

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*

All Saints 1st November 2020

A new month begins and there is so much happening at home and abroad! Sadly church-goers were slaughtered in Nice in such a tragic way. As in the past, it is crucial to be vigilant and to be aware of one another's safety. This week the Presidential Election in the USA reaches its climax. The result - when it comes - will affect so much of what happens politically, economically and environmentally for decades to come. Let us pray for God's guidance and fruits of peace and justice.

In our own land we are seeing the coronavirus cases escalate with many, many people affected and emergency frontline workers being called upon again to minister in a variety of ways to the sick. It is possible that a total lockdown or severe local measures might be implemented. All I can say to you is to take good care of yourselves and your loved ones. Be as careful as you can and be prepared for a next stage. This pandemic is certainly challenging everything we do, how we carry out our daily lives and calling on us to be so patient. As Church we can only follow guidelines and ensure people gathering are protected; our normal ways of worshipping and living out faith are certainly on the line. What about Christmas? There's no immediate answer to that from a Church point of view. We will have to wait and see; preparations can't yet be made in any form. Who would have thought we'd be in this position?

Today we honour All Saints! They are our hope and encouragement. They are men, women and children of every race, language and way of life who have faced trauma, persecution and difficulties - AND have made it! Their example and resilience, their faith and love are our inspiration. From their place in heaven, they pray for us as they worship God in one harmonious song of praise. Who are you thinking of today? Do you have a favourite saint, a patron? Are you remembering people close to you who

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you are convinced lived for God and are now in his presence? Are you picturing ‘living’ saints, those here on earth, on whom you try to model your life? The Communion of Saints is a deep bond between heaven and earth, linking time and space. We are also called into prayer for the dead whom with faith and confidence, trusting in God’s mercy, we commend to God. On All Souls Day, our focus will be on the departed and the power of our intercession for them.

Our Scriptures today present us with the image of heaven from the Apocalypse; the scene of the Sermon on the Mount has people, with Jesus here on earth, hearing about blessings and happiness; the Epistle of St. John reminds us of God’s love which takes us from the present moment into the future and eternity. Hold onto these pictures and feel what they promise. Admit to the Lord what you find hard at this time and ask the Saints to carry you forward towards the glory which awaits us through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Tony and I continue to pray for you. Keep us in mind at this time too! God bless you. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY The Sunday obligation has been dispensed so you are free to attend Mass on any day. There is space too on weekdays for people to come more than once. Mass will continue to be streamed on a Sunday at 10am Please note that at present we cannot use the heating in our churches during Mass because they have strong blowers and would transmit any airborne virus. We apologise for this. Best to wrap up well as it has got colder.

Saturday

10am Mass at Holy Family
6pm Mass at Our Lady’s

Sunday

10am Mass at Our Lady’s
6pm Mass at Holy Family

Monday 2nd November only

9.30am Mass at Holy Family
12 noon Mass at St. Bonaventure’s *must be booked in advance*
7pm Mass at Our Lady’s

Tuesday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Thursday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Friday

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

As you arrive there are stewards outside to make sure people respect distancing and to take contact details (name and phone number which will be held securely for 21 days). For those who have downloaded the Government Covid-19 App, please use the QR Code which has been created (one for each church). Stewards sanitise hands on entry. Face masks are mandatory. More stewards lead you to places. People must sit in their 'bubbles', that is as couples, families or households. We have single chairs for individuals. We ask that you only sit or stand in your place and do not use the kneeler. Once the church has reached its capacity, we are not be allowed to admit any more. Parents are asked to keep a watchful eye on their children at all times. Remember toilets are not available. There are no Mass-books or printed newsletters. You do not have to 'book' to come, but please arrive EARLY!

