

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter 9th May 2021

In our Gospel reading today from St. John, we continue with Chapter 15. Last week we heard Jesus say ‘I am the Vine, you are the branches’. Now the Lord speaks about love - love experienced and offered. This love involves choice, friendship and is fruitful. As our celebration of Easter heads towards its completion at Pentecost, the Church asks us today to reflect on our being caught up in Divine Love, revealed in Jesus.

The Divine Love Jesus shares with us gives us an intimate understanding of God’s deepest identity: all that God the Father has, he offers to the Son; the Son delights in the Gift received and all he can do is return the Love and in turn pour out the Love upon others - the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is Pure Gift. So, as dynamically God is a harmony of Love, this Love is expressed in Creation, and humanity in particular is destined to share eternally in God’s life. This always makes me say ‘WOW!!!’ God is so amazing and we are richly blessed to receive such awesome invitation.

Jesus states that he loves us and wants us to love one another in a similar way: sacrificially laying down our lives for one another. This starts to sound quite hard and puts us on the spot. One day God wants us to be immersed in his love; here on earth, he wants our life of loving to reflect the pattern in which we will live eternally. Can you rise to such a challenge? In what ways do you find yourself mirroring Christ? What are the obstacles which become a block to God’s intention? Who is your inspiration in your immediate circle of family and friends? To whom are you an exemplar?

To be chosen to be the Lord’s friend is brilliant! He picks every single one of us and

waits for our response. He sees so many traits which resonate with his life, and he wants to develop them further. He longs for our friendship to continue to grow and to be fruitful - thus touching the lives of others with a trace of the divine. 'All sounds like a tall order!' I hear you saying to yourself and wondering how you personally might 'achieve' it. Remember that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes upon us anew, refreshing us, endowing us with gifts and kick-starting us if we need. This is God's work! God is the source, the strength and the encouragement. God is everything!

Have a good week. Stay safe. Rejoice in the fact that God loves you and has shown that love in his Son. 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. After 17th May, celebrations can take place. If you are thinking about Baptism of your child, contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert to arrange a date.

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. Please note that with the Prime Minister's recent announcement, soon more mourners may attend a Funeral **according to the capacity of the church**. Bereaved families will have to pay attention to the numbers coming, the bubbles they are in and the sizes of our churches in WGC, it would place everyone in a difficult position if the church was overfilled or that distancing regulations were not being met. Potential Funeral attendees MUST check with the immediate bereaved family that there is space and NOT turn up unexpectedly.

CONFIRMATION MASSES Congratulations to the newly confirmed young people. This year's group will be confirmed on Fridays 21st and 28th May and Monday 24th May, at 7pm. Please remember these young people at this important moment in their lives. Our thanks to the catechists who supported their preparation.

**PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS
IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

*Places of Worship can remain open. We are doing all we can to keep people safe.
This schedule of Masses will continue at least until September/October.*

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

Ascension Thursday 13th May

9.30am Mass at Holy Family
7pm Mass at Our Lady's

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.

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 should be put in an envelope and given to one of the priests or popped through the letterbox of one of the presbyteries.. The intentions will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Josef and Frida Cherne RIP, Jerry Kelly RIP 1st Anniv, Paul Carter RIP, Patrick Creamer RIP anniv, Simon Stanton RIP, Deceased member of the McEleney family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Carter who died during the week.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD Thursday 13th May There will be 9.30am Mass at Holy Family and 7pm Mass at Our Lady's on that day. Mass will also be streamed on the YouTube Channel at 7.30am

BANK HOLIDAY On Monday 31st May there will only be Mass at 10am at Our Lady's. (No evening Mass).

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR Holy Family School and Our Lady's School are looking for anyone who might be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor. A Governor with this responsibility is appointed by the Diocese and so the application would go through Fr. Norbert as Parish Priest. If you are interested or want to find out more, contact Fr. Norbert. Thank you!

