

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*

27th Sunday of the Year 4th October 2020

A new month...fresh beginnings! What lies in store for us? It's the month of the Holy Rosary which gives us the opportunity to honour Our Lady and join in contemplating mysteries in her life and especially in her Son's life. Not the easiest prayer to enter into but surely one which is so beautiful for individuals - in quiet, discreet ways - and suitable for couples, families and groups of people, creating a rhythm and pattern of praying which models our lives on the resonance of Our Lady's prayer in God's presence.

At the end of this month Saturday 24th into Sunday 25th, British Summer Time will draw to a close and we will be back into Greenwich Mean Time. The clocks will go back an hour giving us an extra hour in bed (?) or affording us 60 minutes of more activity! The summer will go on holiday for another long period and the dark nights will set in with cold and bleakness. We'll then be on the home run to Christmas! Where did the 'holidays' go? Did you get one? How did you spend your time? What will the celebration of the Lord's Birth be like in 2020? Who knows?

You will notice that I keep jumping forward! Not because I am wishing the months away. Rather I just feel that by having our gaze fixed on the horizon, there is light breaking in to overcome the uncertainty of life as it now is. Many are asking when the Sacramental Programmes will restart. We are celebrating the joy of what could not happen at Easter or in the summer and are trying to do things well. Then will be the time to aim for the next round! I would imagine we will find the right way to do things and make a start in the new year. Now so many means of communication are carried out by Zoom, MS Teams, etc. I am sure we will get there one way or another. Your patience is paramount!

next page

In our Gospel reading today from St. Matthew, Jesus quotes from the Psalms saying: 'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see.' He refers to his own rejection by the religious leaders, anticipating that he is the Son to be cast out and killed; he becomes the keystone through his Resurrection. Jesus is realistic and is hopeful; Jesus offers us a vision of something more transformed from what appears to go wrong totally. Jesus invites us to trust! So, with the many challenges and demands being made of us, we must keep pressing ahead. The present moment of seeming darkness will burst into the dawn of bright light. You know that feeling of when we pass the winter solstice on 21st December and the days begin to get longer? Do you remember when the clocks go forward to mark the onset of BST but we have the pain of losing an hour? Let's support one another through these trying times!

Fr. Tony and I continue to pray for you and offer you our support. God bless you!
With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

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.

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 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 Carmine Monis RIP, Hannah Byrne RIP, Anne Murphy RIP, Maggie Peacey RIP, Freda Mackenzie RIP 2nd Anniv, Margaret Walsh RIP

WELCOME to Anya Dollimore baptised at Our Lady's on Saturday 3rd October.

SACRAMENTS

Below is the latest information for our parishes here in Welwyn Garden City based on Government guidelines and those issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. As you realise many things keep changing with very little notice, so please bear with us. Thank you for your patience!

BAPTISMS of babies and infants can now be arranged. Please contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert directly to make arrangements. No more than **6** people can be present.

CONFIRMATIONS (from last year's group) will take place in November. Candidates are being contacted.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Dates have been set for October. Children will be making their First Holy Communion in the three churches at scheduled and 'extra' Masses. *Please note that the Scripture readings on weekdays may be changed to link up with the Sunday.*

WEDDINGS can take place with no more than **15** people present.

FUNERALS with no more than **30** people present are now permitted in church.

RCIA Congratulations and welcome to the adults and children who completed their initiation into the Catholic Church on Friday 2nd October 7pm. and Saturday 3rd October 6pm.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES We are not having a collection at Mass! 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. However, the financial support of parish life is crucial and needed. Please consider using the Virgin Money Giving links on the parish website. There are standing order forms available to download on the website too. 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 you to find 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.

BLESSING OF GRAVES We are hoping to have the traditional Blessing of Graves in November. Obviously this will be carried out slightly differently because of the coronavirus restrictions. We will keep you informed.

SIGNED MASSES On the first Sunday of the month at 4.30pm, there will be a signed Mass streamed with a split screen: Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service, will respond in sign as Fr. Norbert celebrates the Mass in sign. This will be in place of the monthly Mass from the Cathedral. All welcome to follow and please give the details to any deaf or hard of hearing people you know. This Sunday - 4th October at 4.30pm Available on our YouTube channel.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS With the Secondary School transfer process unfolding, many parents will need a 'Certificate of Catholicity'. Please download the form on this website called 'Request for a Certificate of Catholicity'. Fill it in and return to Fr. Norbert who will then contact each family to arrange for a Certificate to be issued.

CAFOD FAST DAY will be on Friday 9th October. CAFOD has taken the theme of 'survive build heal' for this year. There is the obvious awareness that the coronavirus is affecting peoples everywhere. CAFOD asks us to support our brothers and sisters in developing countries by helping set up handwashing stations, providing PPE for health workers, providing children with pencils and books as they study at home, helping farmers safely sell their produce and delivering food packages to those who cannot go out to work. We will not be having retiring collections in WGC but encourage you to use online cafod.org.uk/give or text **CAFOD to 70085** to donate £10. Thank you.

CAFOD PRAYER O God, you call us out of darkness.

May we hear your voice in the cry of our brothers and sisters in crisis.

As you walk alongside us always,

may we walk beside one another listening and responding in love.

Shine the light of your compassion through us,

dispelling chaos, fear and despair.

Breathe hope and courage into all our hearts

as we work together to rebuild once more.

Strengthen us, Lord, and keep us steadfast.

