

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*

Fourth Sunday of Lent 14th March 2021

‘God loved us with so much love’ (Ephesians 2:4) and ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son’ (John 3:16) are two short snippets from our Scriptures today as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The Church calls out in Latin ‘Laetare! Rejoice!’ because we are at the half-way point of Lent. Time to catch our breath, ponder on how these weeks have gone; an opportunity to be seized as we look forward to the next period which will culminate in the climax of our Christian Faith - the Death and Resurrection of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

St. Paul’s whole being resonates with the gift he has experienced of love revealed in gracious mercy, not only for himself but for us all. St. John offers us a vision of the Son who was lifted up/glorified and there we discover that God has unfathomable love for his whole world, which includes each one of us! This love is sacrificial. This love is forgiving. This love vanquishes death and is revealed in New Life taking us to eternity. This love embraces the whole of creation! This Sunday offers us a ‘moment’ to prepare to step into the future with Jesus, walking, talking, listening, watching and feeling love in its fullness. Jesus did it for you and for me. The Father asked his Son obediently to take on our burdens. The Spirit inspired Jesus and transformed the lifeless corpse laid in the tomb into the Risen Lord, present to the whole of creation.

Do you have a cross or crucifix at home? If so, take it in your hands and look; feel the love which radiates from the divine heart broken in suffering. Otherwise, find a picture of Christ from the internet and allow the colours and the lines to draw you into the very essence of God who is love, given and received, love manifested in the Son who became flesh in our midst. Look at the blossom now opening on the trees or at the spring flowers bursting from the soil and get a taste of what that New Life of Resurrection might be

like. Maybe just light a candle and let the flickering flame transport you into the timelessness of heaven where God reigns eternally, while keeping you fixed in the present moment here on earth. Crucially it is love which holds us together.

Today in our country we mark Mothering Sunday. There are many traditions and expectations, most of which cannot be carried out in this time of pandemic. It is a day when with gratitude, we remember love, nurturing and sacrificial; a chance to express thanks in appropriate ways. For those of us whose mothers have died, we rely on memories, praying for their eternal rest and comfort for ourselves. Each of us has our own particular history and circumstances; we place everything in God's hands. This Sunday we cannot help but think of Our Lady who listened to and carried out God's will. We know she walked every step of the way with her Son to the Cross and cradled his lifeless body in her arms. She must have met him at Easter - though it is not recounted in Scripture. She has been given to us as Mother to pray for us, offer example, to be a constant companion.

In the newsletter and on the website, you will see the schedule for Holy Week and Easter. Fr. Tony and I have thought long and hard about what is possible given the restrictions and our desire to keep you all safe. One thing at this stage I want to highlight is that we are trying to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation available to you in a variety of extra ways. It has been hard for a huge number of us these 12 months not to have Confession as accessible as in the past. Even for me as a priest, it is not easy to get to my usual Confessor. The Sacrament is beautiful, life-giving and bears much fruit. It is an expression of our need of God's love and a desire to fall into his arms of mercy. The grace flowing from the Cross touches every part of us even the deepest recesses of our minds and hearts. Talking about what has happened or is still the case, hearing words of counsel and forgiveness once more put us on that road to Calvary and the riches of all that Christ has done for us. Do think about Reconciliation/Confession before Easter and see if one of the 'sessions' which work for you. What a joyful encounter awaits us all! Laetare!

May God bless you all with peace, grace and love. You are in Fr. Tony's prayers and mine. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Places of Worship can remain open. We are doing all we can to keep people safe. We continue with our schedule of Masses:

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

CONFESSION Only by appointment - Fr. Tony on 01707 327434 or Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234. *All necessary precautions have to be undertaken in terms of distancing and the safety of priest and penitent.*

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/>

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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021 IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

SATURDAY 27TH MARCH

10am Mass at Holy Family *Confessions from 9am*

PALM SUNDAY

6pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's *Confessions from 5pm*

SUNDAY 28TH MARCH *Clocks forward one hour!!*

Streamed Mass at 10am

10am Mass at Our Lady's *Confessions from 9am*

6pm Mass at Holy Family *Confessions from 5pm*

MONDAY 29TH MARCH

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

TUESDAY 30TH MARCH

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH

No public Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

9.30 - 10.30am *Confessions at Holy Family*

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Streamed at 6pm

7pm at Holy Family

8pm at Our Lady's

GOOD FRIDAY 2ND APRIL

10am Streamed Stations of the Cross

12noon Zoom Children's Stations

SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Streamed at 3pm

3pm at Holy Family *followed by Confessions*

3pm at Our Lady's *followed by Confessions*



HOLY FAMILY Knightsfield/Shoplands AL8 7RQ
OUR LADY'S Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

