

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*

Third Sunday of Easter 26th April 2020

The Season of Easter continues! Today on the Third Sunday, we are taken to St. Luke's Gospel and the Easter account of the Road to Emmaus. It is a wonderful passage which resonates so much with our lives and the challenges we face. Firstly, the two disciples are walking *away* from Jerusalem. Have they had enough of the crisis of Jesus' death? They are downcast and wonder about this 'resurrection' which some have intimated to them through the encounter with the Empty Tomb and the message of angels. They are so focussed on their own feelings and disappointment that when Jesus is by their side walking and talking, they do not recognise him. Do you feel the same emotions as the two disciples? Would you rather get away from it all?

Secondly, Jesus explains the Scriptures to them and their minds are opened. The Lord really listens to them and they can feel that. They tell him the whole story and he responds. There is something so special about this stranger that they do not want him to leave them. They invite him to stay with them at the inn they are heading for. There is an amazing revelation which takes place as he breaks bread - it's Jesus! Many of us have time to think in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Perhaps we are remembering happy moments and events? Maybe it is the sadness of failure, letdown and loss? Are you concerned about where everything is going and asking when it will end? Some are lucky enough to have others to talk to, opening hearts and minds to them, trusting in their listening skills and their wise words. Why not talk to the Lord? Tell him everything! Invite him into your life! Imagine you are having a cup of coffee or tea with him...something stronger?!

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Finally, they recognise the Risen Lord in the breaking of bread. Meals were so important to Jesus - times of encounter, love and mercy. Even if you have to eat on your own, why not let Christ be your guest? He accepted all sorts of invitations! Your home is just right for him! Then allow yourself to be taken to the Last Supper and Jesus' choice of bread and wine to put us in touch with his Life, Death and Resurrection. This material sustenance becomes a Divine Feast - the Body and Blood of Christ given for the salvation of the world in loving obedience to the Father. Even though you cannot receive Holy Communion at present, be open to a mystical experience of the Lord in your home. May your heart burn as you converse with him and are nourished in the power of the Spirit. Don't forget about what happens and be sure to find ways of sharing this Good News with others. Look forward to when you can encounter him at Mass and be nourished intimately by him.

So, as another week begins, whatever you have to do, find a precious moment to be still in the presence of the Lord and share your thoughts with him, as St. John Henry Newman says 'Cor ad cor loquitur...heart speaks to heart.' Fr. Tony and I ask God to bless you.

With love and prayers, Fr. Norbert

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:

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

Unfortunately there were problems with the system and a number of crashes last Sunday during Mass. We hope there will be a better signal this week! Thank you for your patience.

FACEBOOK PAGE

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

We now have a Facebook page for our three parishes. Please search for 'Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches' to find us. We will be posting 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.

SPECIAL MASSES will be livestreamed from Cathedrals in this country every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock for the intentions of frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. This week from Arundel Cathedral (in West Sussex) celebrated by Bishop Richard Moth.

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 Jimmy Byrne RIP, Brian Haughton RIP 1st Anniv, Daniel Cronin RIP, Franco Tiramani RIP Anniv, Leena Menezes RIP 1st Anniv, Mary Moran RIP 7th Anniv, Nellie Brophy RIP Anniv, Rose Doyle RIP, Anthony and Vincent Leonard RIP, Margaret Morrin RIP, Mary Cachia RIP, Eddie Devine RIP Birthday, Margaret Morrin RIP.

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Funeral Services will only be conducted at the graveside or at crematorium until further notice with just immediate family attending.

Piotr Bujnarowski RIP

Fr. John Helm RIP *former Assistant Priest at Our Lady's*

Anne Inge RIP

Fr. John Seabrook RIP *former Parish Priest of Holy Family*

Jim Henry RIP

George Jones RIP

Roger Francis RIP *father of Rachael Newman-Sanders*

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, FIRST COMMUNIONS, WEDDINGS are now on hold until the situation changes.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES We are in the process of setting up Virgin Money Giving pages for our three parishes. This will facilitate financial giving towards the churches for those in a position to give. With times as complicated as they are, for some of you this will now not be possible.

Details should be ready by next week. There will also be the possibility of setting up standing orders for those who wish. We'll have the links ready too by next week.

HELP DURING TIME OF CORONAVIRUS We now have a team of people who are happy to do shopping, collect prescriptions, chat on the phone, 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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 26TH APRIL

Why not take out your Bible and reflect on these passages? Or do a Google search!

Saturday 25th April ST. MARK Evangelist

1 Peter 5:5-14 Mention of Mark

Mark 16:15-20 The Eleven go out preaching, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by signs.

Sunday 26th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14, 22-33 Peter speaks to the crowd on Pentecost Day

1 Peter 1:17-21 Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of a lamb

Luke 24:13-35 The road to Emmaus. Jesus recognised in the Breaking of Bread

Monday 27th April

Acts 6:8-15 The witness of Stephen

John 6:22-29 Working for God is believing in the one he has sent - Christ

Tuesday 28th April

Acts 7:51 - 8:1 Stephen dies asking the Lord to receive his spirit

John 6:30-35 Jesus is the Bread of Life

Wednesday 29th April ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA (1347-1380) *Dominican, Doctor of the Church and a Patron Saint of Europe*

1 John 1:5 - 2:2 Jesus is the sacrifice that takes our sins away

Matthew 11:25-30 Jesus says: 'Come to me...learn from me...you will find rest.'

Thursday 30th April

Acts 8:26-40 Philip meets the Ethiopian

John 6:44-51 Jesus says 'Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

Friday 1st May St. Joseph the Worker

Acts 9:1-20 The conversion of St. Paul

John 6:52-59 Jesus says 'Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.'