

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*

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 25th July 2021

It does not take much to do good or to show love. Consider the example of my favourite saint, St. Teresa of Calcutta. When she began her ministry among the poor, she had nothing. She started her religious order with no master plan, funds or equipment. Rather, she walked the streets, feeding the hungry, and caring for the sick with whatever resources she could muster. She gave the little she had, and through her generosity and holiness, she touched hearts and changed lives.

The story is told of how, one day, she came upon a homeless man dying in the gutter. With the help of some men, she brought him to her home. There she washed him, prepared a small meal for him, and prayed. For three hours she did nothing but sit with him. He looked up at her and said, “My whole life I have been treated like an animal, now I will die like an angel.” She was not able to give him much — just her time and her love — but it meant that, in his final hours on earth, instead of dying in the streets, he could die in the arms of a saint.

In the Gospels, Jesus never turns away those in need. Whether they have a question, whether they need healing or whether they are hungry, he gives them what he has, and it never fails to satisfy. Today’s story about the multiplication of the loaves and fish is a case in point. The five barley loaves and two fish would not have been enough to feed the apostles, never mind a throng of five thousand. Yet Jesus refused to keep the food to himself. Rather he took it, blessed it and gave it away. That small act of generosity was enough to satisfy a hungry mass of people with plenty left over.

It is a spiritual law that God uses those who have the least ability to do his work. We often say, “If you want to get something done, ask a busy person.” Well, when God

wants to get something done, he asks a poor person. By choosing those who are weak, deprived and even sinful, our Heavenly Father makes it clear that it is he who is at work. Otherwise we might chalk the good deeds up to the cleverness or resourcefulness of those who do them rather than the God who makes all things possible.

God wants to do great things in our families, parishes, and in our community. He wants to feed the hungry, he wants to console the suffering and he wants to change hardened hearts. But he needs us to help him. He needs us to give even when we think we have too little, to work even when we feel exhausted, and to open our mouths even when we think we have nothing to say. We need to take risks as St. Teresa of Calcutta did by ministering to those dying on the streets and as the boy in the Gospel did who gave his basket of food to Jesus. When we do that, when we step outside our comfort zone in faith, God will take care of the rest.

Fr Norbert and I continue to pray for you. Please pray for us too!
God bless, *Fr Tony*.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place.

Baptisms If you are thinking about the 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 No limit on numbers.

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: Deceased members of the Mulvaney family; Venancia, Eusebio, Juan and Mario Nimaja RIP; Stan Griffin RIP (anniv); Maura Myles RIP; Mari Ponticaccia; Theo Desouza RIP; Marina Fernandes RIP.

FR. TONY has been appointed Parish Priest of The Five Precious Wounds in Stonebridge Park (between Harlesden and Wembley). He will move in late August which means his final Sunday with us will be 22nd August. Please keep him in your prayers.

**PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS
IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

This schedule of Masses will continue at least until September

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Signed Mass on Sunday 1st August.

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 be celebrating this Mass on Friday 6th August.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY PEOPLE

25th July 2021 is the inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the Catholic Church. Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes:

‘Pope Francis is not young. In fact, he’s getting on in years, but he has this terrific sense of the connection between generations and its importance. So I’m not surprised that he’s established for this year on 25th July, a World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly. One of the most remarkable things I remember him saying to a million young people at one of the World Youth Days was this: “If you want to be a sign of hope for the world, go and talk to your grandparents.” And in that way, he expressed so much of what we need in our society of the continuity between the generations. And a day of prayer is important because we’re lacking in that often. Elderly people

get isolated, grandparents often get forgotten. But a day of prayer will help us to remember that we are gifts to each other because we are gifts of God. And if we give thanks for those gifts, we'll appreciate them. So please remember to pray for grandparents and the elderly on 25th July, and remember, if you want to be a sign of hope, go and talk to your grandparents and may God bless you all.'

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE FOR CAFOD

John Beckett and Adam Couer-de-Lion, and other parishioners from the Catholic parishes of Welwyn Garden City, are taking part in a sponsored bicycle ride to raise money for CAFOD. Their ride will take them to ten local Catholic churches in Knebworth, Stevenage, Letchworth, Baldock and Welwyn Garden City. In total the route will be just under 50 miles! They plan to cycle it on Friday 20th August. Please support John, Adam and our other parishioners with this great effort for a worthy cause.

The JustGiving page is as follows:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wgccaafodcycle>

'KEYS OF THE KINGDOM': CATHOLIC TEACHING ON THE PAPACY

Fr Tony writes: Following the enjoyable series of courses we ran on Zoom during lockdown, we are holding a couple of standalone, follow-up events over the summer. The second of these will cover Catholic teaching on the role of the Pope, on Thursday 29th July at 8.00pm.

We will watch a video called 'The Keys of the Kingdom' which begins by outlining the foundations of the Papacy, when Jesus announces Simon Peter as "The Rock," on which the Church will stand. From there the journey unfolds through history, from the early Christians within the Roman Empire, to the present day global influence of the Church. There will be discussion afterwards. For Zoom details and further information, please email Adam Coeur-de-Lion on adamcdlion@yahoo.co.uk. All welcome!

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 25TH JULY**

Saturday 24th July

Exodus 24:3-8 The blood of the covenant

Matthew 13:24-30 The parable of the wheat and the darnel

Sunday 25th July SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 Kings 4:42-44 They will eat, and have some left over

Ephesians 4:1-6 One faith, one baptism, one God

John 6:1-15 The feeding of the five thousand

Monday 26th July St Joachim and St Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34 The golden calf

Matthew 13:31-35 The parable of the mustard seed

Tuesday 27th July

Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5-9, 28 The Lord speaks to Moses face to face

Matthew 13:36-43 Jesus explains the parable of the darnel

Wednesday 28th July

Exodus 34:29-35 Moses radiant after speaking to the Lord

Matthew 13:44-46 The kingdom of heaven is like a hidden treasure

Thursday 29th July Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, friends of the Lord

1 John 4:7-16 Love comes from God

Luke 10:38-42 Martha works; Mary listens

Friday 30th July

Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37 The law of the festivals of the Lord

Matthew 13:54-58 'Where did the man get these miraculous powers?'
