

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*

Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year 15th November

What a week! The COVID-19 pandemic is getting worse with many positive tests, hospitalisations and deaths. We are still following the American election results and in this country learning about changes of Prime Ministerial advisers. For us as Catholics, there has been the Report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) which was published on Tuesday. Victims and survivors of abuse have suffered hugely; their pain is so acute. Our prayer for them is essential. The Cardinal has said that the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales will reflect on the findings this week and make a deeper and more far-reaching response. Let us pray that at every level our procedures and ensuing action will safeguard children and vulnerable adults ensuring that nothing as tragic as this will ever happen again. In our own way here in our parishes in Welwyn Garden City, we must allow safeguarding to underpin our way of life so that not only do we follow the rules but also create an atmosphere of nurture and care where all feel valued and can develop, grow and play their part in the life of the Church.

Sadly, we cannot run away from the impact and the reality of what has taken place. The implications and ramifications can take us away from the authentic joy we have of being followers of Jesus Christ. We have been entrusted with the gift of faith. This is a TREASURE! God has given us so much - the *knowledge* of who he is *and* the *experience* of his presence in Jesus Christ his Son. In today's Gospel parable from St. Matthew, it is the disciples who are challenged with the story of huge sums of money being entrusted to servants, *each according to his ability*. The reaction of two is immediately to work with what is received and let it bear much fruit; the Master commends them for their fidelity. The third servant is afraid, buries the money and eventually hands it back to the Master.

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The Master's disappointment and anger are directed at this servant whose fear and inactivity render him helpless. Jesus Christ gave his all for US, bringing us the possibility of salvation with the happiness and joy of heaven. How can we allow our lives as disciples of the Lord blossom and bear fruit? How could we offer someone else the self-same invitation and give them a glimpse of eternity? We do make mistakes and perfection has not yet come. Admitting mistakes, expressing contrition for them and learning from them - this is paramount as we build up God's Kingdom here on earth.

Please stay well. Follow the guidelines. Look forward to the end of lockdown and the emergence of something new in society and in the Church. Fr. Tony and I are praying for you. We need your prayers too.

May God bless you and your loved ones. With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

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/>

There will be a 'Facebook' Mass on **Wednesdays at 9.30am**

Also, 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: Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP, War Dead, Malcolm Creaton RIP, Helen Hall's Intention (80th birthday!), Holy Souls, Bridget O'Neill's Intention, Marie Frewen's Intention, Martin and Arthur Myland RIP, Eileen Coyle RIP, Raymond Walsh RIP, Henry and Lilie Mealyer RIP. Patrick McEvoy RIP, Doreen Gibbs RIP, Kay and Andrew Cunningham RIP

LATELY DEAD Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Connolly, Augustus Joachim, Raymond Walsh RIP and Albert Matthews who died recently.

SACRAMENTS

With the new lockdown, most Sacraments cannot be celebrated. Only Funerals are permitted with 30 people present. Sadly, this means that Confirmations and Baptisms already scheduled will have to be postponed. Given that lockdown might continue further, it is better to wait before setting new dates. *Preparation for Sacraments in 2021 will be published in the New Year. Don't worry. You and/or your children will not miss out!*

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES 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.

METANOIA How and why did Jesus pray? On Thursday we had the fifth session of our online course about conversion to Jesus, called "Metanoia". Here's a summary of this week's teaching, followed by a short spiritual reflection.

Summary: Throughout the Scriptures, Jesus takes time to pray. Jesus prayed before he healed, after he healed, before he spoke, after he spoke, before he ate, and before he suffered. Jesus sought intimacy with his Father, an intimacy that is achieved in prayer. If this intimacy was necessary for Jesus, how much more necessary is it for every person. It is necessary to imitate Jesus and to cultivate a relationship with God through prayer. Prayer brings clarity of mind, peace and release. Prayer is strengthening. Prayer is important to the Christian life because Jesus prayed and because he taught his followers to pray.

Reflection: Come, Holy Spirit. Take a moment to sit in silence before God the Father. Know that he is looking upon you with love. Reflect on that knowledge that the Father is present to you and is looking on you with love for as long as you want. Imagine the Father repeating the words he spoke of Jesus to you: "You are my beloved son/daughter; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)

BLESSING OF GRAVES Fr. Norbert writes: Aware that the lockdown was going to start on Thursday 5th, I visited Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Welwyn New Cemetery and Hatfield Hyde Cemetery on Wednesday 4th. The sun was shining and each place was more or less deserted. I walked down every path, praying the Rosary and, on your behalf, prayed for those buried in these cemeteries. I have a pretty good idea of where people lie and so thought of you, their loved ones. I sang a hymn and below are the words of a prayer I found. Even though we haven't been able to gather as in the past, know that you and your loved ones who have died have not been forgotten. May God grant them eternal rest and give you comfort and strength.

*God of Abraham and God of Moses, Lord of the living,
who visited Jesus within his own grave and filled him with the fullness of eternal life,
hear our prayers as we come to this holy place of burial.
With reverence, we visit here where the sacred bodies of our loved ones have been placed
in the womb of the earth to await the final day of glory.
Lord, we have come on this pilgrimage of prayer to keep the flame of love alive in our
hearts.
As we bless these graves with our prayers, we give thanks that the names of these loved
ones buried here have been written for all ages in the palm of your hand.
May the breath of Creation that surrounds these holy graves - the trees, the grass, the
birds, the wind, and the sun - join us today in prayer.
May this pilgrimage remind us of what our faith teaches us - that after we die, we are
transformed into new life through Christ.
Holy are these resting places. Holy is the earth that has held in gentle embrace the
bodies of all who are buried in this cemetery.
Lord, with reverence we leave our prayers and love at these graves, and we remember
in faith the reality of that first Easter morning, trusting that all the dead will rise in the
splendour of your glory.
Until that day, eternal rest be to those whose graves we visit today and to all the holy
dead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

REMEMBRANCE DAY There were not the usual Remembrance Sunday Services in Howardsgate or at Hatfield Hyde. You can watch the Welwyn Hatfield Council pre-recorded Service by logging into WHBC: website and Facebook: @welwynhatfield

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.

