

# 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*

## ***Sixteenth Sunday of the Year 19th July 2020***

The school holidays have begun! Such a different end to the school year. School staff have worked so hard throughout this period to keep lessons going, supporting key-worker children and offering care to the vulnerable members of the school community. There have been so many regulations to digest and implement; these have altered at short notice. Parents have been delivering teaching at home, looking over homework and ensuring an exercise routine for their children (and themselves). We are grateful for the efforts which have taken place to safeguard our children and maintain their well-being. I hope the summer is a period of rest and refreshment for everyone concerned.

For the rest of us, 'summer' is coming but possibly in a very different way compared to recent years. Maybe holidays have been put on hold or cancelled? Perhaps a new not-so-far destination has been found? Or are you still shielding or isolating wondering when 'freedom without fear' will re-emerge? We do need space and time to be renewed. We must not go overboard with the release of lockdown and take risks with our own health and that of others. We have been cooped up for so long and it is especially trying when you know you shouldn't do this or that! There is the additional worry of a fresh outbreak or 'spike' in the coming months and that might weigh upon you. Stay safe!

Last weekend we began the opening up of lockdown church-wise. A multitude of things to think about as we welcomed people back and tried to celebrate Mass in the 'new normal' way. Some priests have said it was like celebrating their very 'first' Mass with all the apprehension and excitement at the time of Ordination. There was silence in the church and a feeling of being together. There were smiles of recognition as well as a sense of being on unknown territory. The process ran smoothly and people did come. If you are not sure, why not give it a try on a weekday when it is less busy? *next page*

On a different note, some people got a shock to see the streamed Mass coming from St. Bonaventure's ! I wanted it to be a surprise and to highlight that, while it may not be large enough to take sufficient people under the present constraints, it is still an important part of our Catholic life in Welwyn Garden City.

Today St. Matthew gives us more of Jesus' parables. Remember the people are still standing on the seashore, with Jesus out in a boat teaching. Try and picture this scene and place yourself in the midst of the crowd: sun, sand, sea...a gentle breeze? It seems almost like a picture postcard from a holiday resort! The imagery used by the Lord is from cultivation, from the outdoors and from the kitchen - the reality of people's lives. He stresses that the Kingdom is happening - not always as might be expected. God is patient, yearning for a bountiful crop and unwilling to damage shoots which are thought to be weeds but might turn out to be wheat. Something small like a mustard seed becomes huge and all-embracing; a tiny addition of yeast can transform an enormous quantity of flour into dough sufficient to make countless loaves. Then Jesus goes back into the house and discusses with his disciples the meaning of the first parable. Can you imagine having to leave the beauty of the seaside to return indoors? However, the bonus is an explanation from the story-teller! Perhaps in these days and weeks you might reflect on what Jesus is saying to you personally and consider your response as you figuratively go back into the house with him? No time should be regarded as wasted. May this summer give you insights into Jesus and his teaching which you have never had before!

Fr. Tony and I continue to pray for you and offer our support and encouragement. Please keep us in mind and heart. Thank you for all you do and who you are. God bless you. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

## **PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

### **Saturday 18th July**

10am Mass at Holy Family

6pm Mass at Our Lady's

### **Sunday 19th July**

10am Mass at Our Lady's

6pm Mass at Holy Family

### **Monday 20th July**

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

## **Tuesday 21st July**

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

## **Thursday 23rd July**

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

## **Friday 24th July**

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

St. Bonaventure's - as a building - is small and would not hold many people in present circumstances. We reckon Holy Family would take around 70 people and Our Lady's 80. Both churches also have car parks which is an important consideration.

The Bishops have made it very clear that the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass has been suspended and they ask people to consider coming to ONE MASS PER WEEK to allow others a chance to attend Mass. So, if a weekday morning works well, come on Tuesday or Thursday. If you can come after the working day, choose Monday or Friday evening. If these days are out of the question, then opt for a weekend Mass. But please only ONE. The Cardinal speaks of Catholics having to make a 'sacrifice' in the current situation. This will have to be the case here in Welwyn Garden City.

