

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*

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time 13th June 2021

I'm sure many of us remember science projects at school when we were asked to take seeds to plant at home and keep track of their growth. I recall planting some cress seeds and leaving them on the windowsill, checking every morning to see whether they had grown at all. It took a few days before anything happened, but then a few shoots started to appear. The seeds grew, because that is what seeds do.

In today's gospel, Jesus uses the image of the seed to describe God's Kingdom. Like a seed planted in the ground, God works in hidden ways. We cannot always understand what he is doing or why things are turning out the way they are. We wonder why he is not doing more to end suffering or why so many people do not believe in the gospel of love. But somehow our Heavenly Father is using all the world's events — both the good and the bad — to bring his Kingdom to fruition. All we can do is trust that he has it all under control and that he knows what he's doing. And we have to wait patiently until it is finally manifested in all its glory.

We can understand the truth of Jesus' words by looking at our own history. There were probably times when we couldn't understand why people left our lives, why our careers didn't turn out the way we thought, or why what we expected out of life never came to pass. Looking back, however, we can see how everything fit into place. Without knowing it and without controlling it, the pieces came together. Now we can't imagine our lives being any different. Like the seed hidden in the soil, we blossomed in ways that we could never have planned on our own. We realise that it could only have been by God's plan that it all worked out.

Saint Paul describes the attitude we must have, "We walk by faith and not by sight."

God's Kingdom is growing silently, but surely, because that's what God's Kingdom does. We won't see the Kingdom in full flower until we enter into our heavenly reward. But we can be sure that just as the flower is more beautiful than the seed it grew from, so God's Kingdom will be infinitely more glorious than anything we can imagine. Until then, no matter how dark and hopeless our world may seem, we live, work, and pray with trust that it is all going according to God's plan.

Fr Norbert and I continue to pray for you all. God bless, *Fr Tony*.

SACRAMENTS

Fr Norbert and Fr Tony are going 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.

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: Madge Gilhooly ints. (80th birthday), Bridget Coyle RIP, Virginia Rees RIP, Simon Stanton RIP, Fr Kevin McDevitt ints. (get well), John and Maureen McEvoy RIP, John and Josie Rodger RIP, James Crofton ints. (birthday)

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patrick Fitzgerald and Mary Gay who have recently died.

**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 31st May

10am 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.*

FR. TONY has been asked by the Cardinal to become a Parish Priest, which sadly means he will leave us after the summer. We are grateful for all Fr. Tony has done to contribute to the life of our parishes. He still does not know where he is going. In due course, we will find a way of expressing our appreciation and saying 'Farewell'. The new Assistant Priest for Welwyn Garden City will be William Johnstone, at present a deacon, who is to be ordained priest on 26th June. He will join us in September. *For now let us keep Fr. Tony and Deacon William in our prayers.*

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.

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. Next Mass Sunday 4th July available from 4.30pm.

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!

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON OUR LADY

Fr Tony writes: Following the enjoyable series of courses we ran on Zoom during lockdown, we are going to hold a couple of standalone, follow-up events over the summer. The first will be a session covering Catholic teaching on Mary, on Thursday 24th June at 8.00pm. We will watch a video called 'The Woman' which explains the doctrines of Mary the Mother of God; the Immaculate Conception; Mary's Perpetual Virginity; and Mary's Assumption into heaven. There will also be discussion afterwards. For Zoom details of further information, please email Adam Coeur-de-Lion on adamcdlion@yahoo.co.uk. All welcome!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 13TH JUNE

Saturday 12th June The Immaculate Heart of Mary

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 The love of Christ overwhelms us

Luke 2:41-51 Mary stored all these things in her heart

Sunday 13th June ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekial 17:22-24 I will plant a shoot on the mountain of Israel

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 We live by faith, not by sight

Mark 4:26-34 The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed

Monday 14th June

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 How to prove we are God's servants

Matthew 5:38-42 Give to anyone who asks

Tuesday 15th June

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 Jesus became poor for your sake

Matthew 5:43-48 Pray for those who persecute you

Wednesday 16th June

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 There is no limit to God's blessings

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18 Your Father will reward you

Thursday 17th June

2 Corinthians 11:1-11 I was careful not to be a burden to you

Matthew 6:7-15 How to pray

Friday 18th June

2 Corinthians 11:18,21-30 Let me boast of my feebleness

Matthew 6:19-23 Store up treasure for yourselves in heaven