

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*

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st August 2021

Last Sunday I celebrated Mass in Newcastle where I was having a week off. The old Parish Priest was very happy for me to do so but cautioned me saying ‘Mass must not take longer than 45 minutes!’ Just before the final blessing, I asked him what the time was, as there was no clock and I wasn’t wearing a watch. His response was I had only taken 40 minutes but that that was long enough! Afterwards I met people in the congregation who had worked in Welwyn Garden City and another with family in Hatfield who attend St. Peter’s. What a small world it is! I told the people a little about life in our parishes; they were delighted to hear about you.

I was very keen to visit the Catholic Cathedral which has a huge statue of Cardinal Basil Hume outside it. He died in 1999 and was the one who ordained me a priest back in 1988. I put my hand into the massive sculptured hand and held onto my connection with the Archbishop who accepted me to train for Westminster Diocese. Cardinal Hume’s origins were from the North and so the people were so pleased to hear that I knew him so well.

Today as we gather for the Eucharist, we are caught up with so many people across the world entering into the same sacred celebration, most physically present, others tuning in through the internet. Jesus tells us in our passage from St. John’s Gospel that he is the Living Bread come down from heaven. He nourishes us and helps us on our way towards eternal life. All that he brings down to us here on earth has its source with the Father in the eternity of the heavenly realms. Is this how you feel? Can you find words to describe the truth of this teaching? Do you imitate Christ in his loving sacrifice? The Mass is such a wonderful Gift - dynamic, mysterious, earthy, heavenly. There are times we are lost in our own personal thoughts. There are other

times when we are so closely connected with the gathered congregation. There are moments when the Mass carries us.

I invite you today to think about the part you are invited by the Lord to play in the Mass. Consider how the pandemic has changed so much and the new reality which we have had to accept. Just say 'Thank you' to the Lord and let it become your 'Eucharist' of prayer and praise initiated by the Lord. Let his Presence keep you in touch with the Sacrifice of Love poured out on Calvary which takes us to Easter Sunday.

I hope the holidays are going well for you. God bless you and your loved ones. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

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: Private intention, Ruzard Fernandes RIP, Cissie Bargh RIP, Pat Frost Ints (65th birthday), Christine's Ints, Martin McLaughlin 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.*

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE FOR CAFOD John Beckett and Adam Coeur-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 nine 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. *Please note* the amended JustGiving details as follows: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafodbikeridewgc>

Bike ride for CAFOD Help Tony Thomas raise money to support The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
www.justgiving.com

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 1ST AUGUST**

Saturday 31st July

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) Founder of the Jesuits

Leviticus 25:1,8-17 The year of jubilee

Matthew 14:1-12

Munday 1st August EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 16:2-4,12-15 The people are fed with manna

Ephesians 4:17,20-24 'Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution.'

John 6:24-35 Jesus is Bread from heaven.

Monday 2nd August

Numbers 11:4-15 The people cry to the Lord for meat to eat

Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus feeds the five thousand

Tuesday 3rd August

Numbers 12:1-13 Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses

Matthew 14:22-36 Jesus says to Peter: 'Come!' Peter walks on water towards the Lord.

Wednesday 4th August St. John Vianney (1786-1859) Patron Saint of Parish Clergy

Numbers 13:1-2,25 - 14:1,26-29,34-35 A reconnaissance of the land of Canaan is made.

Matthew 15:21-28 The great faith of a pagan woman

Thursday 5th August

Numbers 20:1-13 The people complain. Moses gives them water from the rock.

Matthew 16:13-23 Jesus and Peter

Friday 6th August TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Vision of the Son of Man

Mark 9:2-10 Jesus was transfigured on a high mountain