Mass will be different! As you arrive there will be stewards outside to make sure people respect distancing and to take contact details (name and phone number which will be held securely for 21 days). Stewards will sanitise hands on entry. More stewards will lead you to places. People will have to sit in their 'bubbles', that is as couples, families or households. We have single chairs for individuals. We ask that you only sit or stand in your place and do not use the kneeler. Once the church has reached its capacity, we would not be allowed to admit any more. Parents are asked to keep a watchful eye on their children at all times. Remember toilets will not be available. The galleries in both churches will not be open. There will not be Mass-books or printed newsletters. Give yourselves time to park and prepare to enter the church - arrive EARLY!

The structure of the Mass will be simplified so that people are not in an enclosed place for longer than 30 minutes: no singing or music, no 2nd Reading or Bidding Prayers, no Gloria or Creed, no collection, Offertory procession or Sign of Peace, no Communion from the Chalice, no altar servers, no lighting of votive candles. At the time of Holy Communion, the priest will say to the whole congregation 'The Body of Christ' to which you will all respond 'Amen'. Only the priest will receive at that point. After the Blessing and Dismissal, stewards will guide people from their benches to the front of the sanctuary, keeping distance at all times. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion may only receive in the hand with no words uttered by priest or communicant and then you will leave the church - in Holy Family by the doors either side of the sanctuary, and in Our Lady's by the side door on the left and by the 'Holy

Door' at the back on the right. Even those not receiving Holy Communion must follow this flow. As you exit the church, the stewards will sanitise your hands. We have been told that you cannot congregate outside but must make your way home. We ask you to respect the stewards who are your fellow parishioners and will be doing their best to facilitate the whole process.

Only the priest will prepare the vessels for Mass and the ciboria (with hosts) will have their lids on until Holy Communion is distributed at the end.

After each Mass there will have to be cleaning teams to sanitise everything which has had human contact and to prepare the church for the next Mass. Any property left behind will be disposed of. Priests have been told not to greet their people for the sake of everyone's protection. We have purchased masks, plastic aprons and gloves for stewards and cleaners as well as sufficient sanitising and cleaning materials. You do not have to wear a mask. If you want to, bring your own.

So there we are!! In the course of a week a huge number of people will be able to have access to Mass in Welwyn Garden City. We hope that anyone entering our churches will trust that Fr. Tony and I have done all we can to keep you safe and have a holy encounter with the Lord in the Eucharist. We will review at the end of the two-week trial. We think that this schedule is sustainable for a longer period and allows for one priest to keep things going should the other be unwell or take a break. In the meantime, there will still be Wednesday's Facebook Mass at 9.30am and Sunday's 'full' Mass streamed at 10 o'clock (but recorded earlier!) Some of you may not feel ready to return because of health issues or because you care for someone who is vulnerable. Others might still be afraid and this is totally understandable.

If you think you have the virus, please do NOT come and put others at risk. COVID 19 symptoms: a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

At each Mass we will need 8 stewards and a team of cleaners. That is a big ask. Think carefully about the day and time of Mass and see what you can offer. We really need YOUR help. Send your name to Fr. Tony or me and we will put together a rota. It would really help at this initial stage if you could commit to these first two weeks; that will help establish a routine and identify any issues which should be addressed.

**CONFESSION** The Cardinal reminds all Catholics that in order to receive Holy Communion, a 'good' Act of Contrition will suffice and then to find an opportunity at a later stage to go to Confession. On the days when public Mass is celebrated, Fr. Tony and Fr. Norbert will NOT be able to hear Confessions before or after Mass. However, ring Fr. Tony on 01707 327434 or Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234 if you would like to make an appointment for Confession. The Sacrament will be outside the church building with priest and penitent standing; every attempt will be made to keep distance and reduce the risk of infection either way, while respecting the confidentiality of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The church will NOT be open for prayer after. We ask you to have patience and generosity of spirit if things get complicated time-wise!

