

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*

Third Sunday of Easter 18th April 2021

Things have opened up (a bit) and regulations eased! How has that affected you? Is there something you were pining to do which is now possible? Are you patiently waiting for the next steps? I remember at the start of February thinking that 12th April for a haircut was TOO long to hold on. So, I took electric clippers and sat in front of a mirror and attempted a 'selfie'!! I did not have anyone else to do it for me. It's so hard to look in a mirror and move the gadget the right way! The result was the best I could do. Finally this week I was able to let a professional work magic with clippers, scissors and a deft flick of a comb - I feel so much better! Some things we just cannot do on our own! Help is required.

St. Luke tells us today that the disciples encounter the Risen Lord. News has come of a number of Easter Day appearances and now they meet him themselves. They see the Lord and think it's a ghost. They know he's there and yet are dumbfounded. He eats with them and lets them touch his body; they still can't believe it. What strikes me is that they are connected with the friend they knew and yet it is all so different; they try to understand and still the ability to grasp the enormity of what has happened eludes them. Life is complicated for them in that room! The disciples need Jesus to open their minds to understand and fathom what has taken place. Similarly on the Road to Emmaus two of them welcomed a stranger to join them on the road and to sit at table with them. Only after he breaks bread with them, the penny drops and they comprehend that the presence with them was genuine - it had really been the Lord making their hearts burn within them. In this room, the disciples are commissioned with the Lord's words: 'You are witnesses to this.'

The question is how one bears witness to something as unique as the Resurrection. There are words, experiences, feelings, the unknowable - which of these will convince others? How do you know? Who handed on this message to you? Have you met the Risen Lord? There will be many ways of responding and a spectrum of answers; there will be dead-ends and silence too. From today's passage I draw some significant threads: the Lord is to be found in the community; he is present in the Breaking of Bread (Eucharist); his Word enlightens our minds; he is there but not there - the same one and yet so different. Easter gives us a fresh opportunity to take stock of our Faith with its challenges and hope. Look for and feel the Lord's presence. Reflect on what you find hard to comprehend. Learn from others and be prepared to share with them your insights.

As we begin another week, I pray that the light of hope and possibility is shining upon you, that in simple and deep ways you are being opened up to a new beginning, a day dawning like the Day of Resurrection. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless you. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

SACRAMENTS

Current regulations apply at least until 17th May, 2021

Baptism is NOT permitted outside of communal worship.

Weddings are possible with 15 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 HOLY COMMUNION MASSES are being celebrated the weekends 17th/18th and 24th/25th April. 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

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. 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.

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: Shtepan and Frida Janecke RIP, Izabela Lachut's Intention, Mary Davin RIP, Sean Cox's Intention, Bob Piamonte RIP 1st Anniv, For all unborn children.

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.

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.

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!

CAFOD NEWS *Tony Sheen writes:* Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY *Bishop John Sherrington writes:* On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, we will pray for vocations to the priesthood, as well as for our seminarians at Allen Hall and the Beda College, and the priests of our Diocese. Good Shepherd Sunday presents an opportunity when we can talk about the life of the priest and invite men to consider this wonderful and grace-filled vocation with its blessings and its crosses. As the result of the lockdown and the pandemic, there may be greater desire for some men to reflect on God's calling and to listen to the Holy Spirit.

I am also writing to ask your help in supporting the Priests' Training Fund with the annual appeal. The collection is due to take place the weekend 24th/25th April. I am very conscious that the pandemic has affected everyone's finances and especially those of our parishioners who have been very generous in many different ways. This year we look forward to celebrating four ordinations to the priesthood and three ordinations to the diaconate for the diocese. The cost of the training these men will have been borne by the Priests' Training Fund. Thank you and God bless you.

To contribute online visit: www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 18TH APRIL

Saturday 17th April

Acts 6:1-7 Seven are selected from among them: men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom.

John 6:16-21 Jesus walks on the water towards the disciples, who are in a boat, saying 'It is I. Do not be afraid.'

Sunday 18th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3:13-15,17-19 Peter emphasises that the Apostles are witnesses to the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead.

1 John 2:1-5 Jesus is our Advocate with the Father

Luke 24:35-48 Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Monday 19th April St. Alphege (Died 1012) *Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr*

Acts 6:8-15 Opposition to Stephen

John 6:22-29 'What must we do...?' Jesus replies 'You must believe in the One God has sent.'

Tuesday 20th April

Acts 7:51- 8:1 The Martyrdom of St. Stephen

John 6:30-35 Jesus says: 'I am the Bread of Life.'

Wednesday 21st April St. Anselm (1033-1109) *Archbishop of Canterbury and Doctor of the Church*

Acts 8:1-8 A bitter persecution starts after Stephen's death

John 6:35-40 'Seeing' the Son leads to eternal life

Thursday 22nd April

Acts 8:26-40 The Ethiopian meets Philip, asks questions and is baptised.

John 6:44-51 'The bread I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.'

Friday 23rd April ST. GEORGE Martyr (303) *Patron Saint of England*

Apocalypse 12:10-12 The witness of martyrdom

Romans 5:1-5 Sufferings, patience, hope and perseverance

John 15:18-21 'My choice withdrew you from the world.'