

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

Pentecost Sunday of Easter 23rd May 2021

Come, Holy Spirit! Today, Pentecost Sunday – which we celebrate 50 days after Easter – Jesus sends the Holy Spirit on the disciples. Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles uses the language of the senses to describe the powerful presence of the Spirit: a mighty wind, tongues of fire, a variety of languages somehow understood by all. Jesus sends the Spirit upon each of us as well. And while we may not experience the Holy Spirit with our physical senses, I bet each one of us has sensed the Spirit’s presence at different times in life: a homily that deeply resonated, a sense of awe at God’s creation, a “moral compass” that guided us toward what is right, or when we found the words to console a friend in crisis or vice versa. Just as the Spirit transformed the disciples and emboldened them to build up the Church by carrying on Jesus’ mission, we, too, can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and strengthen us to be a force for love and unity in our families, parishes, and communities.

In today’s Gospel, too, Jesus sends his disciples out to continue his ministry, assuring them of the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide them. We have also been given the gifts of the Holy Spirit for use in building up the Church. Well before we learned about concepts such as “emotional intelligence” or skills tests, Saint Paul assured the Corinthians that there are many different gifts and ministries, but the same Spirit. Our gifts may even change as we move from one chapter of life to another. For example, teenagers may participate in service projects, young adults may build a parish website, and those who are homebound may offer to pray for others in their parish. For followers of Christ, the only option not on the table is becoming complacent. As we move from the Easter season to “Ordinary Time,” let’s invite the Holy Spirit to show us how to be “extra-ordinary” in our discipleship in the coming days and weeks!

On Friday (21st) last week, and on Monday and Friday this coming week, we are celebrating our Confirmation Masses for 2021. The Holy Spirit is descending on our Confirmation candidates in power, equipping them to be disciples of Jesus. Let's pray for these young people at this important moment in their lives.

Fr Norbert and I continue to pray for all in our parishes. Please pray for us!
God bless you all. *Fr Tony.*

SACRAMENTS

Fr Norbert and Fr Tony are to review how the latest government guidelines affect the Covid-secure measures we have implemented in our parishes. Baptisms, wedding and funerals can all take place. Please note that it is important to check in advance with Fr Norbert or Fr Tony to find out how many people can attend these liturgies.

Baptism If you are thinking about Baptism of your child, contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert to arrange a date.

Weddings 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 Potential Funeral attendees MUST check with the immediate bereaved family that there is space and NOT turn up unexpectedly.

CONFIRMATION MASSES On Friday last week (21st) our first group of candidates for 2021 were confirmed at Our Lady's. There will be further Confirmation Masses on Monday 24th May and Friday 28th May. Please remember all of our young people bring confirmed 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: Simon Stanton RIP, John Almeyda RIP anniv, Rob Hill RIP, Bill Walsh RIP, Josie Bell RIP, Anna Liza Sabalvaro RIP anniv, Guillermo Muceros RIP anniv, Marion Moore RIP, Roy D'Cunha's intentions (in thanksgiving)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Josie Bell, Harry Carrick, Celia Howley and Gerry Hurrell 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!

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.

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.

COVID-SECURE MEASURES IN CHURCH

Extensive new guidelines have been issued following the easing of government restrictions on 17th May. In the coming days Fr Norbert and Fr Tony will review these guidelines and, in due course, announce how they impact the Covid-secure measures we have implemented in church. Your safety and comfort remain our overriding priority

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.

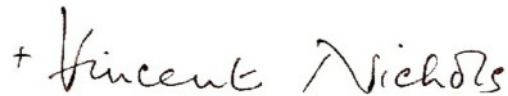
In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs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

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 23RD MAY**

Saturday 22nd May

Acts 28:16-20,30-31 Paul proclaims the Gospel in Rome

John 21:20-25 We know that Jesus' testimony is true

Sunday 23rd MAY PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16-25 If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you

John 20,19-21 As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you

Monday 24th May Mary, Mother of the Church

Genesis 3:9-15,20 The mother of all who live

John 19:25-34 'Behold your mother'

Tuesday 25th May

Ecclesiasticus 35:2-15 The Lord is a good rewarder

Mark 10:28-31 God's generosity to those who leave everything for the Gospel

Wednesday 26th May St Philip Neri Founder of the Congregation of the Oratory

Ecclesiasticus 36:1-2,5-7,13-19 Let all nations acknowledge God

Mark 10:32-45 The Son of Man came to serve

Thursday 27th May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

Hebrews 10:11-18 I will put my laws into their hearts

Mark 14:22-28 This is my body, this is my blood

Friday 28th May

Ecclesiasticus 44:1,9-13 Let us praise illustrious men

Mark 11:11-26 The cleansing of the Temple