

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin 15th August 2021

Today we honour Our Lady as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. The Catholic Church holds that when she came to the end of her life, Mary shared immediately in the Resurrection of her Son - body and soul, she was raised to heaven. Our Lady was a woman of total faith, filled with grace, committed to God and obedient to his will; she carried in her womb God's Son, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and she stayed close to Jesus, even standing at the foot of the Cross. Our Lady is the first of humanity to share in the bodily Resurrection of Christ. God's intention is for all of us, in due course, to follow the same path.

For today's celebration, the Church offer us the account of the Visitation from St. Luke's Gospel. Mary has just said 'Yes!' to God at the Annunciation and now she rushes to be with her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist. It is a long journey and it gives her time to reflect on what God has asked of her. The two women meet, the Holy Spirit is at work and there is prophecy and song! Mary's heart is lifted up to God as she praises him for his presence in her life and in the world. Mary spends time with her cousin giving her support. The words of Mary so steeped in Scripture and echoing the thanksgiving of so many women of the Old Testament, are with us still, opening our hearts up to the praise of God.

Perhaps today you might take a few moments to reflect on your life with its challenges, joys and sorrows. Ponder on where you have found God, on the people who made a difference and how your actions and words enriched the lives of others. May God richly bless you and your loved ones. Continue to enjoy the summer!

With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

FR. TONY has one more Sunday with us before he moves to be Parish Priest of The Five Precious Wounds in Stonebridge Park (between Harlesden and Wembley). We will invite Fr. Tony back in the autumn to say, 'Thank you'. In readiness for that there will be an opportunity for parishioners to contribute towards a farewell presentation; this will be announced in due course.

In two years, Fr. Tony has been a smiling face in church, becoming a great friend to our community. He has been involved in schools, supported the SVP as Chaplain, been on-call for the Lister Hospital. What would we have done without his technological skills with Facebook, Zoom, YouTube and especially the courses face to face as well as on-line. In quiet, hidden and generous ways he has been available to so many, for this we are grateful too. Now North West London beckons! We wish Fr. Tony much happiness in his new role and assure him of our prayers. May God's blessings come upon him and his new parish.

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: Gay Sealey Intentions, In Thanksgiving to St Jude, Tereza D'Souza RIP Anniv, Simon Stanton RIP, Ian Lewis RIP, Joan McDermott RIP, Tom and Josephine Connolly RIP, Michael and Anita Cade's 25th Wedding Anniversary, Marie Healy RIP, In Thanksgiving (Pais and Rodrigues families), Denis and Bella Dunne RIP.

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/>

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

This schedule of Masses will continue at least until September/October. We are keeping to the simple form of Mass for the time being. Also, the precautions with the use of sanitiser will continue. By the end of August, we should have a good idea of how things are going with the rate of infection and people's sense of security. We would rather not keep chopping and changing every few weeks.

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.

FACEBOOK PAGE

<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.

BANK HOLIDAY Please note that on Monday 30th August Mass will be at 10am at Our Lady's as it is a Bank Holiday. So, there will not be an evening Mass that day.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES There has been a very positive response to the setting up of standing orders. We ask all of you to consider this if you are able. Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony have forms for each parish. Just to be clear: YOU set up the standing order with your bank (right hand part of form) and return the left hand side to us so that we can claim back GiftAid if tax is paid. *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 From Sunday 5th September, the monthly Signed Masses will take place again in Westminster Cathedral Hall at 4.30pm. They will be streamed directly from there. Fr. Norbert will celebrate the first one and then the rota of 6 priests who sign will start up again. Thank you for all the encouragement and interest from parishioners in the last 18 months. We are grateful to Shell Roca, Director of the Deaf Service for her input.

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!

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE FOR CAFOD This Friday (20th) John Beckett and Adam Coeur-de-Lion – parishioners from our three parishes – are taking part in a sponsored bicycle ride to raise money for CAFOD. Their ride will take them to local Catholic churches in Knebworth, Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Welwyn Garden City. In total the route will be just under 50 miles! Please do support John and Adam with this great effort for a worthy cause; their JustGiving details are as follows: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafodbikeridewgc>

If you would like to cheer them off, John and Adam will be departing from Holy Family Church at 9.00am.

FILMING AT HOLY FAMILY Some of you may have noticed TV film crews at work in Welwyn Garden City recently, especially on locations close to Holy Family Church. This is for an ITV drama series about a young family and group of friends growing up in the town. ITV have asked for permission to film a short funeral scene at Holy Family. We have agreed to their request, with assurances that the recording will be sensitive to the religious nature of the building and that the funeral in no way simulates a Catholic liturgy. The filming will take place on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday this week. The drama will be screened in late 2021/early 2022.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 15TH AUGUST**

Saturday 14th August St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941) Franciscan Priest who offered to take the place of a condemned man in Auschwitz. Died in a death cell.

Joshua 24:14-29 Joshua asks the people whom they will serve.

Matthew 19:13-15 People bring their children to Jesus to bless them and say a prayer

Sunday 15th August THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6,10 The sign of a woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon with twelve stars for a crown.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 The resurrection of the dead

Luke 1:39-56 Mary greets Elizabeth and burst into song praising God for his great works.

Monday 16th August

Judges 2:11-19 The people keep deserting God to serves other gods

Matthew 19:16-22 ‘What good deed must I do to possess eternal life?’

Tuesday 17th August

Judges 6:11-24 The call of Gideon

Matthew 19:23-30 Peter asks the Lord, ‘What about us?’

Wednesday 18th August

Judges 9:6-15 The choice of Abimelech as king

Matthew 20:1-16 The challenging parable of the workers hired for the vineyard

Thursday 19th August

Judges 11:29-39 Jephthah and his vow

Matthew 22:1-14 Parable of the wedding feast

Friday 20th August St. Bernard (1090-1153) Abbot and Doctor of the Church.

Joined the Cistercian Order, radiating wisdom and holiness

Ruth 1:1,3-6,14-16,22 The story of Ruth

Matthew 22:34-40 The double commandment of love