The structure of the Mass has been simplified so that people are not in an enclosed place for longer than 30 minutes: no singing or music, no 2nd Reading or Bidding Prayers, no Gloria or Creed, no collection, Offertory procession or Sign of Peace, no Communion from the Chalice, no altar servers, no lighting of votive candles. At the time of Holy Communion, the priest says to the whole congregation 'The Body of Christ' to which you all respond 'Amen'. Only the priest receives at that point. After the Blessing and Dismissal, stewards guide people from their benches to the front of the sanctuary, keeping distance at all times. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion may only receive in the hand with no words uttered by priest or communicant and then you leave the church - in Holy Family by the doors either side of the sanctuary, and in Our Lady's by the side door on the left and by the 'Holy Door' at the back on the right. Even those not receiving Holy Communion must follow this flow. As you exit the church, the stewards sanitise your hands.

We have been reminded by our Bishops that people should not gather outside church in a social way before or after Mass as this may be a source of further contagion. We ask you to respect the stewards who are your fellow parishioners and are doing their best to facilitate the whole process.

Only the priest prepares the vessels for Mass and the ciboria (with hosts) have their lids on until Holy Communion is distributed at the end.

After each Mass the stewards sanitise everything which has had human contact and prepare the church for the next Mass. Any property left behind has to be disposed of. We have purchased masks, plastic aprons and gloves for stewards/cleaners as well as sufficient sanitising and cleaning materials.

Some of you may not feel ready to return because of health issues or because you care for someone who is vulnerable. Others might still be afraid and this is totally understandable.

If you think you have the virus, please do NOT come and put others at risk. COVID 19 symptoms: a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who have helped as stewards and spent time cleaning the churches after Mass. Some have now returned to work. If any others are available on a weekday or at the weekend, please let Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert know. Thank you.

CONFESSION On the days when public Mass is celebrated, Fr. Tony and Fr. Norbert will NOT be able to hear Confessions before or after Mass. However, ring Fr. Tony on 01707 327434 or Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234 if you would like to make an appointment for Confession. The Sacrament will be outside the church building with priest and penitent standing; every attempt will be made to keep distance and reduce the risk of infection either way, while respecting the confidentiality of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The church will NOT be open for prayer after.

NEW HALL The ‘practical completion’ of our joint Parish Hall has happened! There has been a favourable response to the suggestion to call the building ‘The Trinity Hall’. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let Fr. Norbert know soon. Let us hope we will be able to make use of it soon!

MISSIO RED BOXES At present it is not possible for your Red Box to be collected or taken to church as normal. The suggestion is to count your money and :

1. Send a cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

2. Give on-line to missio.org.uk/redbox

3. Give via text. Text **REDBOX 5** (to donate £5) or **REDBOX 10** (to donate £10) to **70085**

4. By phone on **020 7821 9755** (in office hours)

5. Bank transfer Account: **Missio** Sort code: **16-00-16** Account number: **10824230**
Reference: RB + your postcode

This money supports missionaries who share God’s love and the communities they serve.

FR. TONY ON THE RUN? On 27th November, Fr Tony is going to run a 'Virtual Runner' half-marathon (<https://www.virtualrunneruk.com/>) at Panshanger Park, to raise funds for the Welwyn Garden City Society of St Vincent de Paul. As you know, the SVP does wonderful work supporting elderly and vulnerable members of our community, and any sponsorship money raised will help them in particular during this year's challenging Christmas season. If you would like to support Fr Tony and the SVP, please go to this JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tony-thomas-876>

SVP REQUEST FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS The SVP is trying to source furniture/household items for a lady setting up home, having moved out of the YMCA. She needs the following items: fridge, freezer, cooker, washing machine, tumble dryer, bedside drawers, TV, TV stand. If you are able to donate any items, or can suggest where they could be obtained, please contact Fr Tony (01707 327434). Any help would be greatly appreciated.

SVP REQUEST FOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES A single mother needs clothes for a 3 - 4 year old boy and for an 8 - 9 year old girl. Please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456 if you can help.

SVP The Welwyn Garden City St Vincent St Paul Society does wonderful work in our local community, supporting people in any kind of need. They currently assist 70 Friends in a variety of ways. A full summary of the SVP's work can be found in their annual report, which is below.

