

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

Palm Sunday 5th April 2020

How are you coping? We are living through turbulent times! Who would have thought last year on Palm Sunday that we would be in the situation we now find ourselves as we enter Holy Week 2020? It is unfortunate that we cannot have the Blessing of Palms; it cannot happen this year. We journey through Holy Week some of us on our own, others as households, aware of the huge sacrifices being made by so many to bring support and help to the sick and vulnerable. The Passion of Jesus Christ continues; Jesus is still suffering. He carries the Cross and we need to unite our pain, sadness, frustration and helplessness to the wood of the Cross. We must never forget that the Cross leads to the glory of Resurrection, that the darkness of death opens up to the dawn of something new - this Risen Life.

I know that this awareness does not make it any easier when we are living through this crisis, but we must look for the signs of hope: communities caring for one another, a huge surge in volunteers, an appreciation of those who keep us going in society, especially the front-line workers. We are having to find new ways of discovering who we are as families, as workers, as neighbourhood and as Church. I am sure each one of us will come to a deeper discovery of who we are.

This week, open your Bibles or Google passages, take a cross or crucifix in your hands and feel the strength which flows from Christ's Sacrifice. Look outside as nature springs to life with fresh colour and harmonious sounds. Think of blessings you have, in spite of the coronavirus, and say 'Thank you!' to God. With Our Lady, utter those words which she used at the Annunciation 'I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to thy word.' Let us keep going, let us say 'Yes!' to God. Let us be with Our Lady as she follows her Son to the Cross and never stops loving totally!

God be with you and your loved ones and all who are taking care of others. ***Fr. Norbert***

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMRar5c56VdIMK7v7aQLaRg/>

Palm Sunday Mass will be at 10am

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm

Good Friday Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3pm

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 8pm

Easter Sunday Mass at 10am.

FR. TONY will lead the following 'extras':

Holy Rosary on Sunday 5th April at 7pm, via Zoom. Please follow this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5628272142> *It will also be on the YouTube channel*

Daily Reflections

on Monday – Thursday of Holy Week at 10am, on the Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches YouTube channel. See link above

Children's Stations of the Cross

on Good Friday at 12 noon, via Zoom. Please follow this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/meeting/j/553195764>

If you would like your child to lead one of the readings, please email Sarah Cafferty on david.cafferty@ntlworld.com

It will also be on YouTube channel

Meditation on the Last Seven Words of Jesus

On Good Friday at 8.00pm, on the Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches YouTube channel. See link above.

'FURLOUGH' The Diocese has asked that all paid lay employees should be put on furlough to protect their jobs through the present crisis and allow them to have sufficient income to support their families. To this end Kathryn Hubbard will for now be on furlough which means that she cannot carry out any responsibilities or voluntary work as Parish Secretary. Any queries or communications should be sent to Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert. We are grateful to Kathryn for her hard work and look forward to things going back to normal in the future.

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.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Patrick Creamer RIP, Jimmy Byrne RIP, Sarah Casey Intention, Tracey Laycock RIP, Mary Pearce's intentions, Private intention, Deceased members of the O'Reilly family, Grace Ann Finnegan's intentions, Miriam Harte's intentions, Pat Villette RIP, Mary O'Neill 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.

Kathy Booth RIP
Stefan Jurek RIP
Phyllis Connolly 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.*

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.

CHRISM MASS This will be postponed until some later date. The Holy Oils blessed last year will continue to be used. Priests will renew their Ordination Promises privately on Maundy Thursday evening.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE A pre-recorded Service for Good Friday involving a number of church leaders in the town will be available on <https://churchesinwgc.org.uk> and on Churches in WGC Facebook page.

WINTERSHALL GOOD FRIDAY PASSION will be livestreamed through Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay> at 12noon and 3pm on Good Friday. After that it will be available on <http://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london> under Media Gallery. This Passion Play is usually performed in Trafalgar Square.

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.rpbooks.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.praytellblog.com/index.php/2020/03/20/fasting-then-feasting/>

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 4th April

Ezekiel 37:21-28 The Lord will gather the people together. 'I will be their God, they shall be my people.'

John 11:45-56 Caiaphas said: 'It is better for one man to die for the people...'

Sunday 5th April PALM SUNDAY

Matthew 21:1-11 The crowds shouted: 'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

Isaiah 50:4-7 The Suffering Servant says: 'I offered my back to those who struck me...The Lord comes to my help...'

Philippians 2:6-11 'Christ Jesus emptied himself....But God raised him high.'

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66 The Passion, Death and Burial of Christ.

Monday 6th April

Isaiah 42:1-7 'Here is my servant whom I uphold.'

John 12:1-11 Mary anoints the feet of Jesus.

Tuesday 7th April

Isaiah 49:1-6 'You are my servant in whom I will be glorified.'

John 13:21-33, 36-38 Jesus tells the disciples: 'One of you will betray me.' He speaks to Peter: '...before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.'

Wednesday 8th April

Isaiah 50:4-9 'The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare condemn me?'

Matthew 26:14-25 Judas is paid thirty silver pieces and looks for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Thursday 9th April MAUNDY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 The instructions for the Passover meal - a feast in the Lord's honour.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 '...on the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread...and said "This is my body"...he took the cup and said "This cup is the new covenant in my blood..."'

John 13:1-15 Jesus washes the feet of his disciples

Friday 10th April GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 '...through his wounds we are healed.'

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 '...he offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears...'

John 18:1 - 19:42 'Who are you looking for?' '..bowing his head he gave up his spirit.'