

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*

Easter Sunday 4th April 2021

Last Wednesday I received a phone call from Three Counties Radio asking me if I would be prepared to be interviewed live on Easter Sunday morning. I had a long chat with the editor of the show, explaining how we celebrate the Easter Mystery over Three Days (the Sacred Triduum), preceded by Forty Days of preparation (Lent) and the Fifty Days of Paschal joy taking us to Pentecost (Eastertide). Many other Christian tradition follow this schema; others have a shorter and less elaborate approach. One question he put to me was: 'Is Resurrection your *hope* or your *belief*?' A really interesting and powerful way of thinking about or understanding the impact of Easter! I'm not quite sure how the interviewer's questioning will unfold on Easter Day - and there will be two other Christian ministers as well - but I do think this question is crucial. How would you answer it?

There are so many facets to the way one might respond. For me, first and foremost, I believe that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Day and that the Empty Tomb is a sign that something extraordinary happened to the body laid there late on Good Friday. The dead corpse was transformed into the marvellous risen body which was similar to the Christ the disciples had known and yet bore a new quality which resulted in their not always recognising him. They *really* met him, touching him, eating and drinking with him, listening to his words and knowing that he was there. Once empowered with the Holy Spirit they told others about the Risen Lord and were willing to die for him. This Good News has been handed on from generation to generation and is the reason why we are celebrating today. 'Gospel' is a *proclamation*, an *event* which stirs up this message in people's hearts and leads them to come to know Jesus Christ. In the Gospel passage from St. John read on Easter morning, we are told the Beloved Disciple 'saw and believed' when he looked inside the Empty Tomb.

In terms of *hope*, my hope is one day to share with Jesus in his Risen Life. I believe that the Resurrection of his Son is God's pledge to humanity that he wants to bestow on us life to be lived with him for ever. I trust in him. I know I need his life-giving grace. I realise I must throw myself into his arms of mercy. My hope is that loved ones who have died will share in that same bodily resurrection and that we will be together in his presence. How it all happens isn't easy to explain. Timings are in God's hands. What this Risen Life will be is hard to articulate. Nevertheless, Easter is at the heart of our Christian Faith and is the ultimate source of our hope for the future and the foundation of belief.

As we come to this pivotal moment in the life of the Church, Fr. Tony and I would like to thank you for the many ways you give us support and strengthen the bonds of community especially in these challenging times of pandemic. Some of you are physically present in church, others united through various media; there are prayers holding us together. We are grateful for the cards and gifts received; the encouragement you give is wonderful! I would like to thank Fr. Tony for the many ways he has given support and contributed to all we do to be a strong, faith-filled and joyful community. We ask God to bless you and your loved ones this Easter. Christ has risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

SACRAMENTS

Current regulations apply at least until 12th April, 2021

Baptism is NOT permitted outside of communal worship.

Weddings are possible 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.

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES will be celebrated the weekends 17th/18th and 24th/25th April at scheduled times. *Please pray for the children and their families.*

CONFIRMATION for candidates from 2020 will be celebrated at Our Lady's on 26th and 30th April, 3rd and 7th May at 7pm Mass. *These Confirmandi have waited patiently for their turn. Please pray for them and their families.*

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

HOLY SATURDAY (3rd April)

Confessions

Holy Family 10 - 11am

Our Lady's 5 - 6pm

Blessing of Food

Streamed at 10am

EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF EASTER (3rd April)

Streamed at 6pm

Our Lady's 8pm

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 Our Lady's

TUESDAY 6TH

10am Holy Family

WEDNESDAY 7TH

No Mass

THURSDAY 8TH

10am Holy Family

FRIDAY 9TH

10am Our Lady's

SATURDAY 10TH APRIL

10am Holy Family

6pm Our Lady's

SUNDAY 11TH SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass streamed at 10am

10am Our Lady's 6pm Holy Family

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. *Weekly Thursday Rosary will start up again on 22nd April.*

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.

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: Mary Philomena Frost Intentions, Gerard Burgen RIP, Brian Davidson RIP Aniv, Robi Brand Intention, Leslie Pinto RIP, Maisie Noonan RIP, Augustus Joachim RIP,

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO will be interviewing Fr. Norbert live on Easter Sunday morning after 7am News. They want to know about how Catholics celebrate Easter and what we think of it. There are going to be two Christians from other traditions as well.

EASTER BLESSING OF FOOD This tradition coming from Poland and many European countries will be streamed on our YouTube Channel and will be available from 10am on Holy Saturday morning (3rd April).

