

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*

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 18th July 2021

In today's passage from St. Mark's Gospel, the Twelve return after being sent out by Jesus. They have much to tell him! Jesus sees how tired they are with so many people coming and going; he wants to give them time to rest. As the school holidays begin, I am sure that all in Education must feel the same! I hope the summer affords refreshment. We are so grateful to the staff and governors of our schools for their hard work and dedication. Children and young people have also faced such a challenging period - enjoy being on holiday!

For all of us this Monday is going to be a landmark moment as practically all restrictions are relaxed. Will it be back to normal? I'm not so sure! Can we easily travel abroad or welcome visitors? Not as straightforward! What's on the horizon? We just do not know! There is uncertainty as the number of cases continues to rise and freedoms are restored. The Government wants us all to take responsibility for protecting ourselves and others. That will be a minefield in a variety of ways.

Thinking about coming to church and the practices we have established these last 18 months, I know that those who attend feel safe: their hands are sanitised before and after Mass, the church buildings are thoroughly cleansed after each celebration, there is ventilation, distance between people in the pews and a general awareness of our concern for one another. I do not want us to lose this sense of security. Therefore, we will continue with the regime we have established for the coming weeks. I trust that those returning for the first time will have the confidence to regard the coming to church as a possibility, especially if they are clinically vulnerable. *We are so grateful to the teams of stewards who have tirelessly given of themselves in serving all of us for countless weeks and months.* In terms of Mass times and the use of

St. Bonaventure's, with holidays and many away, we are going to continue with the present schedule at least until September. The format of the celebration of Mass will continue until September too. Then we can return in one go to the 'full' Mass with books, ministers and altar servers, congregational singing too! In this 18-month period, we have worked so hard to keep one another safe. Please be patient here in Welwyn Garden City for a little longer.

When they arrive in the 'quiet' place, everyone was already there! No rest for the Twelve! Instead they experienced the compassion of Jesus for the crowds; he proved himself to be a Good Shepherd for all.

May God take care of you and your families. Remember your importance in God's eyes and the call to reach out to others with his love. God bless you!

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can all take place.

Baptisms If you are thinking about the Baptism of your child, contact Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert to arrange a date.

Weddings If you are planning to get married this year or next in WGC or beyond, please let Fr. Norbert know so that the necessary preparation and paperwork can be organised.

Funerals No limit on numbers.

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 should be put in an envelope and given to one of the priests or popped through the letterbox of one of the presbyteries. The intentions will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Simon Stanton RIP, Alec Noonan RIP, Josie Bell RIP, Denis O'Brien RIP 1st Anniv, Maureen Friel Birthday Intention, Celia Howley RIP, Simon Stanton RIP, Augustus Joachim RIP (Wedding Anniversary) Fr. Michael Giffney RIP Anniv

FR. TONY has been appointed Parish Priest of The Five Precious Wounds in Stonebridge Park (between Harlesden and Wembley). He will move in late August which means his final Sunday with us will be 22nd August. Please keep him in your prayers.

**PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS
IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

This schedule of Masses will continue at least until September

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

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

Tuesday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Wednesday

No Mass

Thursday

9.30am Mass at Holy Family

Friday

7pm Mass at Our Lady's

CONFESSION Only by appointment - Fr. Tony on 01707 327434 or Fr. Norbert on 01707 323234.

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/](https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/)

Gospel reflections, the latest news, and so on.

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL looks out onto the car park of the new Parish Hall which means that people can come to the windows and look into the Chapel and see the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady's statue.

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.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES *Fr. Norbert writes:* We have had the standing order campaign and many of you have taken the forms. Please return them to one of the presbyteries. If you did not get one, ask either Fr. Tony or Fr. Norbert. Thank you for your co-operation, generosity and encouragement, all of which are much appreciated.

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.

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 Signed Mass on Sunday 1st August.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday. Admission to the Cathedral Mass does not require ticketing and there is social distancing in a very big space in the nave. All welcome! Fr. Norbert will be celebrating this Mass on Friday 6th August.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY PEOPLE

25th July 2021 will be the inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the Catholic Church. Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes:

‘Pope Francis is not young. In fact, he’s getting on in years, but he has this terrific sense of the connection between generations and its importance. So I’m not surprised that he’s established for this year on 25th July, a World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly. One of the most remarkable things I remember him saying to a million young people at one of the World Youth Days was this: “If you want to be a sign of hope for the world, go and talk to your grandparents.”’

