

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*

Second Sunday of Easter 11th April 2021

As I write this piece on Friday afternoon, the airwaves are filled with the news of the death of HRH The Prince Philip who had almost reached the age of 100. This is a tragic loss for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, whose spouse had been by her side for so many decades. There is the realisation of the strength of their Marriage bond lasting so long. World leaders are all making their comments as well as local politicians contributing to the encomium of one who has played such a prominent part in the life of the Royal Family. Details are yet to be announced of the Funeral, but our prayer is that he may rest in peace.

In our Gospel passage, we hear about someone who died who comes back! Yes, Jesus whose disciples are petrified reaches out to them with peace and the breath of his Spirit, commissioning them to continue his Mission. We are told by St. John that Thomas who is a great doubter **MUST** see and touch the wounds of the Risen Lord, thus confirming the continuity of the Lord who appears with the Crucified One who had been such a firm companion. Thomas is rewarded with what he seeks and becomes the great believer naming Jesus as his 'Lord and God'! We are then given an insight into the Lord's love for us as he says how lucky are those 'who have not seen and yet believe.' We are indeed happy!

Almost seven days after Easter Sunday, I am so grateful to God for the Mystery we celebrated during the course of Holy Week. Liturgies were stripped down to the basics leaving a powerful simplicity which was arresting and forced us to contemplate the magnitude of what was unfolding. Watches didn't matter but if you did snatch a look, you would have been surprised at the speed of the Liturgy!

Thinking into the future, what will we take with us from Easter 2021 into the future? The French seminarians-now-priests who visited us over the years are tied by a curfew, so they had to celebrate their Easter Vigil at 6 o'clock as the sun was rising and then move straight into the Easter Sunday Masses. They told me that the experience was wonderful but that they now feel almost 'dead'!! Easter requires a great deal of stamina for the duration of the major Services but then energy and imagination are required for the 50 Days of celebration. For those of you still shielding, I hope you felt the presence of Christ coming to you with love and understanding. We all continue to wait and see, wondering when we will move into the next phase.

Fr. Tony and I continue to feel your support and offer our prayers to God for you. Take care and God bless you. 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 MASSES will be celebrated on Mondays 26th April and 3rd May and Fridays 30th April and 7th May all at 7pm for the young people whose Confirmations were postponed from last year. This year's group will be confirmed on Fridays 21st and 28th May and Monday 24th May, again at 7pm. Please remember these young people at this important moment in their lives.

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

**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

Wednesday

No Mass

Thursday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Friday

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

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: Rodney Fernandes RIP Birthday, Patsy Martin RIP Funeral, Eddie Devine RIP 99th Birthday, Nellie Brophy RIP Anniv, Annalisa Savalbaro RIP, Lisa Class RIP 1st Anniv.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of John Kemp who died during the

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

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.

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.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 11TH APRIL

Saturday 10th April EASTER SATURDAY

Acts 4:13-21 The assurance of Peter and John is amazing.

Mark 16:9-15 The Risen Lord's appearances. The commissioning of the Eleven to go out into the world.

Sunday 11th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 4:32-35 The unity of the believers. Great respect is given them. They shared their possessions and supported those in need.

1 John 5:1-6 This is what loving God is - keeping his commandments.

John 20:19-31 The Presence of the Risen Lord brings peace, takes away fear and kindles faith

Monday 12th April

Acts 4:23-31 Another outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

John 3:1-8 Nicodemus, a Pharisee, comes to Jesus at night

Tuesday 13th April

Acts 4:32-37 The believers were united, heart and soul

John 3:7-15 Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about being born of the Spirit

Wednesday 14th April

Acts 5:17-26 The Apostles are imprisoned and released by an Angel. They go straight to the Temple to preach about the new Life.

John 3:16-21 God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

Thursday 15th April

Acts 5:27-33 Peter and the Apostles continue to bear witness to what happened to Jesus

John 3:31-36 The Father loves the Son

Friday 16th April

Acts 5:34-42 The Apostles' proclamation of the Good News of Christ Jesus was never interrupted

John 6:1-15 A small boy's five loaves and two fish feed 5000 - a great sign worked by Jesus!