

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*

22nd March 2020

FR. NORBERT WRITES:

These are strange and challenging times as we now enter the unknown as Church. Our usual ways of gathering and worshipping are no longer available to us. We have to find new and fresh approaches. What is very clear is that **public Mass is no longer permitted**. Fr. Tony and I will do so 'privately' but every day you will be so very much in our thoughts and prayers - **our hearts will be one!** Today the Church cries out 'Laetare! Rejoice!' because we are half-way through Lent. It seems as though it is going to be an extremely long period of agony! In the midst of our uncertainty, fear and confusion, take a moment to think about the blessings you have received from God and are still enjoying; say 'Thank you'. Place in God's hands your questions, your worries, your anger and be open to his word. Lift up to God prayers for the sick and troubled, the medical staff and support services, those working for a vaccine. Let each of us pray that we will see Christ the Light of the World in the midst of so much darkness, that we will feel the warmth of his love, that we will be carried through this critical period in history and our own personal lives.

The Cardinal has asked that **churches remain open for personal prayer** and so Fr. Tony and I have adopted the approach of our churches being open for one hour at the times when Mass would have been celebrated Monday to Friday. So:

MONDAY	Our Lady's	9.30 - 10.30am
TUESDAY	St. Bonaventure's	9.30 - 10.30am
	Our Lady's	7.00 - 8.00pm
WEDNESDAY	Holy Family	9.30 - 10.30am
THURSDAY	Holy Family	9.30 - 10.30am
FRIDAY	St. Bonaventure's	9.30 - 10.30am
	Our Lady's	7.00 - 8.00pm

The church doors will be left wide open for the hour and toilet facilities **will not** be available. We will review how this works after one week.

We remind those who are self-isolating as well as those with symptoms of ill-health should stay at home.

LIVE-STREAMING OF MASS

We are hoping to live-stream Sunday Mass at 10am using the newly created YouTube channel (hold down control key and click on the link below):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMRar5c56VdIMK7v7aQLaRg/>

This should be set up on Saturday 21st March...so fingers crossed the technology will work on Sunday.

Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony will find other ways of reaching out to you, so do look at the website.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony will celebrate the weekday Mass Intentions as far as is possible. On Sundays the Mass will be celebrated for the 'People of our Parishes'. Any intentions we cannot celebrate will be carried over. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY If you are looking for a way to engage your children in the Gospel from home, join CAFOD for a virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10am GMT this Sunday. Register to take part

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5095942131288155403>

BISHOPS CONFERENCE WEBSITE cbcw.org.uk has copies of the Cardinal's Pastoral Letter for Sunday 22nd March and a selection of prayers and reflections for this time. Please do have a look.

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Funeral Services will only be conducted at the graveside or at crematorium until further notice.

There cannot be large gatherings of people.

Toby Murphy RIP

Patrick Webb RIP

Renate Kempe RIP

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, FIRST COMMUNIONS, WEDDINGS are now on hold until the situation changes.

CONNECTING WITH THE VULNERABLE AND NEEDY In our parish communities, as elsewhere, there may be people who are feeling isolated and would like a chat, or who need assistance getting their shopping and prescriptions. We would like to support these people as best we can. Please get in touch with Fr Tony if you – or someone you know – needs any support at this time, and we will try to put you in contact with someone who can assist you. Likewise, if you are able to offer support to someone who is vulnerable, please also contact Fr Tony. He can be reached on 01707 327434, or at tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk. *By giving us your contact details you are agreeing that the parishes can use them for the support of vulnerable people during the coronavirus outbreak.*

MOTHERING SUNDAY We wish all mothers and honorary mums every blessing today on their special day. The origin of this day in our country goes back many centuries: people visited their ‘mother’ church and shared in worship with their families, so especially with their mothers and honoured Our Lady. Today we cannot physically be in the church but our whole being is lifted up in gratitude to God for the gift of Our Lady and our mums who have nurtured us in so many ways.



LENTEN LUNCHESES will not take place on Saturdays.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE The annual Mass at Westminster Cathedral has been cancelled.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY has been cancelled.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass on Fridays at St. Albans has stopped for now.

ASSISI It is unlikely that the pilgrimage in May will take place.

OBERAMMERGAU The Passion Play will not take place until 2022.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

*Why not take out your Bible and reflect on these passages?
Or do a Google search!*

Saturday 21st March

Hosea 5:15 - 6:6 'he will raise us and we shall live in his presence.'
Luke 18:9-14 The parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee

Sunday 22nd March

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a David is anointed by Samuel
Ephesians 5:8-14 'Wake up from your sleep...Christ will shine on you.'
John 9:1-41 The man who was born blind receives sight from Jesus and says 'Lord, I believe' and worships him.

Monday 23rd March

Isaiah 65:17-21 The Lord says 'Now I create new heavens and a new earth'
John 4:43-54 At Jesus' word the court official's son - at the point of death - lives.

Tuesday 24th March

Ezekiel 47:1-9,12 The water from the Temple threshold brings life.
John 5:1-3, 5-16 Jesus asks the sick man: 'Do you want to be well again?'

Wednesday 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10 The Virgin will give birth to a son - Emmanuel
Hebrews 10:4-10 'God, here I am! I am coming to do your will.'
Luke 1:26-38 Mary said 'Let what you have said be done to me.'

Thursday 26th March

Exodus 32:7-14 Moses pleads for the people.
John 5:31-47 Jesus said to them 'I know you too well!'

Friday 27th March

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 'They do not know the hidden things of God.'
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 Jesus said 'I know him (the Father) because I have come from him..'