

# 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*

***Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 4th July 2021***

I thought I'd wait until after the 'walk' to St. Albans Cathedral with Nicholas Breakspear School Year 12 before writing my newsletter piece. The forecast was for it to rain on Friday afternoon, after a sunny start to the day. So, I packed shoes which could get muddy and wore an anorak to keep warm and dry; AND it was so hot!!! It is really difficult in these times to predict anything and the weather proved to be no different. Walking and talking; feeling the warmth of the sun. Experiencing the beauty of an ancient Abbey-now-Cathedral and having an opportunity to wander round afterwards made for such an enjoyable day.

In our Gospel reading today from St. Mark, Jesus goes home. Perhaps the sun is shining? Is the crowd making a noise? What we do know is that the people will not accept him. How sad! They have all the information they need to state categorically the identity of this man: his parents and relations, his origins and employment. They just cannot understand why and how he speaks and acts as he does. If only they had waited patiently, listening, observing and experiencing the amazing nature of Jesus' ministry.

It is very easy for us as followers of Jesus to take for granted what we already know of him, have learnt at home or in the family, in school or in the parish. However, there is always something extra to be discovered about the Son of God! If you had been in Nazareth, would you have gone along with the crowd's lack of appreciation or would you have tried to spend more time with Jesus? Would you have been dismissive of his words and actions or would you have tried to memorise this Good News from his lips? Would you have let your heart be touched by the warmth of this encounter?

Of course, we live in another part of the world and this moment in history is unique. Nevertheless, are you prepared to be misunderstood as Jesus was? To be written off as Christians solely because of your origins and background? To be disregarded for speaking the truth of Faith and for standing by it? These are challenging questions for people of every time and place; they require deep thought and reflection with the courage to respond.

Hopefully the weather will settle into pure sunshine and high temperatures?! We all are longing for a sense of summer which endures. There is football to entertain us, tennis to watch at Wimbledon and the cycling of the Tour de France to keep our gaze fixed on the television! What more would you like?!!

Have a good week and stay well. God bless you and your loved ones. 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, Weddings 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: John McGeehan RIP Anniv, Marion Moore RIP, Thomas Pereira RIP 2nd Anniv, Paul Chappell RIP 3rd Anniv, Michael Carroll RIP, Josie Bell RIP, Maura Myles RIP, Albert D'Silva RIP, Augustus Joachim RIP, Private Intention, Josie Bell RIP, Eddie and Mary Dunne's Golden Wedding Intention

**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** *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.

**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/](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.

**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](mailto: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!

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 4TH JULY**

**Saturday 3rd July** ST. THOMAS Apostle who took the Gospel to India  
Ephesians 2:19-22 You are part of a building which has the apostles and prophets for its foundations.  
John 20:24-29 Doubting Thomas becomes the great believer!

### **Sunday 4th July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Ezekiel 2:2-5 The spirit came into me.  
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 'It is when I am weak that I am strong.'  
Mark 6:1-6 Jesus is rejected by his own townsfolk

### **Monday 5th July**

Genesis 28:10-22 'This is a house of God; this is the gate of heaven!'  
Matthew 9:18-26 Faith brings healing

### **Tuesday 6th July**

Genesis 32:23-33 Jacob wrestles with God  
Matthew 9:32-37 Jesus' compassion for the crowds

### **Wednesday 7th July**

Genesis 41:55-57, 42:5-7, 17-24 Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to seek help in time of famine  
Matthew 10:1-7 The names of the Twelve Apostles.

### **Thursday 8th July**

Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29, 45:1-5 Joseph and his brothers  
Matthew 10:7-15 'Proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'

### **Friday 9th July**

Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30 Jacob and Joseph are reunited  
Matthew 10:16-23 The challenge of being a disciple of Christ