

Volume 3, No. 50
8TH NOV. 2020

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



St Peter's Catholic Church is a welcoming missionary parish committed to spreading the gospel values of love and service to all through our community worship and by responding with compassion and love to the needs of our parish and the wider community, so that we, like St Peter, may spread the Good News and in the end attain eternal life with Christ in heaven.

MASS TIMES

St Peter's

Sunday Mass:

9am, 11am, 2pm, & 6pm

Weekday Mass:

Mon - Wed, Fri: 9.30am

Thur.: 7pm; Sat.:

10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation:

Mass: 9.30am & 7pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Sat. 11.00am – 12 noon

Morning Prayer:

Mon.-Wed., Fri.: 9.10am

Marychurch/STM

Sunday Mass:

6pm (Sat.), 9.30am
(STM), 11am, & 6pm
(Polish)

Weekday Mass:

Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri.:
9.30am; Wed.: 7.30pm

Holy Days of Obligation:

Mass: 9.30am & 7.30pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Fri.: 10am – 10.30am

+ 32ND SUNDAY – YR A

Matthew 25:1-13. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation. The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him.* This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true. In this second lockdown. may God take good care of you and your loved ones. May we all stay safe and protected, especially the vulnerable and frontline workers. May this global pandemic soon come to an end. We continue to pray for you. Pray for us as we strive to serve faithfully in complicated circumstances.

READINGS AT SUNDAY MASS

1st Reading: **Wisdom 6:12-16**; 2nd Reading: **1Thess. 4:13-18**; Gospel: **Mt. 25:1-13**.

Psalm: **Ps 62(63) 2-8**, For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the son of man is coming. (Mt 24:42,44) Alleluia!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sun., 8th Nov.	+ 32nd SUNDAY <i>Office, Week 4</i>	11.00am	The faithful departed.
Mon., 9 th Nov.	Lateran Basilica	9.30am	
Tue., 10 th Nov.	St Leo the Great	9.30am	Vera Watson RIP
Wed., 11 th Nov.	St Martin of Tours	9.30am	Vera Watson RIP
Thur., 12 th Nov.	St Josephat	9.30am	
Fri., 13 th Nov.	Feria	9.30am	Theresa Francis RIP
Sat., 14 th Nov.	Feria	9.30am	Private intention
Sun., 15th Nov.	+ 33rd SUNDAY <i>Office, Week 1</i>	11.00am	The Faithful departed

MARYCHURCH/ST THOMAS MORE

Sat., 7th Nov	+ 32nd SUNDAY <i>Office, Week 4</i>		
Sun., 8th Nov.		10.00am	Noemi & Elias Gonzalves
Mon., 9 th Nov.	Lateran Basilica	10.00am	Sherrin Antony's Dad
Tue., 10 th Nov.	St Leo the Great	10.00am	Moira Moss
Wed., 11 th Nov.	St Martin of Tours	10.00pm	Ton & Doris Townsend RIP
Thur., 12 th Nov.	St Josephat	10.00am	Ron Thomas RIP
Fri., 13 th Nov.	Feria	10.00am	Ruth & Kevin Herbkesman
Sat., 14 th Nov.	+ 33rd SUNDAY <i>Office, Week 1</i>	10.00am	Bridie & John Slean/ K O'brien
Sun., 15th Nov.		11.00am	Beverly Atkin & family

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please pray for Mike Kavanagh, Lily Clark, Amerita Mericonda, Dorothy Hall, Pat Martin, Tony Lodge, Theresa Chatfield, Nora O'Sullivan, William Naughton, Francis MacDonald, Cathy Ryan, Adele Pym, Edwin Levy, and Maureen Kennedy.

NOTICES

PUBLIC MASSES SUSPENDED: following the government regulations on the latest lockdown, masses are suspended until otherwise directed. Below is the letter from the Cardinal Archbishop to this effect.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ 5 November 2020.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, As we enter this second 'lockdown' and loss of communal celebration of Mass, I wish to add these few words. This is a time for us to show our strength. And by that I do not mean strength in defiance. I mean strength in mutual support; strength in service; strength in perseverance and hope. I mean, then, the strength of our faith in action. The first act of faith is the praise of God. It is deep and constant prayer. This must be at the root of our lives, as individuals, as families, as households. I urge you, then, to stay faithful to daily patterns of prayer. Pray privately; pray together at home; come to church to pray; pray without ceasing. I thank God that our churches remain open to be places of peace and prayer, and the live streaming of the Mass, celebrated every day in our churches, is a great help. But that too must be rooted in our own life of prayer. Only by receiving the living water from the Lord will we pass through this arid time. Indeed, if we stay close to the Lord, we will be changed for the better by this time of crisis. The second act of faith is humble service. This is the road we are to follow: service of each other; outreach to the lonely; nourishment for the hungry; compassion for the sick, the isolated, the dying, especially those facing death alone, and those who mourn. Let's do it. These are the strengths we have, the strengths we must contribute to our society's way of life. Only in this day-to-day practice can we shape a different future, a better future, one that is more compassionate, more just, more charitable. This is the future which must come out of this crisis. We cannot just wait to 'get back to normal'. This is a time to rebuild a better family, a better household, a better neighbourhood, a better world. May God bless and sustain us all in the weeks ahead.

Yours devotedly, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST: Please write down the names of loved ones who have died and give the lists to Fr. Francis if you haven't already done so, in sealed envelopes. 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.

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

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>.

BOOKING OF MASS: The Holy Mass is Our Lord's perfect prayer, our greatest and most efficacious prayer. In offering it we unite ourselves and our intentions with the Lord in praise, in thanksgiving, and in petition. If you wish to have a Holy Mass offered for any intention of yours, please contact the parish office or complete the **Mass Intention envelope** at the back of the church and give it to the priest. The diocese encourages a voluntary offering of £10 for each Mass intention. Masses are being said everyday for your intentions.

Gift Aid Form: If you are a UK taxpayer, the church can claim from the government 25% of your contribution to it at no extra cost to you. All you need to do is sign the Gift Aid Form. Also, due to the risks involved in cash handling, please consider making your contribution to the parish by Standing Order. To do so, also complete the section in the Gift Aid Form and return it to the parish office. The form is on the tables in the entrance and the exit porches.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: There will not be the usual Remembrance Sunday Services in Howardsgate or at Hatfield Hyde. Instead Welwyn Hatfield Council will have an online pre-recorded Service 8th November 2020, please log in from 10.40am. Service starts 10.45am WHBC: website and Facebook: @welwynhatfield Stories from around Welwyn Hatfield from 1–7 November 2020 Facebook: @welwynhatfield Twitter: @WelhatCouncil Instagram: welwynhatfieldcouncil

BLESSING OF GRAVES Fr. Norbert writes: *Aware that the lockdown was going to start on Thursday, I visited Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Welwyn New Cemetery and Hatfield Hyde Cemetery on Wednesday. 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.