ONLINE ROSARY After a year of praying together, the group has decided to bring the online Rosary to an end due to the easing of the lockdown restrictions. Fr Tony would like to thank all of those who have joined in this prayer during this time.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Fr. Norbert writes: We have had the standing order campaign and many of you have taken the forms. Please return them to one of the presbyteries. If you did not get one, ask either Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert. Thank you for your co-operation, generosity and encouragement, all of which are much appreciated.

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!

VACCINE CONFIDENCE A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organized for the of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on COVID-19 vaccination. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556>
Passcode: 546617

FREE FACEMASKS The local charity Welwyn Hatfield Community Services have donated some free, homemade face masks which you can take as you come in to church. If you would like to know more about their work, or make a contribution to them, please go to <https://www.welwynhatfieldcs.org.uk/>

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND Our 2021 Pentecost Challenge is launched, with a focus on helping Christian families keep their children in Christian schools. Please support our Appeal by visiting our website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost or sending a donation to FHL, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth CV8 2DH. You can register to join an 84-mile virtual pilgrimage between Bethlehem and Nazareth, using just 2 miles/day of your exercise. You can obtain sponsorship from friends or family or simply sponsor the parishioners you might know who are already walking, cycling or swimming! For those with children/grandchildren at local schools, why not encourage them to set up a team! For more information, email office at office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk or telephone 01926 512980.

THY KINGDOM COME - LIGHTING UP THE WORLD IN PRAYER

Ascension Day (13th May) until Pentecost (23rd May)

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/>

This is an ecumenical initiative and Westminster Diocese draws our attention to the following resources:

Pentecost Novena: A beautiful way to prepare ourselves for the joy of Pentecost. This resource is available as a download, booklet, or podcast:
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/pentecost-novena/>

Journey with Mary: This special playlist has been created for us to journey with Mary from the Ascension to Pentecost . What would we say, or share with Mary?
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/journey-with-mary/>

Praying for 5: During the novena which 5 friends, family, neighbours, who may be away from the Church, or have yet to discover the love offered them by Jesus would you pray for. Simply do so throughout the day and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for them.

A simple Prayer Journal has been produced to support our personal prayer during the novena,

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2021-03/TKC%20Prayer%20Journal%202021%20DOWNLOAD_0.pdf

For Families: There are some delightful resources to help families, particularly those with young children praying Thy Kingdom Come. To explore what is on offer please click below;

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

Sharing your good news: Westminster would love to hear Thy Kingdom Come stories from you – before, during, or after the Novena. Please send these, and any pictures you might want to share, to Deacon Roger Carr-Jones at the Agency for Evangelisation – rogercarrjones@rcdow.org.uk.

CAFOD As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

PRAY IN MAY WITH MARY'S MEALS Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us.

This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish, enabling us to reach more hungry children. For more details, the website is <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay>

Thank you for remembering Mary's Meals in your prayers. God bless you all.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 9TH MAY**

Saturday 8th May

Acts 16:1-10 The Gospel spreads to Macedonia

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

Sunday 9th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 The gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out on Cornelius and his household

1 John 4:7-10 God's love for us.

John 15:9-17 Jesus loves us as the Father loves him; we are to love one another.

Monday 10th May

Acts 16:11-15 Lydia and her household receive Baptism

John 15:26, 27 'I have told you all this that your faith may not be shaken'

Tuesday 11th May

Acts 16:22-34 Paul and Silas. A new believer.

16:5-11 The role of the Advocate

Wednesday 12th May

Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1 Paul's speech before the Council of the Areopagus in Athens

John 16:12-15 'When the Spirit of truth comes...'

Thursday 13th May ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11 A cloud took Jesus from their sight

Ephesians 4:1-13 'He ascended to the height...and gave gifts..'

Mark 16:15-20 The Lord Jesus was taken up to heaven; he worked with the Apostles and confirmed their words with signs.

Friday 14th May ST. MATTHIAS Apostle

Acts 1:15-17,20-26 The choice of Matthias to complete the Twelve

John 15:9-17 'You did not chose me, I chose you...'