Normally the SVP hold an annual collection at Mass, but because of COVID the collection will not take place this year. However, the SVP's work continues and requests for their support are still being made in these challenging times. If you would like to make a contribution to support the SVP, in lieu of their annual collection, please send a cheque payable to 'St Bonaventure's SVP' to Fr Tony at Holy Family Church (194 Knightsfield, AL8 7RQ). Many thanks.

Annual Report - 2019-2020 **St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Welwyn Garden City**

Our Vision, which is inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is for individuals and families who are in any form of need to have hope and a sense of dignity, worth, well being and peace of mind.

Our Purpose in WGC is to support those in need in our parish through person-to-person contact. We are divided into two main groups, namely: Full Members and Auxiliary Members and we refer to those we visit as Friends.

- Full Members try to visit at least one Friend a week and to attend the fortnightly meeting held in the parish hall of St Bonaventure's Church; at these meetings we

discuss how best to use our efforts and financial resources to help our Friends in the most effective and cost efficient way.

- Auxiliary Members provide valuable support with our social activities, with fund-raising, with providing transport and with church collections on our behalf. Our Conference currently has seven Full Members and 10 Auxiliary Members. We were delighted to welcome Fr Tony Thomas as our Spiritual Director this year. In WGC Members visit Friends either in their own homes, in hospital, in care homes or in a hospice; they accompany Friends to health appointments, take Holy Communion, help with shopping and generally assist in a practical way. This year we were able to offer assistance in the way of furniture, clothes, electrical appliances, food and food vouchers, money, fuel grants, transport and toys.

However, kindly remember that Members do not assume the role of Professional Carers nor of Medical Professionals, and should not be regarded as such. During the 12 months ending March 2020, Members made a total of 684 visits keeping in touch with approximately 70 Friends.

Apart from personal contact with Friends, our Conference is involved in various annual activities, some of which this year included: refreshments following the Mass for the Anointing of the Sick on 6th April 2019, contributing financially in sending young people to St. John Bosco Summer Camp in August 2019, supporting an SVP conference in India and distributing Christmas hampers. The SVP is a voluntary organisation and as such our income is generated from Members' contributions, donations from the public and one annual parish collection. This income is used to help SVP Friends and families in need.

Should you require any information or more details on the work we do or, indeed, would like to join our Conference, please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. We thank you and ask for God's blessing for your kind generosity in supporting our work. APRIL 2020

CALENDARS Luke Kelly will be making calendars again this year using new photos from the three churches in the parish, with all profits donated to CAFOD. These will be available to order both online and via paper order forms. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

CAN YOU HELP A car is needed for a Syrian refugee family living in Letchworth. Also, an Asylum Seeker, a young Eritrean woman, who is living in a hostel in Borehamwood needs some warm clothing. Size 10 or 12. Contact John or Pamela email: johnfogarty676@gmail.com.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS Barbara Moore, who has been Safeguarding Representative at Our Lady's for many years, has stepped down from this role. We are so grateful to her for all the service she has given. Mary Stephenson has kindly agreed to take on this role and, in agreement with the Diocesan Safeguarding Office, it has been decided that our three reps should work as a team across the Welwyn Garden City Parishes. So, the 'line-up' is Ann Chappell, Cathy Staniforth and Mary Stephenson. There is much work involved as we respond to legislation and guidelines.

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/>

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.

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 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: Margaret Killough RIP, Jo Parlow RIP, Piotr and Katarzyna Lacina RIP, Mary Tempany RIP Anniv, Lara Ignatius Birthday Intention, In thanksgiving to St. Jude, Intention of Theresa McCrave's family, Rodney Fernandes RIP.

LATELY DEAD Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jesus Muniz Castelo, *father of Mia Connolly*, who died recently.

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. Next Mass on Sunday 1st November at 4.30pm.

SACRAMENTS

Below is the latest information for our parishes here in Welwyn Garden City based on Government guidelines and those issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. As you realise many things keep changing with very little notice, so please bear with us. *Thank you for your patience!*

In regard to First Holy Communion and First Confession, Confirmation and adults for the Sacraments through the RCIA, we will wait until the New Year to find the best approach and will keep you informed through the newsletter.

