

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 27th June 2021

Isn't life getting more and more challenging with changing red, amber and green countries, attempts at holidays and variants-plus breaking in on the scene?! There are extra complications with restrictions being eased, rules not being adhered to and exceptions-to-the-rules being allowed! How are you approaching the summer? Are you just hoping for sunshine at home? Lots to chew over!

I have been fortunate enough (finally) to have some time away - in the form of a retreat. As many of you know, I love going to the Poor Clares in Arundel in West Sussex; in fact, next year will be thirty years since my first visit. There is time to be quiet and still, many moments for reflection, opportunities to read, the rhythm of the cloistered life with set prayer-times and Mass. This year the weather was absolutely brilliant! I was able to go for long walks and mull over a whole variety of things. The nuns have Mass at 8.30am and after celebrating the Eucharist and going outdoors, I was able to ponder what I had preached and further my contemplation of the Scriptures - quite a luxury! Are you waiting for me to say I am going to become a monk? Or leave to be a hermit? NO!!! However, the period of retreat gives me peace and serenity which sustain me in the every day. As I said before going on retreat, I love being a priest in a parish; it is such a joy and privilege. Carving out space for God and rediscovering a pace of life not-always-possible is a real treat! And I never stop remembering and praying for you!

In our Gospel passage today from St. Mark, after calming the storm at sea, Jesus is back in action accompanied by a large crowd. He has time for everyone, collectively and individually. He is interrupted and stops; he feels power coming out of him and looks around. His heart goes out to the man whose daughter is so poorly; he raises

her to life after she dies. He is so human in his dealings with, and awareness of, others; the grace of God never stops radiating from him. Let us focus on all that Jesus brings to us as individuals, to our homes and to our community. Let us ask him for support in this time of continuing pandemic and our need for refreshment and peace. Let us find moments to encounter him and appreciate all he wants to share.

May God bless each and every one of you. Fr. Tony and I still keep you in our prayers. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

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: Kay and Andrew Cunningham RIP, Roger Mizon's Intentions, Simon Stanton RIP, Sebastiano Scarso RIP 1st Anniv, Paul Carter RIP, Josie Bell RIP, Fabio Cicala RIP 3rd Anniv, Kitty Coakley RIP Anniv, Mary Wall RIP 1st Anniv, Alec Noonan RIP Funeral, Paul Carter RIP Funeral John Davin (sick).

**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 28th

7pm Mass at Our Lady's **ST. PETER & ST. PAUL VIGIL MASS**

Tuesday 29th ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

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 *still* does not know where he is going. We all wait patiently with him! In due course, we will find a way of expressing our appreciation and saying 'Farewell'. Please keep him in your prayers.

FR. WILLIAM JOHNSTONE Please keep in your prayers our new priest who will be ordained in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 26th June. Fr. William will start in Welwyn Garden City in September.

JUAN JOSE FERIA TOSCANO, the seminarian from Huelva in Spain who was with us four years ago, is going to be ordained deacon on Saturday 26th June in Huelva. Let's also pray for him as he begins the last part of his journey towards priesthood.

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL This is such a big day for us in the Catholic Church! The Monday 7pm Mass at Our Lady's on 28th will be a Vigil Mass and on Tuesday 29th there will be 9.30am Mass at Holy Family and an extra evening Mass at 7 o'clock at Our Lady's. All welcome!

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! Fr. Norbert will, on Friday 2nd July, be walking with Nicholas Breakspear's Year 12 from the school to the Cathedral for the 12 noon Mass.

THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT UK invites you to the first in a series of three evening events in July, entitled Countdown to COP26: Time to Think – Time to Act. Have you ever wondered what is happening at COP26 and what you can do to take action to Care for Our Common Home?

This November, the UK is hosting the crucial UN climate talks (COP26) in Glasgow. This offers a vital opportunity to call on our leaders to deliver a successful summit that protects the most vulnerable and the Common Home on which we all depend. This event series offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect, learn more and get inspired on how to get involved in taking action on the climate crisis in our communities, in our churches and with our elected representatives. On Thursday 1st July, we are delighted to be joined by the following speakers:

Lorna Gold, Chair of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and Director of Movement Building at FaithInvest: From personal to collective action – COP26, Laudato Si' Action Platform and Faith Plans

Nino Puglisi, Focolare / EcoOne

A group of young people from the Focolare and Islamic Unity Society will speak about an initiative involving a group of young Christians and Muslims, entitled #GuardiansOfTheEarth.

There will be time for discussion and Q&A with our speaker panel.

Find out more and sign up on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cop26-laudato-si-and-care-for-our-common-home-tickets-159091871069>

EU SETTLED STATUS SCHEME Do you need help with applying for the EU Settled Status Scheme? Do you know that the deadline to apply for the EU Settled Status Scheme ends on 30th June 2021?

If you have any questions in relation to this scheme, if you are unsure how to apply, help is available. Please come along to the EU Settled Status Scheme drop-in session, which will be taking place in the Polish restaurant in Hatfield. Do let your friends and family members know.

What: EU Settled Status Scheme drop in session

Where: Taste It, Polish restaurant in Hatfield

When: Friday, 25th June

Time: 4pm - 7pm

Those attending will be offered a FREE cup of tea!

This event is organised in partnership with the Welwyn Hatfield CVS and Taste It, the Polish restaurant in Hatfield.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 27TH JUNE

Saturday 26th June

Genesis 18:1-15 Abraham's three visitors

Matthew 8:5-17 The healing of the centurion's servant

Sunday 27th June THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24 God created all to be

2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15 The generosity of the Lord Jesus

Mark 5:21-43 Two people of faith; two healings.

Monday 28th June St. Irenaeus (130-202) Bishop of Lyons and Martyr

Genesis 18:16-33 Abraham pleads for the sinful town of Sodom

Matthew 8:18-22 The cost of discipleship

Tuesday 29th June ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL Apostles martyred in Rome

Acts 12:1-11 Peter escapes from jail through the ministry of an angel

2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18 'I have run the race to the finish!'

Matthew 16:13-19 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.'

Wednesday 30th June

Genesis 21:5,8-20 Hagar and Ishmael.

Matthew 8:28-34 The healing of two demoniacs in pagan territory.

Thursday 1st July Dedication of Westminster Cathedral (1910)

2 Chronicles 5:6-10,13 - 6:2 The glory of the Lord filled the Temple of God

John 4:19-24 Part of the conversation Jesus has with the Samaritan woman

Friday 2nd July

Genesis 23:1-4,19, 24:1-8,62-67 Isaac finds a wife

Matthew 9:9-13 'What I want is mercy!'