

# 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*

***Second Sunday of Christmas 3rd January 2021***

Happy New Year! We have made it to **2021!** How do you feel now that we have entered January? Last year who would have thought that so much would have been different? Lockdown, tiers, furlough, coronavirus - new vocabulary and context. Plans for trips, holidays and future prospects were shelved. The level of uncertainty and the insecurity at work have left their mark. So many have experienced the loss of a loved one or the lack of contact with those who have meant so much to them. Life has been complicated. Church has taken on a new experience with streamed Masses and prayer times, with churches closed, with a search for fresh ways of being strengthened by the Lord. We have seen hearts so generous in reaching out to those in need evidenced by the front-line workers and people caring for their neighbours and the vulnerable.

Now we start again, except that the year is 2021! There is a glimpse of light; there are dark clouds everywhere too. In our Gospel reading from St. John, we go to the beginning and are taken into God's life through the Word who rests in the heart of God. This Word becomes flesh and dwells among us, revealing the Divine splendour of love without limits. The Word brings light into a darkened world and nothing can put it out. This Word had a voice to bear it witness and that was John the Baptist. The Evangelist is convinced that the Word lives in our midst, we encounter him as two people meet and engage in deep conversation. We look, we listen, we feel, we are changed by this Gift from the Father. The worries we have - which are so real - can be lifted by the strength of the Incarnate Word; the darkness which envelops and clouds our vision can be overcome by the light which springs from eternity. The Word HAS come and is in our midst; the world needs us to be messengers to bear witness to the truth of what we have come to know through our faith and our perseverance - *God-with-us*. This is the hope Jesus Christ brings into our lives.

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Fr. Tony and I wish you every blessing in 2021. May the Lord take good care of you and your loved ones. Please keep us in your prayers; remember, we pray for you too. Let's journey forwards united in faith and love, trusting in the Word who was made flesh and lives among us! With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

### **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/>

Gospel reflections, the latest news, live rosaries 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. The Sanctuary Lamp lights up the Tabernacle. This is possible 24 hours a day as the curtains are not drawn shut. Not ideal in the cold, but a possible place to offer a (quick) prayer.

**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 can be made at a later stage. The intentions will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Helen Rourke RIP, Tom Joe and Lizzie Gilhooly RIP, Jones and Maher Families Int, Nellie Brophy RIP, Augustus Joachim RIP and Harry Starling RIP Anniv.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES** The financial support of parish life is crucial and needed. Please consider using the Virgin Money Giving links on the parish website. There are standing order forms available to download on the website too. We realise that things are very challenging financially at present and do not want to put any extra burden on you. However, for those in a position to contribute to our churches, we ask you to find the best way of giving. Our thanks to you for your generosity and co-operation.

**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. There is a Signed Mass for the Epiphany going out on Sunday 3rd January at 4.30pm (anticipating Wednesday 6th)

**PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS** Parents who will need a 'Certificate of Catholicity' for Reception class or Nursery should download the form on this website called 'Request for a Certificate of Catholicity'. Fill it in and return to Fr. Norbert who will then contact each family to arrange for a Certificate to be issued.

**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!

**LUKE'S CALENDARS IN AID OF CAFOD** have been selling well and there is still time to get yours for the New Year.

Due to Tier 4 lockdown they will be sold online only from his website [www.lukesphotography.co.uk/shop](http://www.lukesphotography.co.uk/shop) and will be delivered to your home.

## **SACRAMENTS**

*Regulations current - as of 1st January 2021*

**Baptism** is permitted with only **6** present, including the child. *Please contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert directly.*

**Weddings** are possible (in limited circumstances) with **6** present. *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** can take place with **30** mourners maximum.

**Confirmation 2020** Dates have been set.

## **SACRAMENTS 2021**

On the Parish Website, you will find forms to download:

**First Holy Communion** (and Confession) - Children should be at least in Year 3

**Confirmation** - Young people should be at least in Year 9

### **Adults for the Sacraments**

Adults who wish to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion *or* Adults already baptised in a Christian Church who wish to be received into the Catholic Church *or* Catholic Adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger.

Our plan is to use the Season of Lent to do the preparation and celebrate the Sacraments soon after Easter. (Dates haven't yet been decided) It is not ideal but this past year has had so many ups and downs with dates due to lockdown and worries about the coronavirus. We do not want to put extra pressure on families or individuals at a time of much uncertainty. We want adults and children to share in the life of the Church through the Sacraments.

Most of the preparation will be done at home with families/individuals and there will be Zoom plenary sessions to keep everyone in touch. We will do all we can to keep people safe and not be at risk whilst encouraging formation for the Sacraments.

*At this stage we need to know names and details so we can be in touch. Please return the forms to Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. Email addresses are really important. Thank you for your co-operation. Let's do our best!*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING  
3RD JANUARY**

**Saturday 2nd January St. Basil the Great (330 - 379) *Bishop of Caesarea* St. Gregory Nazianzen (330 - 389) *Bishop of Constantinople***

1 John 2:22-28 'Keep alive in you what you were taught in the beginning.'

John 1:19-28 John the Baptist is the 'voice'

**Sunday 3rd January SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12 Wisdom pitches her tent

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 'I have never failed to keep you in my prayers and to thank God for you.'

John 1:1-18 'In the beginning was the Word...'

**Monday 4th January**

1 John 3:7-10 '...be holy, just as he is holy...'

John 1:35-42 Two disciples spend the day with Jesus.

**Tuesday 5th January**

1 John 3:11-21 'Our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active'

John 1:43-51 Nathanael meets Jesus

**Wednesday 6th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Isaiah 60:1-6 'The glory of the Lord is rising on you.'

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 The mystery has been revealed.

Matthew 2:1-12 The wise men follow the star to Bethlehem and worship Jesus.

**Thursday 7th January**

1 John 3:22 - 4:6 'We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.'

Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 The ministry of Jesus to those in need.

**Friday 8th January**

1 John 4:7-10 Reflections on God's love for us.

Mark 6:34-44 The Feeding of the 5000

**SEE SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR NEW YEAR ON NEXT PAGE**

## **SCHEDULE OF MASSES IN THE NEW YEAR**

### **FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021 THE MOTHERHOOD OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

10am Our Lady's

### **SATURDAY 2ND JANUARY St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen**

10am Holy Family

6pm Our Lady's

### **SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

10am Our Lady's

6pm Holy Family

*Also, Streamed Mass at 10am.*

### **MONDAY 4TH JANUARY**

7pm Our Lady's

### **TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY**

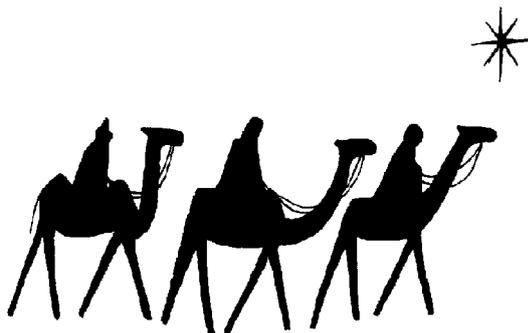
9.30am Holy Family

### **WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

9.30am Holy Family

7pm Our Lady's

*Also, Streamed Mass at 7am*



### **THURSDAY 7TH JANUARY**

9.30am Holy Family

### **FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY**

7pm Our Lady's