BAPTISMS of babies and infants can now be arranged. Please contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert directly to make arrangements. No more than **6** people can be present.

CONFIRMATIONS (from last year's group) will take place at Our Lady's in November at 7pm Mass on Mondays (9th and 16th) and Fridays (13th and 20th).

FIRST COMMUNIONS Congratulations to the children who received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion these past weekends. Our thanks to their catechists and all who helped with the celebrations.

WEDDINGS can take place with no more than **15** people present.

FUNERALS with no more than **30** people present are now permitted in church.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES We are not having a collection at Mass! Coins and notes are a possible source of infection and transmission of the coronavirus and we do not want to put collectors and counters at risk. However, 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 and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL Catholic Mass every Friday at 12 noon in the Nave of the Cathedral.

BLESSING OF GRAVES The Bishops have issued very strict guidelines regarding the Blessing of Graves. It looks as though we will not be able to do this as in the past. Fr. Tony and Fr. Norbert will, however, visit Hatfield Hyde, Hatfield Lawn and Welwyn New Cemeteries during the month of November to bless graves. Unfortunately this will have to be done in a low-key way. *Thank you for your understanding.*

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST Please write down the names of loved ones who have died and give the lists to Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony in sealed envelopes with NO money. ONLY the priest will put these envelopes in the container to avoid possible contamination. The envelopes will be left near the altars in our churches during the month of November. The deceased will be remembered in prayer every day.

ALL SOULS DAY Monday 2nd November. We are going to have Mass in each of our churches that day: 9.30am in Holy Family, 12 noon in St. Bonaventure's and 7pm in Our Lady's. We want to keep the tradition of praying for the dead on this day. Obviously, we will need stewards and cleaners. So please volunteer!

This also an opportunity to try having public Mass in St. Bonaventure's as a one-off on this occasion. For St. Bonaventure's, those planning to come will have to contact Fr. Norbert to 'book' a place. It is a bit like a jigsaw and we will have to see how many we can accommodate according to 'bubbles' while keeping everyone safe and COVID-19 secure. Some of you can easily attend Mass at the other churches, so please open up the possibility to those who have not been able to come thus far. We ask you to arrive 15 minutes before and to be aware that there will have to be a limit on those attending; hence the 'booking' of Mass.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Now that the Secondary School forms have been done, parents who 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.

CAFOD MEMORIAL MASS – online Monday 2nd November, 6 - 7pm

This year's CAFOD Memorial Mass for deceased supporters can be joined online on Monday 2nd November at 6pm. Mass will be celebrated by CAFOD's Chair of Trustees, Bishop John Arnold, with music, readings and prayers from CAFOD staff and supporters from around the world. Register at <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 1ST NOVEMBER

Saturday 31st October

Philippians 1:18-26 'Christ is proclaimed'

Luke 14:1, 7-11 A parable about taking places of honour at a feast

Sunday 1st November ALL SAINTS

Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14 The Saints praising God in heaven

1 John 3:1-3 'Think of the love God has lavished on us...'

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

Monday 2nd November ALL SOULS DAY *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*

Isaiah 25:6-9 God's mountain where tears are wiped away

Romans 5:5-11 'Christ died for us while we were still sinners'

Matthew 11:25-30 'Come to me, all you who labour...and I will give you rest.'

Tuesday 3rd November

Philippians 2:5-11 'You must be the same as Christ Jesus...'

Luke 14:15-24 The parable of the banquet of the Kingdom of God

Wednesday 4th November St. Charles Borromeo (1538 - 1584) *Archbishop of Milan. Played an important role in the Counter-Reformation*

Philippians 2:12-18 'You will shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life.'

Luke 14:25-33 The cost of discipleship

Thursday 5th November

Philippians 3:3-8 'Nothing can outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.'

Luke 15:1-10 Two parables of rejoicing

Friday 6th November

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 'You are my joy and my crown!'

Luke 16:1-8 The parable of the dishonest steward