SONGS OF PRAISE This Sunday 18th July at 1.15pm on BBC One comes from Arundel. There will be interviews with some of the Poor Clares (with whom Fr. Norbert has spent time on retreat).

And in that way, he expressed so much of what we need in our society of the continuity between the generations. And a day of prayer is important because we're lacking in that often. Elderly people get isolated, grandparents often get forgotten. But a day of prayer will help us to remember that we are gifts to each other because we are gifts of God. And if we give thanks for those gifts, we'll appreciate them. So please remember to pray for grandparents and the elderly on 25th July, and remember, if you want to be a sign of hope, go and talk to your grandparents and may God bless you all.'

FOCOLARE ANNOUNCEMENT Mari Ponticaccia, originally from the north of Italy, was one of the first members of the Focolare Movement to come to Britain in 1963. She was co-responsible for the development of the Movement in Britain, her primary focus always being to live and share the life of the Gospel. In the early '80s, Mari was instrumental in the purchase and establishing what is now the Centre for Unity on Parkway, Welwyn Garden City. In latter years Mari has not been well and left for Heaven on Tuesday 13th July. Her funeral will be in Our Lady's, WGC at 12.30pm on Tuesday 20th July. All are welcome and invited for light refreshments to the Centre for Unity, following the burial at Lawn Cemetery, Hatfield. May she rest in peace.

'KEYS OF THE KINGDOM': CATHOLIC TEACHING ON THE PAPACY

Fr Tony writes: Following the enjoyable series of courses we ran on Zoom during lockdown, we are holding a couple of standalone, follow-up events over the summer. The second of these will cover Catholic teaching on the role of the Pope, on Thursday 29th July at 8.00pm.

We will watch a video called 'The Keys of the Kingdom' which begins by outlining the foundations of the Papacy, when Jesus announces Simon Peter as "The Rock," on which the Church will stand. From there the journey unfolds through history, from the early Christians within the Roman Empire, to the present day global influence of the Church. There will be discussion afterwards. For Zoom details and further information, please email Adam Coeur-de-Lion on adamcdlion@yahoo.co.uk. All welcome!

FR FRANK LEONARD 50 YEARS A PRIEST As many of you may know, Fr Frank Leonard will be 50 years a priest this Sunday! To mark his Golden Jubilee, he will be celebrating a private Mass at Transfiguration Church at 3pm next Sunday. You can participate online

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoimpqwpqYxUIBcU4mtykKw>

We give thanks for Fr Frank's priestly ministry and for all he continues to do for our community.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK
BEGINNING 18TH JULY**

Saturday 17th July

Exodus 12:37-42 The Israelites leave Egypt in huge numbers
Matthew 12:14-21 Matthew identifies Jesus as God's Beloved One.

Sunday 18th July SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 23:1-6 The Lord will raise shepherds who will care for the flock
Ephesians 2:13-18 Jesus brings people together
Mark 6:30-34 Jesus takes pity on the people

Monday 19th July

Exodus 14:5-18 The Egyptians pursue the people of Israel
Matthew 12:38-42 Repentance and wisdom

Tuesday 20th July

Exodus 14:21-15:1 Through the parting of the Red Sea, God saves the people of Israel
Matthew 12:46-50 The family of Jesus

Wednesday 21st July

Exodus 16:1-5,9-15 The Lord feeds the Israelites in the desert.
Matthew 13:1-9 The parable of the Sower

Thursday 22nd July ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Songs of Songs 3:1-4 'I will seek him whom my heart loves' or
2 Corinthians 5:14-17 The love of Christ overwhelms us!
John 20:1-2,11-18 Mary of Magdala Apostle of the Resurrection

Friday 23rd July ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN (1303-1373) Patron of Europe.

Cared for the poor and sick. Had mystical visions
Galatians 2:19-20 Christ lives in me!
John 15:1-8 'Make your home in me as I make mine in you.'
