

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 Easter 19th April 2020

Sunday 19th - this is the Eighth Day! It is as if we were celebrating Easter Sunday for the eighth time! Have you managed each day to keep alive the Spirit of Easter Sunday with festive food, celebratory drink, prayer and opportunities to encounter the Risen Christ? I've tried my best! In the Gospel readings each day, the Church has put us in touch with a Resurrection Appearance to various individuals as well as to groups of peoples. Their lives are changed! The whole Season of Easter is an outpouring of love and grace from God as the beauty and wonder of the Resurrection are made known to humanity so beloved of God and revealing our nobility and worth in the eyes of God our Father. What he has done for his Son, he truly promises us. The ways in which he would not allow suffering, rejection and death to do away with his Son, so he opens up for us in a fresh perspective to life and our ultimate destiny.

Today's passage from St. John takes us to a room with closed doors. That makes me think of lockdown! So many who have not been able to leave their premises and are totally dependent on others to bring them shopping and provide them with their necessities. The disciples are afraid. How many of us fear the hidden coronavirus and are so aware of its consequences. There are those in our community who have lost loved ones or who have got desperately ill. The Risen Lord comes and transforms fear into joy, wishing us peace. Jesus breathes upon them and sends them out. I'm sure we get anxious if someone breathes upon us at this time! We can't wait to get out freely to enjoy ourselves! Thomas doubts and wants to feel the marks of Jesus' passion and death. Are you full of questions? Are you asking 'Where is God?' Are you longing to hold someone's hand, to embrace another with love, not to be wary of the hidden virus? There are no easy answers except to acknowledge with St. Thomas that Jesus is Lord and God, the One who really and truly understands and is with us in our passion, with those in death and definitely offering the life of Resurrection. These weeks have been so challenging and demanding. We are no way near 'normal'. Take time this week to reflect on any blessings you can with confidence say you have received from God. Perhaps even write them down. They are treasures to be prized. There are countless members of society who do not know the Risen Lord explicitly and yet they have put us in touch with him. We must never forget them! Let us journey together through another week and yearn with all our hearts to come to that time of healing and peace when all improves. Let us pray for this. Please pray for Fr. Tony and me. We remember you daily in our prayers. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:

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

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/>

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.

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.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Jimmy Byrne RIP, Daniel Cronin RIP, Franco Tiramani RIP Anniversary, Patrick McCarthy RIP Anniversary, Nellie Brophy RIP, Jimmy Byrne RIP, Michael English RIP, Pat Vilette RIP, Margaret Morrin RIP, Redmond family, Hayden family and McCory family intentions.

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Funeral Services will only be conducted at the graveside or at crematorium until further notice with only immediate family attending.

Phyllis Connolly RIP

Ray Wilkinson RIP

Piotr Bujnarowski RIP

Fr. John Helm RIP *former Assistant Priest at Our Lady's*

Molly Jones RIP

Anne Inge RIP

Fr. John Seabrook RIP *former Parish Priest of Holy Family*

Lisa Class RIP *Pam Class's daughter*

Ilde Castagnini *mother of Paola from Focolare*

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

CONNECTING WITH THE VULNERABLE AND NEEDY Many thanks to all those parishioners who have volunteered to help the vulnerable and isolated during these difficult times. We now have a team of people who are happy to do shopping, collect prescriptions, chat on the phone, walk the dog etc. If you need any such help, please do contact Fr Tony, and he will put you in contact with someone who can assist you. Fr Tony 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.*

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Unfortunately with our churches now closed, we cannot collect items each week. 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.

SPECIAL MASSES will be livestreamed from Cathedrals in this country every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock for the intentions of frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. The first, this Thursday, will be from Westminster Cathedral. (There are no links at present, but do a search on Thursday and you will find it.)

RETREAT Monsignor John Armitage is going to conduct an on-line eight-day retreat from Walsingham Shrine starting on Sunday 19th April after Night Prayer at 8pm until the following Sunday (26th). There will be talks each day at 10.30am and 4pm, Mass daily at 12 noon, Morning and Evening Prayer at 8.30am and 5pm and the Divine Mercy and Rosary at 3pm. What an opportunity! Everyone welcome to follow the retreat.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 19TH APRIL

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

Saturday 18th April

Acts 4:13-21 Peter and John say ‘We cannot stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard!’

Mark 16:9-15 The Risen Lord tells them ‘Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.’

Sunday 19th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42-47 The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

1 Peter 1:3-9 You did not see Jesus Christ, yet you love him...you are already filled with a joy so glorious.

John 20:19-31 On the eighth day, doubting Thomas becomes the great believer saying ‘My Lord and My God!’

Monday 20th April

Acts 4:23-31 As they prayed the house where they were assembled rocked; they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

John 3:1-8 Nicodemus meets Jesus at night.

Tuesday 21st April St. Anselm (1033-1109) *Archbishop of Canterbury*

Acts 4:32-37 The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul.

John 3:7-15 The Son of Man must be lifted up...so that everyone who believes may have eternal life

Wednesday 22nd April

Acts 5:17-26 The Angel releases the apostles from jail and they stand in the Temple telling the people about the new Life.

John 3:16-21 God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

Thursday 23rd April ST. GEORGE (died 303)

Apocalypse 12:10-11 The martyrs have triumphed by the blood of the Lamb

John 15:18-21 A servant is no greater than his master.

Friday 24th April St. Erconwald (died 693) and St. Mellitus (died 624) *Bishops of London*

Acts 5:34-42 The preaching of the apostles in the Temple and in private homes

John 6:1-5 The Feeding of the Five Thousand