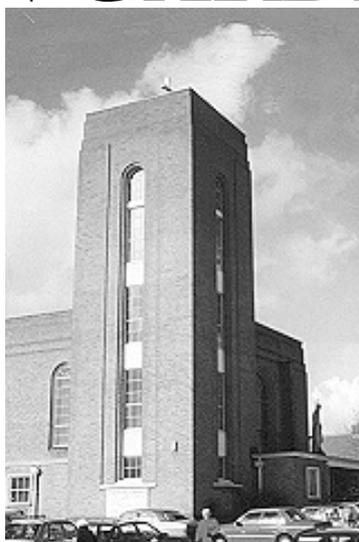


WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fifth Sunday of Easter 10th May 2020

The first half of today's Gospel passage from Chapter 14 of St. John is often chosen at Funerals. Jesus asks his disciples to put their trust in him. He presents a picture of heaven as a house with many rooms prepared by him. In response to Thomas's question, Jesus states that he is '...the way, the truth and the life.'

There are those of you have lost loved ones in recent weeks or are aware of someone who is bereaved. Funerals are so different in the present crisis: families limited to small numbers who have to make their own way to the place of committal. There are no limousines or receptions afterwards. There is not always much time available. And yet words from Jesus, as in this Gospel passage, still have the power to evoke a feeling of hope, of faith and of heaven. He understands death and bereavement; he walked that same *way* himself. He trusted in his Father and never stopped radiating that *truth* in action in his ministry. He must have himself pictured the eternal abode of heaven as he breathed his last and yearned for the fulfilment of his own promise of new *life*. You are not alone! He is so close to you!

Mention of house and rooms made me think of lockdown! Perhaps the vision of heaven being in a room for eternity might not appeal to you in current circumstances! Does it make you think of yourself being isolated from loved ones at this time? Or do you call to mind those dear to you whom you cannot visit? Lockdown has led many to do spring cleaning ! When I go for my afternoon walk, lots of homes have items ready to be given away free: books, toys, sometimes furniture. Is the Lord asking you to continue the spiritual spring cleaning undertaken in Lent?! Maybe the thought of being confined to a room makes you dream of going out and being set free! When Jesus speaks of preparing a home for us, this comes about through his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

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His Act makes a difference for us. Our openness to what he offers us creates so many possibilities: we encounter our God through him - seeing and hearing and feeling the Divine Presence. This new, eternal life will be one of freedom in the love of God.

Today's passage concludes with the Lord saying '...whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do...he will perform even greater works...' That is amazing! To reveal Jesus to others is a 'work'. To carry the Cross willingly with Christ is to be his follower. To acknowledge that here on earth we can have a taste of heaven in spite of all the darkness and pain - this is a sign of faith in the Lord.

Fr. Tony and I continue to pray for you and ask God to be with you this coming week. Stay well and keep safe. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:

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

Our channel has an easier name/link (the one above is still valid but more complicated!

[youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

FACEBOOK PAGE

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

We have a Facebook page for our three parishes. Please search for 'Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches' to find us. There are Gospel reflections, the latest news, live rosaries and so on. Do 'like' this page so that any updates appear in your own news feed, and share it with your friends too!

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy Team at Our Lady's is trialling a session on Zoom for children this Sunday after the streamed Mass goes out. There will be a song with actions, Gospel reading and an activity. For more information, please contact Sarah (david.cafferty@ntlworld.com) or Eddy (eddyga@hotmail.com). Whichever parish you attend, why not give it a go?

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. On Sundays the Mass is offered for the 'People of our Parishes'. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let Fr. Norbert know. Donations for the Masses can be made at a later stage.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Frederick Ewonwu RIP 10th Anniv, Margaret Morrin RIP, Jimmy Byrne RIP, Eileen Percival RIP, Molly Jones RIP, Colm Joyce RIP, Seamus Campbell RIP and Jerry Kelly RIP

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.

Stan Kolodziejczk Stanley RIP

Jerry Kelly RIP

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, FIRST COMMUNIONS, WEDDINGS

are now on hold until the situation changes.

Please keep in your prayers adults and children who were due to be baptised at Easter as well as the babies whose Baptisms have been postponed. This week our young people were going to be confirmed and in the coming weeks children were going to make their First Holy Communion in our three churches. There are couples whose Weddings have had to be rescheduled for later in the year or next year. May God watch over them all and their loved ones.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Some parishioners contribute regularly through standing orders; for this we are grateful. A number of parishioners have asked about their planned giving envelopes and weekly collection contributions. We have set up for each of our parishes Virgin Money Giving pages which allow you to make a donation which can also be GiftAided. This can also be done on your mobile phone. The links are on the parish website. We wish to thank those of you who will be able to offer support in this way. We are also acutely aware of the financial hardship which the present circumstances of pandemic have created for so many and respect totally the fact that some of you are now unable to make contributions. God bless you all.

HELP DURING TIME OF CORONAVIRUS We now have a team of people who are happy to do shopping, collect prescriptions, chat on the phone, 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.

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. This week from Newcastle Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Robert Byrne.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 10TH MAY

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

Saturday 9th May

Acts 13:44-52 'I have made you a light for the nations'

John 14:7-14 Jesus said: 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father.'

Sunday 10th May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7 The word of God continues to spread

1 Peter 2:4-9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God.

John 14:1-12 Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life

Monday 11th May

Acts 14:5-18 Paul heals a crippled man

John 14:21-26 The Father and Jesus Christ will make their home in the person who loves God

Tuesday 12th May

Acts 14:19-28 Paul and Barnabas give an account of what God had done through them

John 14:27-31 Jesus says: 'Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you..'

Wednesday 13th May Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 15:1-6 Paul and Barnabas go up to Jerusalem

John 15:1-8 Jesus says: 'I am the true vine.'

Thursday 14th May ST. MATTHIAS *Apostle*

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 The choice of Matthias to take the place of Judas

John 15:9-17 Jesus says: 'You did not choose me: no, I chose you.'

Friday 15th May

Acts 15:22-31 The community are delighted by the encouragement given to them.

John 15:12-17 'Love one another as I have loved you.'