HOLY SATURDAY 3RD APRIL

10 - 11am *Confessions at Holy Family*

5 - 6pm *Confessions at Our Lady's*

Blessing of Food Streamed at 10am

EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF EASTER

Streamed at 6pm

8pm at Our Lady's

EASTER SUNDAY 4TH APRIL

Streamed Mass at 10am

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

10am Mass at Our Lady's

6pm Mass at Holy Family

MONDAY 5TH APRIL

10am Mass at Our Lady's

TUESDAY 6TH APRIL

10am Mass at Holy Family

WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL

No Mass

THURSDAY 8TH APRIL

10am Mass at Holy Family

FRIDAY 9TH APRIL

10am Mass at Our Lady's

SATURDAY 10TH APRIL

10am Mass at Holy Family

6pm Mass at Our Lady's

SUNDAY 11TH APRIL

Streamed at 10am

10am Mass at Our Lady's

6pm Mass at Holy Family



FR. NORBERT FERNANDES
01707 323234

FR. TONY THOMAS
01707 327434

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL looks out onto the car park of the new Parish Hall which means that people can come to the windows and look into the Chapel and see the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's statue. Not ideal in the cold, but a possible place to offer a (quick) prayer.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. 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: Donald and Evelyn Mary Shewring, Richard Carroll RIP, Sheila Almeyda's Intentions, Giuseppe Guglielmo RIP, Tony Hubbard RIP, Richard and Laura Brand and children, Benoit Gauchard RIP Anniv, Phyllis McHugh Intention (99th birthday), In Thanksgiving to St. Jude.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Fr. Tony will lead Stations of the Cross live every Wednesday at 10.30am on Zoom. These will be recorded and made available on the parish Facebook page and the YouTube channel from 10am on Fridays for those who wish to make the Stations of the Cross at their leisure. Please contact Fr. Tony for the Zoom link: tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk

MOTHERING SUNDAY Happy Mother's Day to each and every mother and honorary mum! God bless you.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY There will be Mass on St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday 17th March, at 9.30am at Holy Family Church. Come if you can!

LENTEN REFLECTION PROJECT The Saint John Henry Newman School, along with Nicholas Breakspear School and the feeder primaries have been working together to produce some weekly reflections based on the Stations of the Cross. Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday a reflection will be published on the YouTube channel below available from 7am and accessible throughout Lent.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYq9YYRxTsJ_9-IYvxRWsg/videos

The schools invite you to share in these reflections, led by the pupils and staff across the area. Thank you!

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL This Lent, please consider supporting the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal and help provide food for children and families in our communities who are facing hunger. You could also support work to help our brothers and sisters come through the global pandemic stronger and better able to cope. www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING Do you miss catching up with fellow parishioners after Mass? During this lockdown there's a Virtual Coffee Morning on Thursdays at 10.30am. Simply make yourself a coffee, sign on to Zoom and catch up with some familiar faces or make new friends. Please email Fr Tony (tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk) for the Zoom meeting details. We hope to see you there!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES 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. We are NOT going to have the Planned Giving Boxes of Envelopes for the coming year. Please consider changing to standing order as a way of giving.

'HOLY WEEK TO EASTER' WALK

In place of the usual Good Friday Service on Howardsgate, the Churches in Welwyn Garden City have organised a walk that follows different events of Jesus through Holy Week and his Resurrection appearances. By yourself or with those in your household or bubble, you can find different 'stations' in the town centre and in the wider town, each with a QR code linking to a video on our website. Scan the code with your phone, and then watch a 2-minute video with a Bible reading and short reflection on an event in the Easter story. There will also be a paper copy to download for those who don't have phones to use.

Look out for more details including a map of the route, on our website - www.churchesinwgc.org.uk

Be part of something bigger this Easter - whenever you choose to walk the trail between March 29th and Easter Monday, you will be joining with other Christians from across the town in prayer and witness.

You can share your photos and thoughts on Twitter using the hashtag #wgcwalkwithjesus.

Please ensure you that you follow the latest government guidance at all times.

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.

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.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Parents who will need a 'Certificate of Catholicity' for school should 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.

LAPTOP AND TABLET COMPUTERS FOR HOME LEARNING

As we all know, there is a currently big demand for computers that children and young people can use for home learning while schools are closed. The Welwyn Garden City SVP is therefore appealing to parishioners for donations of second-hand laptop and tablet computers which they can pass on to our schools, Our Lady's and Holy Family. Please contact Mary Dunne at marydunne22@yahoo.com if you have a laptop or tablet to donate. Please note that schools, in conjunction with the local authority, have systems to 'cleanse' these devices of all data before they are ready to be used by children.

