

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*

Palm Sunday 28th March 2021

‘Why are you doing this?’ is the question Jesus suggests will be put to the two disciples who search for the colt on which Jesus will ride into Jerusalem in St. Mark’s Gospel. This passage will start our Palm Sunday Masses as we commemorate the Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem. Jesus told the pair to respond with the answer ‘The Lord has need...’ Let’s take time to reflect on the question and the answer.

In Holy Week we find ourselves doing many different or unusual things! Obviously this time round it will be unique in a time of pandemic with some of you still shielding or isolating at home while others are able to come to church. Perhaps the routine of our lives will be disrupted as we remember the amazing events of Jesus’ last days and the impact they have had on our identity and our destiny? Salvation is made known in Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. Our response is crucial as we re-live the saving act of the Lord; we open up ourselves totally to the life-giving, sacrificial love which flows from the Wood of the Cross. God-in-his-Son offers forgiveness, healing, peace, hope and eternal life. Jesus-on-behalf-of-humanity reveals a wonderful, mind-blowing response of a human heart to all that God offers us. Surely the Lord has need of us? He longs for us to be saved and come closer to a deeper experience of his eternal Kingdom.

This year in church, the Services will be so different! Why? We are keeping to Government guidelines and those of the Bishops’ Conference which are aiming to keep those who gather as safe as possible. There will be fewer readings from Scripture. On Maundy Thursday there will not be the Washing of Feet at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper nor the opportunity to spend time at the Altar of Repose afterwards.

On Good Friday at the Solemn Passion, there will be a collective veneration (adoration) of the Cross. At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Night, no fire or Blessing of Water, nothing elaborate so that we remain in church for 40 minutes or so. Last year no one was allowed to be present - only streamed Services; this year a congregation but the ceremonies reduced to their very essence. Nothing can stop God's grace! It will come. We just have to be ready to accept his firm offer and the lavishing of love in fresh ways. Take time to ponder anew how God touches your heart this Easter 2021.

Fr. Tony and I pray for you; remember us. This year more than ever we must let our homes be filled with the holiness of God's presence as Holy Week unfolds. We should be ready to witness the blessings which await us. May you and your loved ones be blessed in every possible way by the Lord.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

FIRST CONFESSIONS Please pray for our children who will be making their First Confession this coming week that the joy of celebrating God's forgiving love in Jesus may bring them and their families many blessings.

CHRISM MASS will be celebrated by the Cardinal at Westminster Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week. The Cardinal will bless the Oil of the Sick (used to anoint those who are seriously ill), the Oil of Catechumens (to anoint children and adults in readiness for Baptism) and the Oil of Chrism (used at Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and the at the Consecration of a Church or Altar). Priests present will also renew their Priestly Promises. As Dean, Fr. Norbert will then collect the Holy Oils and will take them to the parishes of Stevenage Deanery: Royston, Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Knebworth, Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City itself. It will be an opportunity to say 'Hello' to the clergy (at a distance) and make sure everyone is well.

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 have been set.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021 IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

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 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: Margaret Caulfield RIP 1st Anniv, Toby Roche Intention, Sean Cox's Intention, Josie Dineen RIP and family, Miroslav Vajdik and all his family, Richard Byrne RIP, Lizzie McGeehan 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

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

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 or Eddy Gallucci on Eddyga@hotmail.com.

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.

LENTEN REFLECTION PROJECT The Saint John Henry Newman School, along with Nicholas Breakspear School and the feeder primaries have been working together to produce Stations of the Cross. They are all now available at:

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

Well done to all involved in the project!

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 From Monday 29th March until 6th April, you are invited to take part in a Holy Week to Easter Walk across the town, joining with other churches in Welwyn Garden City.



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

Visit the Churches in WGC website here for more details, including a map of the route - www.churchesinwgc.org.uk

You'll find 10 QR codes in the town centre relating to the cross (mostly on benches or lamp posts) with 5 other 'resurrection appearances' in the wider town. Take your phone with you, and using the camera, scan the code which will take you to a short video with a reading, reflection, prayer, and music.

For those who would prefer to do without a phone, you'll find a PDF on our website with the map, and readings for each station.

You can also tweet any photos or thoughts using #wgcewalkwithjesus

Take the time to do this during Holy Week, either by yourself or with your household or bubble, and join with other churches in prayer and witness.

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 will be 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! 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 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

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

CATENIAN NEWS Members of Mid-Herts Catenians have donated over £2,300 to two food banks supported by two parishes in Hertfordshire, including Welwyn Garden City.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 28TH MARCH

Saturday 27th March

Ezekiel 37:21-28 'The nations will learn that I am the Lord'

John 11:45-56 They looked out for Jesus and asked 'Will he come to the festival or not?'

Sunday 28th March PALM SUNDAY

Mark 11:1-10 Those who went before Jesus and those who followed cried out 'Hosanna!'

Isaiah 50:4-7 'For my part I made no resistance'

Philippians 2:6-11 Christ Jesus accepted death on a cross; God raised him high.

Mark 14:1 - 15:47 The Passion: 'Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.'

Monday 29th March

Isaiah 42:1-7 'Here is my servant whom I uphold...'

John 12:1-11 Six days before the Passover, Mary anoints the feet of Jesus with costly ointment

Tuesday 30th March

Isaiah 49:1-6 'The Lord called me before I was born.'

John 13:21-33,36-38 Jesus at table with Simon Peter (who would deny the Lord), Judas (who would betray him) and the others.

Wednesday 31st March

Isaiah 50:4-9 'My vindicator is here at hand.'

Matthew 26:14-25 Judas agrees to hand Jesus over for thirty silver pieces.

Thursday 1st April MAUNDY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8,11-14 Instructions for the Passover meal which will be celebrated in the Lord's honour

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 'Do this as a memorial of me'

John 13:1-15 'I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

Friday 2nd April GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 'Ours were the sufferings he bore...he let himself be taken for a sinner...he was bearing the faults of many and praying all the time for sinners.'

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 'Jesus offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears.' John 18:1 - 19:42 The Passion: Jesus' words from the Cross - 'This is your mother...I am thirsty...It is accomplished'