

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter 16th May 2021

This Monday, depending on which newspaper you read, is ‘Magic Monday’ or ‘Freedom Day’. It’s the day on which the next easing of coronavirus restrictions is due to take place. From Monday, according to taste, you will be able to visit a cinema, a theatre, or the inside of a restaurant or pub. Take your pick! Of course, many social distancing measures will remain in place, at least until 21st June, so I heard it said this week that our current experience is a bit like that of the disciples after the Ascension: they had experienced the Risen Lord but were still awaiting the full freedom of the Spirit which they would receive at Pentecost. We will experience a bit more freedom this week, but still await the full freedom for which we long!

Pentecost is still a week away, and in the meantime today’s readings give us further passages from Jesus’ Last Supper discourse in John’s Gospel. Part of Jesus’ prayer today is that the disciples remain united and true to the name of God. Names had a great significance in those days - to know someone’s name gave you a sort of power over them. Jesus had given the disciples a new name for God the Father - Abba - a name which marked the beginning of a new and more intimate relationship between God and humanity.

John’s Gospel is almost one long meditation on this new relationship. And so, John reflects on the words he remembers of Jesus’ prayer that his friends be protected from the evil one. Jesus knew that the world would turn against his friends because it recognised that they belonged elsewhere. Many Christians still draw strength from the knowledge that Jesus said that his friends would be persecuted and oppressed. Living under regimes which seek to extinguish the flame of faith, people can hear the words in today’s Gospel and remember that whatever they endure they are consecrated in the truth.

Next week, we recall the day when the disciples cascaded into the streets to announce the one proclamation in many different languages. The message spoke to the hearts of the people and three thousand people chose to be united in the one baptism. People from different regions became united in one Lord... and united in all their diversity. Let's pray for people everywhere who experience disunity and hatred today, especially in the Holy Land where there has been so much turmoil in the last few days.

Fr Norbert and I continue to pray for all our parishioners. Together, may we eagerly anticipate the full freedom of the Spirit we will receive at Pentecost.

God bless you, *Fr Tony*.

SACRAMENTS

Current regulations apply at least until 17th May, 2021

Baptism 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 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

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, 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: Mary Nee RIP, Isabel Hospice in memory of Jerry Kelly RIP, Paul Carter RIP, John and Mary Pereira RIP anniv., Josie Bell RIP, John Flynn RIP 1st anniv., John Kemp RIP, Michael Hopkin's intentions

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Kemp, Josie Bell, Harry Carrick and Celia Howley who have recently died

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!

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/>

MAY DEVOTIONS On Monday 31st May the Rosary and other prayers will be recited after 10am Mass to mark the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin Elizabeth. If the weather is good, we will gather outside near the statue of Our Lady at the front of the church and we will be able to sing! Stay afterwards if you are free. It will be a wonderful way of closing the month of May.

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.

The following is a Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of Pentecost from Cardinal Vincent Nichols. A Pentecost Novena for the care of creation can be found at <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/pentecost/pentecost-novena-on-the-care-of-creation/>.

I am pleased to write to you enclosing a Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of Pentecost. It is a somewhat different from a normal pastoral letter. First, the text has emerged from the last meeting of the Bishops' Conference and subsequent work. It comes, therefore, from this shared endeavour. I willingly make it my own.

Secondly, the Pastoral Letter addresses a very public theme, and concern, about our care for the created world. It does so through the perspective of our Catholic faith, which sees creation as God's work, and properly understood as our human environment. The letter comes at the time of two crucial meetings, of the G7 and COP26.

I hope you find it both relevant and encouraging to the task so clearly facing us all and requiring our response in action at diocesan, parish and personal levels.

Also attached to this e-mail is a novena of prayer for the time from Ascension to Pentecost, on the themes of the Care of Creation. Pleased be assured of my prayers for you in these days before Pentecost.

Text of Pastoral letter follows on next two pages.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am very pleased to share with you this Pastoral Letter, prepared by the Bishops of England and Wales for use in churches on 23 May 2021, Pentecost Sunday:

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of “God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God’s revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’ In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

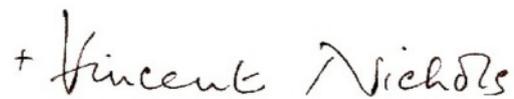
In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and ‘renew the face of the earth’.

May God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Vincent Nichols". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 16TH MAY**

Saturday 15th May

Acts 18:23-28 Apollos demonstrates from scripture that Jesus is the Christ
John 16:23-28 Jesus says the Father loves us for loving him

Sunday 16th May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:15-17,20-26 The Apostles choose a replacement for Judas
1 John 4:11-15 Anyone who lives in love lives in God
John 17:11-19 Jesus prays his followers will be one with the Father

Monday 17th May

Acts 19:1-8 Paul baptises in the name of the Lord Jesus
John 16:29-33 Jesus says he has conquered the world!

Tuesday 18th May

Acts 20:17-27 Paul addresses the church in Ephesus
John 17:1-11 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son...'

Wednesday 19th May

Acts 20:28-38 Paul moves his listeners to tears
John 17: 11-19 'Consecrate them in the truth...'

Thursday 20th May

Acts 22:30,23:6-11 The Lord tells Paul to witness to him in Rome
John 17:20-26 Jesus prays that his followers may be one

Friday 21st May

Acts 25:13-21 Festus puts Paul's case before King Agrippa
John 21:15-19 Jesus asks Peter three times: 'Do you love me?'