and a new earth'

Luke 21:29-33 'The kingdom of God is near.'