

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*

Sixth Sunday of Easter 17th May 2020

The Easter Season is racing by! In two Sundays' time we will arrive at Pentecost and conclude our celebration of the Paschal Mystery. This Thursday we have the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord when we mark Christ's return to the Father in glory and get ready for the bestowing of the Holy Spirit. In each of our Scripture readings today we hear about the 'Spirit'. What do you think of when you see or hear that term 'Holy Spirit'? A dove, a breath, a raging wind, a flame, a furnace, drops of rain, a torrential downpour, a deep well, a devastating flood...? The list is endless!

In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles, we are told that the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands. This makes me think of Confirmation which seals and completes what was initiated at Baptism. I reflect on Holy Orders, each of which involves the prayer of the Church and the laying on of hands by the bishop on the candidate. In the Sacrament of the Sick, the laying on of hands is essential as the priest asks the Lord to fill the seriously ill person with the healing, comfort grace of the Holy Spirit.

St. Peter's First Letter tells us 'in the body he (Christ) was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.' In the earlier Sundays of Eastertide, the Church gave us Resurrection appearances of Jesus. The One who really died and was buried, burst into life and this came about through the Holy Spirit. It definitely was not 'resuscitation' - there was a transformation and yet continuity, an amazing newness of life and yet a conviction that this was the same Jesus his friends had known. The Spirit has incredible strength and yet there is gentleness beyond measure. Just call to mind loved ones who have died...try to picture them sharing in this bodily resurrection of Jesus and blossoming anew with the risen life of Christ. That is our hope. This is the call from God through his Son Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit!

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in St. John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the Advocate which the Father will give, the Spirit of truth. Jesus states clearly that 'you know him because he is with you, he is in you.' These words are first uttered to the disciples at the Last Supper; now they are intimated to us. Ponder what the Lord is saying: this Spirit is *with* us and is *in* us. When have you known his presence guiding you? When have you felt him deep within? There is still more 'Spirit' to be conferred as the Father's gift! The Holy Spirit keeps coming!

We are now at such a crucial point in the unfolding of the pandemic and lockdown. Truly God's Spirit is needed for guidance, discernment, ingenuity, inspiration, imagination, courage, hope and serenity. Let us pray hard for God's Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth and to touch us individually, to strengthen the relationship we have with God and with each other.

Fr. Tony and I continue to pray for you. Please remember us too. God bless you.

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 will have 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?

ASCENSION OF THE LORD This Thursday (21st) is the Ascension, the 40th day since our celebration of Easter and marks Jesus' return in glory to be at the Father's side. There will be Mass streamed from the Chapel at Our Lady's at 9.30am on our YouTube channel.

NOVENA OF PRAYER In the final part of the Easter Season (Ascension to Pentecost) as we look forward to the bestowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (31st May), the Church invites us to pray for the Holy Spirit to come and bestow gifts in abundance. Why not pray each day this traditional prayer?

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the gift of that same Spirit,
we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Reflect on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord.

Consider the twelve fruits of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

Which do you especially need at this time? Ask, open yourself up and receive this grace from God.

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 Alicja Zamoscinska RIP, Monique Krupa RIP, John Almeyda RIP, Intentions of Alda Mendes, Judy Pink and Joseph Pais, Emily O'Byrne RIP, George Charlabous RIP, Jimmy Byrne RIP, Dylan Kelly RIP, Jimmy Byrne RIP, Kathleen Cordon's intention 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.

Jerry Kelly RIP

John Almeyda RIP

As well as praying for the repose of the souls of all who have died, let us remember the many bereaved families at this sad time of pandemic.

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, the young people who were meant to be confirmed and the children who would have made 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 Shrewsbury Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Mark Davies.

CATENIANS Martin Moore has been installed as President of our local Mid-Herts Catenian Circle. Congratulations! He takes over from John Blackburn whose term of office has been completed.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 17TH MAY

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

Saturday 16th May

Acts 16:1-10 Paul's vision of a Macedonian appealing: 'Come... and help us.'

John 15:18-21 Jesus speaks of the consequences of responding to his call.

Sunday 17th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 The ministry of Philip, Peter and John: Baptism, the laying on of hands, the bestowing of the Holy Spirit

1 Peter 3:15-18 In the Spirit, Jesus was raised to life.

John 14:15-21 Jesus will ask the Father to give another Advocate, the Spirit of truth

Monday 18th May

Acts 16:11-15 The Lord opens the heart of Lydia to accept what Paul was saying

John 15:2 - 16:4a Jesus said: 'The Spirit of truth... will be my witness...you too will be my witnesses...'

Tuesday 19th May

Acts 16:22-34 Paul and Silas are asked: 'What must we do to be saved?'

John 16:5-11 Jesus said: 'If I go, I will send the Advocate to you...'

Wednesday 20th May

Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1 Paul before the Council of the Areopagus

John 16:12-15 Jesus said: 'The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth...he will glorify me...'

Thursday 21st May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11 The account of the Ascension

Ephesians 1:17-23 Jesus sits at the Father's right hand; he is the ruler of everything and head of the Church

Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus says: Go, make disciples of all the nations...I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.'

Friday 22nd May

Acts 18:9-18 The Lord speaks to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid to speak out...I am with you.'

John 16:20-23 Jesus said: 'Your sorrow will turn to joy.'