MARY O'NEILL RIP Mary would have been 100 years old this weekend (on 14th). She was very much involved in CAFOD and the life of Holy Family Church. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family.

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.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS Parents who will 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.

LEARNING FROM THE PANDEMIC Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum on Saturday 5th December 11am – 1.30pm. Zoom online event for the whole Diocese of Westminster. A time of reflection on the experience of the pandemic so far and conversation about the journey that now lies ahead. Speakers helping to facilitate the Forum include Anna Gavurin (Caritas Food Collective), Fr Richard Nesbitt (Parish Priest, White City) and Dr Pat Jones (Theologian). Chair: Fr Dominic Robinson SJ (Chair of Westminster Justice & Peace). Hosted by Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Bishop Paul McAleenan. Co-sponsored by Caritas Westminster & Westminster Justice & Peace. Please register in advance to receive the Zoom link. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127452079601>

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>

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The annual collection would have taken place last weekend. If you are in a position to offer support, you can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations Thank you

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 you can read in last week's newsletter.

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.

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.

INTERACTIVE INTERFAITH The Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group writes: We will be hearing from members of different interfaith groups to hear about their successes and challenges. Speakers to include: Yogesh Joshi from Watford, Chris Kell from North Herts, Anuradha Sharma from Stevenage on Wednesday 18th November 8 – 9 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91733971922?pwd=MEZXdTlKa1hNQWhuS0dMZDdhTytLUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 3397 1922 Passcode: 994666

Welwyn Hatfield InterFaith www.whifgroup.co.uk

THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL are seeking to appoint a new Foundation Governor. An opportunity for you to support our Catholic primary school has arisen. Governors have oversight of the curriculum and the appointment of staff and are accountable for the performance of the school. They have a strategic role to play as well as acting as a critical friend to the Head teacher. More information about the role is available on <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2.-being-a-foundation-governor-booklet.pdf>

CALENDARS Luke will be selling Calendars again this year using photos from within the three churches. All profits going to CAFOD. Due to lockdown they will be sold online from his website

www.lukesphotography.co.uk/shop [1] and will be delivered to your home.

Please call 07710 097122 if you would like a calendar but do not have online access.

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Applications for Reception

If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, they will be due to start school in September 2021.

Applications will open from Monday 2nd November. Please follow the link to the admissions page on our school website for further guidance. Applications close on 15th January.

<https://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>

Please note that a certificate of Catholic practice will not be required this year.

Applications for Nursery

If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, they are eligible for a nursery place from the day they turn 3.

Alternatively they are eligible for a nursery place from September 2021. Applications are open, please follow the link below to the admissions page on our school website or phone the school office for further details.

<https://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>

ONLINE QUIZ The Saint John Henry Newman School Association would like to invite parishioners to join them for a free online quiz on Saturday 28th November at 8pm. The quiz will be live on YouTube and questions will be presented by the teachers.

We are joining together for an evening of light entertainment and fun to brighten these uncertain times so please join in and spread the word. The YouTube channel can be found by following this link: tinyurl.com/JHNA-Youtube

The quiz will go live at 8pm on 28th November with questions starting at 8.15pm. Everyone is welcome so please share the details and invite your family and friends.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 15TH NOVEMBER

Saturday 14th November

3 John 5-8 The charitable welcome offered to others

Luke 18:1-8 The parable of the unjust judge

Sunday 15th November THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 Poem about a perfect wife

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 The Day of the Lord is coming...

Matthew 25:14-30 The parable of the talents

Monday 16th November St. Edmund of Abingdon (1175 - 1240) *Archbishop of Canterbury. A great reformer and peacemaker.* Also, **St. Margaret of Scotland** (1046 - 1093) *Married to the King of Scotland; remembered for happiness in marriage, devotion to prayer and learning and especially for generosity to the poor.* **St. Gertrude** (1256 - 1301) *Nun who was a mystic with great devotion to the Eucharist and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

Apocalypse 1:1-4, 2:1-5 The revelation given to John

Luke 18:35-43 'What do you want me to do for you?' The words of Jesus to a blind beggar.

Tuesday 17th November St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207 - 1231) *Married with three children. After her husband's death, she embraced a life of poverty and cared for the sick.* **St. Hilda** (614 - 680) *Nun who gave a great example of peace and charity.* **St. Hugh of Lincoln** (1140 - 1200) *Carthusian who became Bishop of Lincoln. Reputation for justice, care of the sick, and support of the oppressed. He risked his life to help the Jewish community.*

Apocalypse 3:1-6, 14-22 'I stand at the door knocking...'

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus wants to get a glimpse of Jesus

Wednesday 18th November

Apocalypse 4:1-11 The One sitting on the throne in heaven looked like a diamond and a ruby.

Luke 19:11-28 The parable of the pounds

Thursday 19th November

Apocalypse 5:1-10 John witnesses worship in heaven

Luke 19:41-44 Jesus weeps over Jerusalem

Friday 20th November

Apocalypse 10:8-11 John is told to prophesy about nations, countries, languages and emperors

Luke 19:45-48 Jesus cleanses the Temple, saying: 'My house will be a house of prayer.'