W Wielką Sobotę (3` Kwietnia, 2021) za pośrednictwem parafialnej strony You Tube (Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches) będziemy mogli wspólnie poświęcić Pokarmy Wielkanocne. Father Norbert dokona tradycyjnego błogosławieństwa pokarmów, w którym będzie można uczestniczyć od godziny 10:00. Serdecznie zapraszamy do udziału w tym uroczystym spotkaniu.

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNINGS will start up again on 22nd April.

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

Until 6th April, you can part in a Holy Week to Easter Walk across the town, joining with other churches in Welwyn Garden City. www.churchesinwgc.org.uk

Watch this video for a 90 second explanation of how it all works - <https://youtu.be/MG1KhQkOdOM>

You can also tweet any photos or thoughts using #wgcwalkwithjesus

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. *The next Signed Mass is on Easter Sunday at 4.30pm.*

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.

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 celebrate the Mass on 16th April.*

CAFOD EVENT Workshop online event Saturday 10th April from 11am to 12.30pm. 2021 is a critical year as world leaders decide how the world rebuilds from the pandemic. As Catholics we have an important role to play in calling for the world’s poorest communities to be included. Join us to find out how to meet your MP as a parish group. Book at cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting

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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

ST. ELIZABETH'S, MUCH HADHAM Catholic Ethos Advocate Circa £40k per annum (dependent upon skills, qualifications and experience, pro-rata where applicable).

The Trustees of St Elizabeth's, Much Hadham Hertfordshire SG10 6EW are creating a new post to further, celebrate and promote the distinctive Catholic identity and ethos of the Centre. St Elizabeth's is a long-established charity, (which has a school for 5-19 year olds; a College for 18-25 year olds and a Registered Children's Home and Care Home with Nursing for Adults), providing education, care and medical support on a 52-week basis of up to 200 people of all ages with learning disabilities and other complex medical needs, often caused or complicated by severe epilepsy and/or autism. To apply and to find out more information about St Elizabeth's, please visit our website: www.stelizabeths.org.uk or email recruitment@stelizabeths.org.uk.

INTERFAITH GROUP There will be a talk on Dance and Garden Design on Tuesday 6th April at 8pm given by Sanjeevini Dutta organised by the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group. Here is the zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87000694172?pwd=SGJKbUE4ek1pbzFMUnlBR0hzUm53QT09>

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 4TH APRIL

Saturday 3rd April EASTER VIGIL

Genesis 1:1 - 2:2 God sees his Creation and indeed it is very good.

Exodus 14:15 - 15:1 The crossing of the Red Sea

Ezekiel 36:16-17,18-28 'I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.'

Romans 6:3-11 'You must be alive for God in Christ Jesus.'

Mark 16:1-8 The women at the Empty Tomb are told: 'You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here.'

Sunday 4th April EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10:34,37-43 Cornelius and his household hear the Good News of Jesus from Peter.

Colossians 3:1-4 'You have been brought back to new life with Christ.'

John 20:1-9 The Beloved Disciple at the Empty Tomb: 'He saw and he believed.'

Monday 5th April EASTER MONDAY

Acts 2:14,22-33 On Pentecost Day Peter speaks to the people about Jesus and what God had done in him and for him. Also, the outpouring of the Spirit is evidenced in the actions and words of the Apostles.

Matthew 28:8-15 The Risen Lord comes to the women and says: 'Greetings!...Do not be afraid...'

Tuesday 6th April EASTER TUESDAY

Acts 2:36-41 Peter's words on Pentecost Day have a dramatic effect on the crowd and they ask: 'What must we do?'

John 20:11-18 Mary of Magdala meets the Risen Lord and becomes the Apostle of the Resurrection, taking this Good News to the disciples.

Wednesday 7th April EASTER WEDNESDAY

Acts 3:1-10 Peter and John offer the beggar what they have, saying: 'In the name of Jesus, walk!'

Luke 24:13-35 On the road to Emmaus two disciples have a wonderful experience of the Risen Lord: their hearts burn within them and they recognise him in the Breaking of Bread

Thursday 8th April EASTER THURSDAY

Acts 3:11-26 The people's response to the healing of the man crippled from birth

Luke 24:35-48 The Risen Lord opens the minds of his disciples to understand what the Scriptures say about the Christ

Friday 9th April EASTER FRIDAY

Acts 4:1-12 Peter and John continue to teach about the Resurrection of Jesus

John 21:1-14 Another Resurrection appearance. Jesus cooks breakfast for his disciples