### **STREAMED MASS**

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

We continue to stream Mass on Sunday at 10am and Wednesday at 9.30am.

### **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.

**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. The intentions will not be announced at Mass but will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Rita Gracias RIP Anniv, Terry Little RIP, John Almeyda RIP, Mary Wall RIP, Cesare Spagnoli RIP, Alice Beckett RIP

## **PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY**

John Patrick West RIP

Alice Beckett RIP *John Beckett's mother*

Amerigo Meola RIP

Denis O'Brien 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.*

**BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, FIRST COMMUNIONS** will be celebrated in due course, when permission is given.

**WEDDINGS** are allowed, with limited numbers present.

**FUNERALS** with very limited numbers will be permitted in church. There will still be the possibility of graveside or crematorium services.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES** You will note that with public Masses starting again this weekend, we will not be having a collection. Coins and notes are a possible source of infection and transmission of the coronavirus and we do not want to put collectors and counters at risk. Please consider using the Virgin Money Giving links on the parish website. If you would like to set up a standing order, please contact Fr. Norbert and the appropriate forms will be emailed or posted to you. 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 that you consider the best way of giving. Our thanks to you for your generosity and co-operation.

**HELP DURING TIME OF CORONAVIRUS** We are very grateful to those who offered their help in these last months. We are also aware that many of you work hard to support family, neighbours and friends in all sorts of ways.

**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.

**ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL** Catholic Mass every Friday at 12 noon in the Nave of the Cathedral.

**FILIPINO AND AFRICAN MASSES** On the YouTube channel you will find songs and slides from Masses in the past.

**CAFOD** is mindful of the uncertainty in many places in this country, and all that is being done to respond. CAFOD continues to hold you in prayer. Thanks to generous support from the Catholic community, they are already working across 26 countries, to prevent the virus' spread, and limit food shortages it has caused in the poorest communities. But there is so much more to be done. The needs are immense, long term, complex, and evolving, and so our response needs to be large scale, and multifaceted. CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: [cafod.org.uk/summerofhope](https://cafod.org.uk/summerofhope).

**JUSTICE AND PEACE** A Catholic Response to George Floyd and Black Lives Matter - Friday 24th July 2020, 7.30-8.30pm. Join Westminster J+P for a deeper look at how the death of George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests across the globe impact on us as Catholics. The guest speakers, Baroness Scotland (London, UK) and Leslye Colvin(Alabama, USA), will guide reflection on response and action. To join, please register with Eventbrite and you will receive a Zoom link closer to the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-catholic-response-to-george-floyd-and-black-lives-matter-tickets-112811815176>

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 19TH JULY**

### **Saturday 18th July**

Micah 2:1-5 The injustice of the people

Matthew 12:14-21 Jesus withdraws from the district and many follow him.

### **Sunday 19th July SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Repentance, hope and lessons of kindness

Romans 8:26-27 The Spirit helps us to pray

Matthew 13:24-43 The Kingdom of heaven is like...

### **Monday 20th July**

Micah 6:1-4, 6-8 The Lord asks you to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God

Matthew 12:38-42 Signs

### **Tuesday 21st July**

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 The Lord leads his people

Matthew 12:46-50 The true family of Jesus

### **Wednesday 22nd July ST MARY MAGDALENE**

Song of Songs 3:1-4 'I seek him whom my heart loves'

or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 The love of Christ overwhelms us

John 20:1-2, 11-18 Mary of Magdala - Apostle of the Resurrection

### **Thursday 23rd July ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN (1303-1373) *Patroness of Europe. Married, widowed, founded monasteries. She had mystical visions.***

Galatians 2:19-20 Christ lives in me

John 15:1-8 Make your home in me, as I make mine in you

### **Friday 24th July**

Jeremiah 3:14-17 All the nations will gather in the name of the Lord

Matthew 13:18-23 Explanation of the parable of the Sower