

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*

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time 20th June 2021

Were you afraid of the dark when you were a child? I certainly was! I often worried that something sinister was lurking in the darkness, so I insisted that the bedroom door was kept open in order to let in light from the landing. Like so many children, I had a fear of what I couldn't see or understand.

Just like a child who still feels fear, even though he or she has been assured that there are no monsters hiding in the shadows, so our faith and confidence can fail us when we encounter frightening or uncertain realities in our lives. In this way we are not all that different from the frightened disciples in today's Gospel. They had seen Jesus demonstrating his divine power time and again, but when a storm struck the boat they were sailing in they were terrified!

As we reflect on this Gospel passage, however, we can see that fear wasn't the end of the story. In Mark's account, the storm becomes an opportunity to understand Jesus more deeply as the one who brings God's power and action into our lives.

Although the version of this passage we hear at Mass tells us that Jesus 'woke up' after the disciples called out to him, a more specific translation conveys the image of Jesus rising to his full height and power in the stern of the boat. Jesus directly confronts the nearly overwhelming power of the wind and the waves. Mark seems to be invoking Old Testament images of God's power over raging waters, including those in Job and Psalm 107 that we hear in the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm. Mark is telling us that Jesus possesses the same divine power that inspired the faith and hope of the people of Israel for generations.

In a sense, this passage is holding up a mirror for us, inviting us to look at our own lives and to consider how we respond when chaos seems to be breaking out around us. Do we become fearful as we try to hold onto some illusion of control, or do we find hope and confidence in what has been revealed to us about God's power and action?

In The Road to Peace, Henri Nouwen reflected, "Fear is not of God," going on to add that God is "the God of love, a God who invites you to receive — to receive the gifts of joy and peace and gratitude of the poor, and to let go of your fears so that you can start sharing what you are so afraid to let go of."

The invitation for us in this Sunday's liturgy is to view the world around us with the eyes of faith, so that fear may be replaced with wonder and awe at what God has done — and is continuing to do — in our lives and in the world.

Fr Norbert and I continue to pray for you. Please pray for us, too! 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: Jacques Pichon RIP anniv, Martin McLaughlin RIP, Matthew Sayer RIP 2nd anniv, Mary Scanlon RIP, Celia Howley RIP, Pauline Hayes ints, Simon Stanton RIP, Mary McEvoy RIP, Margaret Coyle ints.

**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.*

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 20TH JUNE

Saturday 19th June

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 My power is at its best in weakness

Matthew 6:24-31 Your Father knows your needs

Sunday 20th June TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 38:1,8-11 God speaks from the heart of a tempest

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 The love of Christ overwhelms us

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus calms a raging storm

Monday 21st June St Aloysius Gonzaga Jesuit priest who ministered to the sick in Rome

Genesis 12:1-9 Abraham put his faith in God

Matthew 7:1-5 Do not judge

Tuesday 22nd June St John Fisher and St Thomas More Catholics who resisted the Reformation in England

2 Maccabees 6:18,21,24-21 His death was a record of nobility

Matthew 24:4-13 The man who stands firm to the end will be saved

Wednesday 23rd June

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 The countless number of Abraham's descendents

Matthew 7:15-20 You will tell them by their fruits

Thursday 24th June THE BIRTHDAY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah 49:1-6 I will make you the light of the nations

Acts 13:22-26 Jesus was heralded by John

Luke 1:57-66,80 His name is John

Friday 18th June

Genesis 17:1,9-10,15-22 The Lord's covenant with Abraham

Matthew 8:1-4 If you want to, you can cure me