The specifications should be as follows:

Chromebooks: any specification will be fine

iPads: anything iPad Air 2 or newer

Windows laptops: at least Windows 10, at least Core i3 + processor, at least 4GB ram +, any hard drive size

Many thanks.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday. Admission to the Cathedral Mass does not require ticketing and there is social distancing in a very big space in the nave. All welcome! *Fr. Norbert will be the Celebrant on 19th March*

CAFOD Daily Walk? Something positive this Lent.

Could you walk 10000 Steps either on one day or everyday this Lent? The walk could be a sign of your solidarity with all those who do not have access to a safe water source and who have to walk for water each day. Find out more or sign up online at cafod.org.uk/walk and go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty. Thank you for your ongoing support,

One minute film also available here: Walk for Water video:

Walk for Water: Abdella's journey | CAFOD - YouTube

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of our envelopes.

You can also easily give via text.

Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10

Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20

Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone

*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS.

If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER An On-Line Marriage Encounter weekend takes place on the 20-21 March. Use this time to enrich your marriage from the comfort of your home with this on-line weekend. For more details go to wwme.org.uk

THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this FREE OF CHARGE, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli.

Starts on 7th April 2021 at 7pm (Eight Wednesday evening sessions). Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

SACRAMENTS

Current regulations apply at least until 29th March, 2021

Baptism is NOT permitted outside of communal worship.

Weddings are possible (in limited circumstances) with 6 present. If you are planning to get married this year or next in WGC or beyond, please let Fr. Norbert know so that the necessary preparation and paperwork can be organised.

Funerals can take place with 30 mourners maximum.

Confirmation 2020 New dates will be set.

SACRAMENTS 2021

On the Parish Website, you will find forms to download and return to norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk Many families and individuals have made contact. There is still time to send in your forms!

First Holy Communion (and Confession) - Children should be at least in Year 3

Confirmation - Young people should be at least in Year 9

Adults for the Sacraments

Adults who wish to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion or Adults already baptised in a Christian Church who wish to be received into the Catholic Church or Catholic Adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger.

We are using the Season of Lent to do the preparation and will celebrate the Sacraments soon after Easter. (Dates haven't yet been decided) It is not ideal but this past year has had so many ups and downs with dates due to lockdown and worries about the coronavirus. We do not want to put extra pressure on families or individuals at a time of much uncertainty. We want adults and children to share in the life of the Church through the Sacraments. Most of the preparation will be done at home with families/individuals and we will keep in touch with everyone. We will do all we can to keep people safe and not be at risk whilst encouraging formation for the Sacraments. Thank you for your co-operation.

ST. JOSEPH *Solemnity celebrated on 19th March*

In his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” which began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (8th December) 2020 and extends to the same feast in 2021. The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.” A beloved, tender, obedient father Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis. And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people”. In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realised.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;

in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

*Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.*

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 14TH MARCH

Saturday 13th March

Hosea 5:15 - 6:6 'Come let us return to the Lord...'

Luke 18:9-14 The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The former 'prays to himself'; the latter beats his breast and says: 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'.

Sunday 14th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 Infidelity. God's desire to spare his people. The destruction of the Temple. King Cyrus of Persia rebuilds the Temple and invites people to return.

Ephesians 12:4-10 God's love, mercy and grace

John 3:14-21 'God loved the world so much...'

Monday 15th March

Isaiah 65:17-21 New heavens and a new earth. Joy and gladness.

John 4:43-54 Another sign given by Jesus leads to faith.

Tuesday 16th March

Ezekiel 47:1-9,12 The water flowing from the Temple threshold brings life, health and fruitfulness

John 5:1-3,5-16 'Do you want to be well again?'

Wednesday 17th March ST. PATRICK (385 - 461) *Missionary Bishop renowned for his pastoral care, trust in God and fearless preaching. Patron Saint of Ireland and of many countries to which Irish missionaries took the Faith.*

Jeremiah 1:4-9 'I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.'

Acts 13:46-49 'I have made you a light...so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 The 72 are sent out to all the places Jesus himself is to visit.

Thursday 18th March

Exodus 32:7-14 Moses pleads for the people to be spared and God relents.

John 5:31-47 Jesus says that the Scriptures testify to him.

Friday 19th March ST. JOSEPH *See newsletter piece about him*

2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16 King David's House and sovereignty will always stand secure.

Romans 4:13,16-18,22 The faith of Abraham justifies him - he hoped and he believed.

Matthew 1:16,18-21,24 Joseph described as a man of honour