

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

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year 2nd August 2020

The voiceover on an advert currently running on television says: “It’s not the summer we expected”. That’s certainly true! So many people, myself included, have been forced to reassess their summer holiday plans. Some people have managed to get abroad despite the restrictions. Others have decided to take a ‘staycation’ in this country, enjoying some of our glorious countryside but apprehensive perhaps about the weather! Still others have decided against taking a holiday at all for the time being, when the travel situation is so fluid and uncertain.

Whatever you have planned for the remainder of the summer, please do take some time to rest and replenish yourself with things you enjoy doing. I was lucky enough to get a few days away last weekend, and it made me realise just how exhausting the past few months have been. I could easily have slept the whole time I was away! Many workers in our parishes – especially those in the NHS, carers, and key workers – have been flat out during this time. You all deserve a break! Even those who have been less busy, or perhaps not working at all, have lived with the constant ‘background noise’ of the pandemic and the anxiety this has engendered. We all need to use this ‘quieter’ time of summer to slow down, breathe deeply, and replenish ourselves before life inevitably gets busier again in September. Be intentional about doing this!

The good news is that we don’t have to replenish ourselves alone. Jesus wants to replenish us, too. We see this in tomorrow’s Gospel, when Jesus demonstrates his care for you and for me by replenishing the crowds: spiritually, by his preaching, and physically, by the multiplication of the five loaves and two fishes.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is a sign of God’s care for us. Jesus sees the hungry crowd and has compassion for them. Similarly, if we are tired or depleted

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or feeling low, Jesus has compassion on us. He sees our needs! This miracle presents Jesus as the new Moses who fed the starving Israelites in the desert and the new Elisha who miraculously fed the starving people of Gilgal. Further, his words today (“taking... blessing... breaking...”) and the promise he made that he would give his body and blood as food and drink (John 6:25-70), means that the miracle anticipates the Eucharist itself.

Over the last few weeks many of our parishioners have been able to come back to Mass and be replenished by the Eucharist once again. This has been a great blessing. For others, this has not yet been possible, either because they are still shielding or are hesitant to venture out whilst too much is still uncertain. And that's fine. Jesus can still replenish you, especially through God's Word. One way of listening to God is to read a passage in the Bible until it speaks to the heart. Then stop to reflect on the message he is conveying to you. The next step is to respond to God in prayer, which is talking to him as to a friend in conversation; telling him everything; and asking him for whatever we need. As God says to Isaiah in today's first reading: “Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live”

Pay attention... come to me... listen... and your soul will live! That's not a bad offer – let's give it a try!

Fr Norbert and I continue to keep you in our prayers. In particular, we pray that you will get all the rest and replenishment you need at this time. Please continue to pray for us, too.

God bless you all, Fr Tony.

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/>

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.

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY As the Sunday Obligation has been suspended, you are free to come to any of the Masses. Our plan is to continue as below together with the streamed Mass on Sunday at 10am. Around 200 people have come during the week, so there is the capacity for people to come more than once in the week if they wish.

Saturday

10am Mass at Holy Family

6pm Mass at Our Lady's

Sunday

10am Mass at Our Lady's

6pm Mass at Holy Family

Monday

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

Tuesday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Thursday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Friday

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

As you arrive there are 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 sanitise hands on entry. More stewards lead you to places. People must 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 are not be allowed to admit any more. Parents are asked to keep a watchful eye on their children at all times. Remember toilets are not available. The galleries in both churches are not be open. There are no Mass-books or printed newsletters. Give yourselves time to park and prepare to enter the church - arrive **EARLY!** ***You are now strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.***

The structure of the Mass has been 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 says to the whole congregation 'The Body of Christ' to which you all respond 'Amen'. Only the priest receives at that point. After the Blessing and Dismissal, stewards 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 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 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 are doing their best to facilitate the whole process.

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

After each Mass there are cleaning teams to sanitise everything which has had human contact and to prepare the church for the next Mass. Any property left behind has to 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.

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 last week there were many volunteers who acted as stewards and helped clean afterwards. If you can offer support, please send your name to Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert. As the weeks go by, some may be away so the availability of extra hands would be appreciated.

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!

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 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 Kathleen and Gordon Kerr 60th wedding anniversary, Francesca Staniforth RIP birthday, Declan Brogan RIP 1st anniversary, Darren Griffiths RIP anniversary, Cissie Bargh RIP, Pat Frost intentions (64th birthday)

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Denis O'Brien RIP

Cissie Bargh RIP *Marion Brogan's sister*

Joan Bramblecombe 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 after the summer.

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.

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.

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL Catholic Mass every Friday at 12 noon in the Nave of the Cathedral. Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 14th August.

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

SIGNED MASSES Fr. Norbert has been asked to celebrate Signed Masses on Sunday 2nd August and Sunday 6th September when they would have taken place at Westminster. These will be streamed with a split screen for the Director of the Deaf Service, Shell Rocca, to sign responses and interpret. The Masses will be on the YouTube channel at 4.30pm on the particular days.

CAFOD is mindful of all 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 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 2ND AUGUST

Saturday 1st August St Alphonsus Ligouri founder of the Redemptorist order
Jeremiah 26:11-16,24 'This man has spoken to us in the name of the Lord'
Matthew 14:1-12 The beheading of St John the Baptist

Sunday 2nd August EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Isaiah 55:1-3 Come and eat
Romans 8:35,37-39 Nothing comes between us and the love of God
Matthew 14:13-21 The feeding of the five thousand

Monday 3rd August
Jeremiah 28:1-17 Jeremiah and the lying prophet Hananiah
Matthew 14:22-36 Jesus walks on the water

Tuesday 4th August St John Vianney patron of parish priests
Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22 'I will heal you'
Matthew 15:1-2,10-14 'Listen, and understand'

Wednesday 5th August Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major one of the seven pilgrim churches of Rome
Jeremiah 31:1-7 'They shall be my people'
Matthew 15:21-28 The Canaanite woman's faith

Thursday 6th August THE TRANSFIGURATION feast
Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 His robe was white as snow
Matthew 17:1-9 His face shone like the sun

Friday 7th August
Nahum 2:1,3, 3:1-3,6-7 The Lord restores Israel
Matthew 16:24-28 Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it