

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

Trinity Sunday 7th June 2020

We are back into Ordinary Time! However, you won't see green vestments on Sunday this week or next. Today the Church invites us to honour the Most Holy Trinity - GOD. Jesus Christ at so many stages in his life and ministry experienced and spoke about God using terms such as Abba Father, the Son, Spirit. The Gospels and Epistles also are filled with references to a Triune God. It was only centuries later that the Church held General Councils to find language to express her belief and prevent error of understanding to take over. The terminology of Three Persons, One God was only defined in the fifth century.

As we in our day reflect on who God is, we refer to the revelation Jesus brings us of a God who has always existed, who is Father, Son and Spirit - perfect, dynamic Love with mutual giving and receiving. This God chooses freely to create our world with humanity bearing the blueprint of the divine image and likeness. The presence of the Son in time and space is found in Jesus Christ who gave his life totally in obedience to the Father for the sake of saving and redeeming humanity. The bestowing of the Holy Spirit allows humanity and the whole of creation to continue to experience this life-giving grace. One day God wants us to share eternally in his life in the wonder of his majestic presence - heaven!

For those in lockdown and isolation, we know what it means to be on our own. God didn't have to create the world because he was lonely. God is so creative and amazing that creation has flowed from God's being. For me this results in my ability to appreciate God in the wonder of all I see around me. When I have gone for walks these past ten weeks I have seen nature transformed with explosions of colour, melodious song and feelings of warmth (and cold...in the last few days!).

next page

Not having seen so many of you in this period, I am sure you are going to look different! In the midst of being on my own or chatting to people through technology, the God of love, conversation and life is making himself known. New and fresh ways of being in touch with God have been discovered. Definitely God reaches out to us in sadness and confusion, in happiness and hopefulness, desiring fervently that one day we may enjoy being with him. This is what Jesus Christ came to teach, live and make happen!

Elements of lockdown are slowly changing. Please stay safe and well. Look out for those in need. Hang on in there and don't give up! Fr. Tony and I are praying for you. God bless you. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:
[youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy Team at Our Lady's will have a session on Zoom for children this Sunday after the streamed Mass goes out. There will be a song with actions, Gospel reading and an activity. For more information, please contact Sarah (david.cafferty@ntlworld.com) or Eddy (eddyga@hotmail.com). Whichever parish you attend, why not give it a go?

OPENING OF CHURCHES There is no clear date for the opening of churches for worship. The Cardinal is hoping that private prayer might be possible with all the necessary precautions to be taken. We will keep you posted.

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.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Jerry Slattery (sick) and family, Hugh Johnson RIP, Enda Smyth Intention, Fr. Bill McConalogue RIP Anniv, Saurigny Family Intention, Mary Free (Walsh) RIP, John Almeyda RIP, John Derby (sick) and Ian Crux Intention.

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.

Charlie Botwright RIP

Alan Livett 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 of pandemic.

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

Please keep in your prayers adults and children who were due to be baptised at Easter as well as the babies whose Baptisms have been postponed, the young people who were meant to be confirmed and the children who would have made their First Holy Communion in our three churches. There are couples whose Weddings have had to be rescheduled for later in the year or next year. May God watch over them all and their loved ones.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Some parishioners contribute regularly through standing orders; for this we are grateful. A number of parishioners have asked about their planned giving envelopes and weekly collection contributions. We have set up for each of our parishes Virgin Money Giving pages which allow you to make a donation which can also be GiftAided. This can also be done on your mobile phone. The links are on the parish website. We wish to thank those of you who will be able to offer support in this way. We are also acutely aware of the financial hardship which the present circumstances of pandemic have created for so many and respect totally the fact that some of you are now unable to make contributions. God bless you all.

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.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S STONE CROSS Back in January the Health and Safety review of our churches revealed that the stone cross at the top of St. Bonaventure's has moved and the recommendation was for it to be stabilised and strengthened. This Tuesday scaffolding will be erected in order for the work to be carried out.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TOWER Work has progressed well in recent weeks and is complete. The scaffolding will be removed in the coming days. The Tower should look brand new!

NEW PARISH CENTRE The builders have been able to continue with the work these last few months and our new Parish Centre is taking shape inside with the underfloor heating in place, the walls plastered and the grounds being landscaped. It looks splendid and should be completed by the end of July.

SIGNED MASS Today (Sunday 7th) there will be an extra signed Mass which Fr. Norbert would have celebrated with the deaf at the Cathedral. It will be streamed at 4.30pm and will have a split screen with the Director of the Deaf Service, Shell Roca, responding and interpreting.

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 Nottingham Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Patrick McKinney.

www.clicktopray.org is a free app which links you with thousands of people on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and is co-ordinated by the Jesuits. Each day there are phrases or inspirational thoughts to accompany you in your prayer.

ANNIVERSARIES OF PRIESTHOOD Fr. Tony will celebrate his fourth anniversary of Priesthood on 25th June. Fr. Norbert's 32nd will be this Thursday on 11th. Please pray for them. Thanks.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 7TH JUNE

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

Saturday 6th June St. Norbert (1080-1134) Bishop and Founder of the Premonstratensians

2 Timothy 4:1-8 Be careful always to choose the right course

Mark 12:38-44 The widow who gave everything

Sunday 7th June TRINITY SUNDAY

Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9 The Lord passes before Moses

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 The God of love and peace will be with you

John 3:16-18 God loved the world so much.

Monday 8th June

1 Kings 17:1-6 Elijah in the wilderness

Matthew 15:1-12 The Beatitudes

Tuesday 9th June St. Columba (521 - 597) Monk, poet, scribe and spiritual guide.
Born in Donegal, Ireland and died at Iona in Scotland

1 Kings 17:7-16 The widow looks after Elijah

Matthew 5:13-16 Your light must shine

Wednesday 10th June

1 Kings 18:20-39 Elijah confronts the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel

Matthew 5:17-19 Greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven

Thursday 11th June St. Barnabas Companion of St. Paul and Apostle

Acts 11:21-26, 13:1-3 Barnabas - a man filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith

Matthew 5:20-26 'But I say this to you...'

Friday 12th June

1 Kings 19:9, 11-16 Elijah encounters God in the sound of a gentle breeze

Matthew 5:27-32 More teaching from the Sermon on the Mount