

# 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*

## ***Fifth Sunday of Lent 21st March 2021***

‘...unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.’ These are Jesus’ words to Andrew and Philip who tell him that there are Greeks who want to see him. St. John’s Gospel is once more getting us thinking deeper and deeper! Just look outdoors and see the new life springing up. Reflect on what has been sown in the soil, has died and is now starting to sprout into life and will eventually bring forth a great crop. One grain can make a difference! So, Jesus is presenting an image of himself and all that he is soon to do for humanity in obedience to the Father. God is intervening in our world through his Son and the gift lavished upon us all is eternal life. In St. John’s Gospel the movement of Jesus being ‘lifted up’ includes not only his being raised on the Cross but also the very act of glorification...Resurrection and Victory. The Lord is convinced that what he is about to do *glorifies* the Father. There is a powerful line in the passage too when Jesus says: ‘...wherever I am, my servant will be there too.’ That certainly is a challenge!

We only have a week to go and then it will be Palm Sunday and we will be walk through the events of Holy Week. Ten days or so and we will be immersed in the drama of Cross. Two weeks and there will be an explosion of light in the Lord’s Risen Life. Do we have the courage to join him in this enterprise of Divine Compassion? Are we ready to bring to the Cross personal sufferings and failings, the agony of the world too? Can we persevere on a road which includes abandonment, rejection, betrayal and denial? Are we able to see on the horizon a glimmer of light breaking into darkness? Have we the capacity as individuals, households and community to glorify God the Father just as his Son has done through his path to the Cross of Calvary? Many, many questions! The response and answer truly lie in our attachment to the Lord Jesus, our being open to sacrificial, healing, forgiving love and our desire to share it with others.

In this continuing time of pandemic, let us press on buoyed up by Christ's love. This will be a second Easter with restrictions though this time churches are open for public worship. Pray that these coming days will strengthen us as followers of the Lord and renew our faith. Let's pray for one another. God bless you.

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

### **Wednesday**

No Mass

### **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.*

# 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

## **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.

**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: Hedvika Juchelkova, Sheila Almeyda's Intentions, Josephine Brogan RIP 50th Anniv, Peter Richardson's Benefactors, Patrick Coyle RIP Birthday, Lucy Dias RIP, Jirka Cherny, In thanksgiving for the stewards at Holy Family, Catherine Dalgarno RIP, Ron Davin RIP, Lucy Dias RIP and the intentions of the McCrave family, Michael Hughes RIP.

**CONFESSIONS** Please note that as was mentioned last week, Fr. Tony and Fr. Norbert will be available for Confession one hour before Masses next weekend. There will also be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the Good Friday Service of the Passion. Other times are on the Holy Week sheet. This beautiful and healing Sacrament is such a powerful instrument of God's grace. For so many of us it has been really difficult to get to Confession. Now is the opportunity...the moment to be seized!

**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](mailto:tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk)

**DON'T FORGET** The clocks go forward one hour next weekend as we enter British Summer Time

**BLESSED PALMS** will be distributed at the end of all weekday Masses in readiness for Palm Sunday (28th March). This will allow for those who watch the streamed Mass to have their palms in advance.

**SHEETS WITH SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER** will also be given out as you leave Mass at the weekend and on weekdays.

**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.

### **CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

There will be a children's Stations of the Cross on Zoom at 12noon on Good Friday. If you would like your child to lead one of the readings, please email Sarah Cafferty on [david.cafferty@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.cafferty@ntlworld.com) or Eddy Gallucci on [Eddyga@hotmail.com](mailto:Eddyga@hotmail.com).

**CHILDREN'S PASSION STORY** This year we will also be recording a children's Passion Story, to be broadcast at the end of the Stations of the Cross. We invite our youngsters to play the different characters in Jesus' Passion. If you would like your child to take part, please email Sarah or Eddy (details above). The recording will take place via Zoom at 3pm on Saturday 27th March.

**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](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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **DIOCESAN COVID-19 VACCINATION CONFIDENCE EVENT**

With the support of Local Authorities Westminster Diocese is hosting a webinar on Saturday 27th March 2021 10am-11.30am to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among all our communities. There is concern that BAME communities are less likely than White-British ethnic groups to accept vaccination. A group of Catholic clergy from BAME communities and medical professionals will share information on health and wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and vaccines. All are welcome. You do not have to register to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92895192155>

Or join by phone 0208 080 6591 (use the meeting ID & password above)

**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](mailto: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. It's Sign Language Week! Do have a read of this article by our Deaf Service. [https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/sign\\_language\\_week\\_2021.php](https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/sign_language_week_2021.php)

**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](mailto: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! *There were around 80 people last Friday (19th). Obviously there will not be a Mass on Good Friday (2nd April).*

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.comeandsee.org)

**1-2-1 VOLUNTEERING SESSIONS** Elke Springett from the Caritas Volunteer Service, is offering a series of 30-minute calls with individuals interested in volunteering. Various times are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in March. Find out more at [www.caritasvs.org.uk/eventsor](http://www.caritasvs.org.uk/eventsor) email Elke at [cvs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cvs@rcdow.org.uk)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 21ST MARCH

### **Saturday 20th March**

Jeremiah 11:18-20 'I was like a trustful lamb being led to the slaughter-house.'

John 7:4-52 'There has never been anybody who has spoken like him.'

### **Sunday 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 'I will be their God and they shall be my people.'

Hebrews 5:7-9 'During his life on earth, Jesus offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears...'

John 12:20-33 'We should like to see Jesus!'

### **Monday 22nd March**

Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 The story of Susanna who was unjustly accused but whose life is spared because God intervenes.

John 8:1-11 Jesus says to the woman caught committing adultery: 'Neither do I condemn you; go away and do not sin any more.'

### **Tuesday 23rd March**

Numbers 21:4-9 The people speak out against God and against Moses

John 8:21-30 Jesus always does what pleases God the Father.

### **Wednesday 24th March**

Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28 The three young men are thrown into the fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar

John 8:31-42 'You will learn the truth and the truth will set you free.'

### **Thursday 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10 The maiden is with child...will give birth to a son...whom she will call Immanuel (God-is-with-us).

Hebrews 10:4-10 Christ says: 'God, here I am!'

Luke 1:26-38 The Angel to Mary: 'You are to conceive and bear a son...Jesus'. Mary's response: 'Let what you have said be done to me (Fiat!).'

### **Friday 26th March**

Jeremiah 20:10-13 Jeremiah says to the Lord: 'I have committed my cause to you.'

John 10:31-42 They wanted to arrest Jesus.