

# 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*

***21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 22nd August 2021***

Today we come to the last extract from John's gospel and the end of Jesus' teaching about himself as the Bread of Life. We hear that Jesus' own disciples who struggle to accept what Jesus has said about himself, so much so that that some find the challenge too much and walk away!

In response Jesus asks the twelve, and perhaps us too: "What about you, do you also want to go away?"

No-one can be press-ganged into following Jesus, yet he puts the choice before us today: "Do you also want to go away?" It's as if the disciples cannot quite believe Jesus can truly give of himself in the way he has described. Is faith in the Eucharist just too much to ask for? Perhaps we sometimes struggle with these questions, too. Thankfully Peter speaks for us all when he says: "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life". Today's Gospel reminds us that nothing in the world can nourish our hunger to love and be loved as completely as Jesus in the Eucharist.

On a personal note, this weekend is my last in the parish before I take up my new appointment as parish priest in Stonebridge, north London. It has been a pleasure to serve you all in Welwyn Garden City for the past two years. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to me during this time; I am genuinely sad to be leaving you all. Fr William Johnstone will be arriving soon as your new assistant priest. In the meantime, please pray for me in this new chapter of my priestly life, just as I will pray for you.

God bless you all. *Fr Tony.*

**FR. TONY** Fr Norbert writes: This is Fr Tony's last weekend 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: This week Masses have been celebrated for: Brian McGinley RIP, Maria Fernandez (birthday intention), Jacqui Seal RIP, Waldemar Schmitt RIP, Marie Clythie Pierre RIP (20th anniv), David Aldridge RIP, Philomena Hardwick 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/](https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/)

Gospel reflections, the latest news, and so on.

## **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](mailto: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** On Friday this week, John Beckett, Adam Coeur-de-Lion and Michael Cade – parishioners from our three parishes – did a sponsored cycle ride of almost 50 miles to raise money for CAFOD. Their ride took them to local Catholic churches in Knebworth, Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Welwyn Garden City. It's not too late to support this great effort for a worthy cause; the JustGiving details are as follows: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafodbikeridewgc>

**STEWARDS** We are so grateful to the stewards who have worked tirelessly in our parishes at every Mass, offering a warm welcome to those attending, ensuring people feel safe and then cleaning the churches afterwards. We are continuing with the regime now established. If any of you are willing to help in the coming weeks, please let either Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert know. Thank you!

## **HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES**

Here is an update from Herts Welcomes Refugees (HWR) in the light of the unfolding crisis in Afghanistan:

You will all be concerned about the horrific situation in Afghanistan so here is an update on related activities in Hertfordshire.

There are already 24 Afghan families (130 individuals) in two hotels in the Watford area. They came here under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP Scheme) and have been given emergency, short term support from the Red Cross and assistance from the Home Office.

HWR, mainly via Kate Scott, our very active Area Convenor for Dacorum, and several other charities are taking, or have already delivered, clothing, children's toys and books and other urgently needed items.

**At the moment we do not need any more of these - but we will let you know if we are asked for more.**

**What we do need are mobile phones - wiped - and/or Sim cards with £10 or £20 on them.**

If you are able to provide any of these they can be posted to Kate at 80 Oak Cross Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HZ.

We realise that phones would be more expensive to post and if you prefer these could be dropped off at my house - 106 Handside Lane, WGC, AL8 6SY. (If the package won't fit through the letter box and there is no reply please go round the back of the house and leave on one of the cushioned chairs under the porch.

According to the Watford Observer Welwyn Hatfield is one of three Hertfordshire boroughs to have committed to taking in Afghan refugee families under the ARAP scheme.

**Can you email your local councillors to say how glad you are about this? Apparently Grant Shapps has said he is looking forward to welcoming Afghans to the area so we should email him as well.**

The HWR Management Team are discussing the impact the new arrivals will have on us and how we can help the local authorities who take in Afghan refugees. Obviously there will be more work to do but we will continue to support the refugees and asylum seekers who are already here and still need our help.

Vicky Woodcraft,

Trustee and Safeguarding Officer, Herts Welcomes Refugees.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
BEGINNING 22ND AUGUST**

**Saturday 21st August** St. Pius X, pope (1835 - 1914)

Ruth 2:1-3,8-11,4:13-17 Ruth gives birth to Obed, the grandfather of David

Matthew 23:1-12 You have only one Father

**Sunday 22nd August TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Joshua 24:1-2,15-18 We will serve the Lord

Ephesians 5:21-32 Christ loves the Church, his body

John 6:60-69 To whom shall we go?

**Monday 23rd August**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5,8-10 God loves you and you have been chosen

Matthew 23:13-22 Jesus laments

**Tuesday 24th August** St Bartholomew, apostle

Apocalypse 21:9-14 Vision of Jerusalem, the holy City

John 1:45-51 You will see heaven laid open

**Wednesday 25th August**

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 God's message is a living power

Matthew 23:27-32 Jesus laments, again!

**Thursday 26th August**

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13 You are holding firm in the Lord

Matthew 24:42-51 Stay awake!

**Friday 27th August** St. Monica Mother who prayed earnestly for the conversion of St Augustine

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 God wants you to be holy

Matthew 25:1-13 The parable of the wise and foolish virgins