Bring healing and comfort to us all

and lead us renewed into your marvellous light.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

AUTUMN COURSE Who is Jesus? How do we grow in relationship with him? What is the key to deeper conversion to Jesus in our day-to-day lives? '**Metanoia**' is a ten-part series which leads on a journey with Jesus into deeper conversion. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, 'Metanoia' includes preaching from Fr Dave Pivonka TOR and personal testimonies from men and women whose stories will inspire you to seek to encounter Jesus and the new life he is constantly inviting us to. Please join us on this journey! The parishes of Welwyn Garden City will be running 'Metanoia' as an online course (via Zoom) this autumn. It will be on **Thursday evenings at 8.00pm, starting on 8th October**. As well as the film presentations exploring our personal conversion to Jesus, there will be an opportunity to discuss each week's theme in small groups. Please **email Fr Tony on tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk** if you'd like to take part, or if you'd like further information.

Testimonies from parishioners who completed 'The Wild Goose', a course about the Holy Spirit by the same team who produced 'Metanoia':

“The Wild Goose course was an interesting, thought provoking and quietly challenging course which really help us as a couple to refocus our spiritual life and build an awareness of the Holy Spirit and how it can be such a powerful advocate in our day to day lives”

“I think a few of us reunited with the Holy Spirit and the joy and resolve it brings in our everyday life”

“I have grown spiritually stronger and more dependent on the Holy Spirit since completing the course”

“I feel emboldened to ask others to trust the Holy Spirit to guide them, as he guides me, and to step out in faith”

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY The Sunday obligation has been dispensed so you are free to attend Mass on any day. There is space too on weekdays for people to come more than once. Mass will continue to be streamed on a Sunday at 10am ***Please note that at present we cannot use the heating in our churches because they have strong blowers and would transmit any airborne virus. We apologise for this. Best to wrap up well if the weather turns much colder.***

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). ***For those who have downloaded the Government Covid-19 App, please use the QR Code which has been created*** (one for each church). ***Face masks are mandatory.*** 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. There are no Mass-books or printed newsletters. You do not have to 'book' to come, but please arrive EARLY!

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 reminded by our Bishops that people should not gather outside church in a social way before or after Mass as this may be a source of further contagion.

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 the stewards sanitise everything which has had human contact and prepare the church for the next Mass. Any property left behind has to be disposed of. We have purchased masks, plastic aprons and gloves for stewards/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.

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who have helped as stewards and spent time cleaning the churches after Mass. Some have now returned to work. If any others are available on a weekday or at the weekend, please let Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert know. Thank you.

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.

NEW HALL The ‘practical completion’ of our joint Parish Hall has happened! There has been a favourable response to the suggestion to call the building ‘The Trinity Hall’. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let Fr. Norbert know soon. Let us hope we will be able to make use of it soon!

SEASON OF CREATION

Last Day - 4th October Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

CAFOD has produced a novena to St Francis that can be used as a beautiful song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the people of the Amazon. Visit this website for the full list of videos of the prayers <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Novena-to-St-Francis>

Prayer: Those who suffer

"We praise you, Lord, for those who pardon for love of you,
who bear sickness and trial." (St Francis of Assisi)

"I speak for my brothers and sisters who are threatened, assassinated,
who do not hold the rights to their land...
How long must we wait for a reply?" (Rosildo da Silva, Jaminawa Arará people,
Brazil)

Creator God, open our hearts
to the sufferings of the landless poor
who endure violence and threat.
Forgive us for the sin of indifference.

St Francis,
you were jailed and beaten,
brother to the outcast.
May your compassion be our guide.

St. Francis, pray for us.

Prayer: Peace

"Blessed are those who endure in peace,
by you Most High, they will be crowned." (St Francis of Assisi)

"We want to support a culture of peace and respect –
not violence and violation." (Final document, Amazon Synod, 2019)

Creator God, we give you thanks
for those who work for peace
and dignity for all your children.

Brother Francis,
you came to heal, not harm the world.
You showed us how to live as one.
St. Francis, pray for us.

Prayer: Creation

"Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
all praise is yours, all glory, honour and blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong." (St Francis of Assisi)

"Let us sing as we go.
May our struggles and our concern for this planet
never take away the joy of our hope." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si')

Creator God we praise your world
and look with awe on all that is.
May we commit to heal the earth
and share your gifts in faith and trust.

Brother Francis, in purity of heart
you gazed upon the world with love.
We ask you joyfully to intercede for us,
As guardians of our common home.
St. Francis, pray for us.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 4TH OCTOBER

Saturday 3rd October

Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 The conclusion of the story of Job - a happy ending!

Luke 10:17-24 The joy of Jesus

Sunday 4th October TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 5:1-7 The vineyard

Philippians 4:6-9 There is no need to worry...the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 21:33-43 A parable of a vineyard

Monday 5th October

Galatians 1:6-12 'The Good News I preached....is a revelation of Jesus Christ'

Luke 10:25-37 'Go and do the same yourself' Jesus' words after telling the parable of the Good Samaritan

Tuesday 6th October

Galatians 1:13-24 Paul says: 'God chose me!'

Luke 10:38-42 Jesus with Martha and Mary

Wednesday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14 Paul's account of himself

Luke 11:1-4 The disciples want to pray

Thursday 8th October

Galatians 3:1-5 Complications in the community at Galatia

Luke 11:5-11 Ask...search...knock

Friday 9th October ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (1801 - 1890) *Priest and Cardinal* Motto 'Cor ad cor loquitur' 'Heart speaks to heart'

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 We teach in the way the Spirit teaches us.

Matthew 13:47-52 'Every scribe ...of the Kingdom...brings out things new and old'