

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Deacon: Jeffrey Downie Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Second Sunday of Advent 9th December 2012 (page 85)

Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas and JOHN, son of Zechariah. Judaea, Galilee, Ituraea, Trachonitis, Abilene and the JORDAN district. St. Luke is very keen that we place the ministry of John the Baptist at a specific time and in a particular place. Hence we hear the names of political and religious leaders and the regions they oversee. The evangelist then tells us that the 'word of God' came to John the Baptist. John's presence in the wilderness makes him receptive to God's word and then courageous enough to express this word in his ministry of proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As we journey through Advent with another candle today being lit on the Advent Wreath, John the Baptist calls out to us gathered in a different period of history and in a new location. John is still preparing us to welcome Jesus Christ; he continues to challenge us to repent. This is a powerful way of getting us ready to be open to the Coming of our Saviour. Are we receptive? Are we courageous enough to respond? What do we find difficult about John and his message?

When John's ministry begins, Luke quotes from the prophecy of Isaiah and speaks of the straightening of paths, levelling of hills, filling in of valleys, rough roads being made smooth. What do you need to do? How about making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Find an opportunity this Advent to celebrate the forgiving love of God in this wonderful sacrament. Reflect on your own life and how you can change your way of living which can then allow Christ's salvation to come into your life.

Let us pray that this second week of Advent will be a time of blessing for us in Welwyn Garden City as we eagerly anticipate the Coming of Jesus Christ our Saviour spurred on by the message of St. John the Baptist.

Fr. Norbert

YEAR OF FAITH Today the Cross of San Damiano will go to Ellen and Steve Allardice (30 Attimore Road, WGC AL8 6LP) Prayer Gathering at 8pm on Monday 10th.

Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are willing to have the Cross. Each week the households for the coming week will be published in the newsletter.

HCPT Every year 7000 people travel to Lourdes with HCPT at Easter time, the trip takes children with disabilities away for an action packed week filled with fun and laughter, it can also provide a well earned respite for carers back home. For the last 14 years I have been travelling as a helper and then deputy leader of a HCPT group 149 in St Albans, and now have been asked by HCPT to start a new group up. Fr Norbert has very kindly let me base the new group 183 in the WGC parishes. I will be looking for helpers who would like to come away on this amazing pilgrimage to look after a child with special needs or just to help the group fundraise some much needed money to take the group away. Also if you know of a child who would benefit from the pilgrimage Please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313 or email emmam92@hotmail.com.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S at St. Bonaventure's next Sunday. Rehearsals are this afternoon 2.30pm - 4pm, Tuesday and Friday at 3.45pm and Saturday's dress rehearsal is at 3pm.

NEXT SUNDAY 10.30am is a Children's Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY Hertfordshire Migration Partnership is organising a "mini" conference on Tuesday 18th December between 10am – 12pm at the Focolare Centre. The meeting has a two fold purpose, to celebrate the activities in the county and to look forward as to how migration into the county can support future strategies and improvements. The event will be an opportunity to highlight and celebrate contribution of migrants to the county in relation to e.g. culture, economy, cohesion and how the skills migrants possess can support the future economic development and prosperity of Hertfordshire.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP How Other Faiths Worship. A question and answer session on things you wanted to know about other faiths worship but were afraid to ask. Park Lounge, Campus West, Thursday 13th December 7.30pm.

LOURDES 2013 Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of our churches. Deposits and completed forms should be returned to Pax Travel.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS & ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Thanks to all who helped in any way with last Saturday evening's Mass and get-together. A great time was had by all.

OUR LADY SCHOOL has its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Friday at 2pm. All welcome.

JUSTICE AND PEACE On Saturday 23rd March 2013, the (diocesan) Justice & Peace Commission will be holding a Networking day for the whole of Hertfordshire in Our Lady's Parish Centre. As well as being an opportunity to meet and socialise with others from across the county, Bishop Sherrington will give a talk on Catholic Social Teaching and there may be other speakers. More details will follow and everyone is invited to this event.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARD Please take home a card giving details of our Christmas Services for the three parishes.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for the elderly and housebound. There are crates at the back of church for your contributions to make Christmas a little happier for our elderly and housebound parishioners.

GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN The Justice & Peace group are running the Greetings Card campaign this weekend (8th/9th), when parishioners are invited to sign a card addressed to a “prisoner of conscience”. The cards have been prepared, i.e. addressed and stamped, and all that remains to be done is for a signature, along with a “simple” message of support, to be added. The group asks for a donation (£2), for each card, to cover the cost of the card and the postage.

PRIEST’S REFERENCE FORMS The time has now come for applications for entrance into Reception Class at school. Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the ‘Priest’s Reference Forms’ on Wednesday 12th December 3.30 - 5.30pm in Our Lady’s Church. Parents should contact Kathryn Hubbard (before Wednesday) on 01707 322579 to book a time. Parents should come with a completed self-assessment form and their child and wait in the church. If your child was baptised in one of our three churches, please request a Baptismal certificate from Kathryn Hubbard.

RCIA this Monday at 7.30pm at St. Bonaventure’s.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU Holy Family at 6.30pm. Just a reminder to the children involved that there are rehearsals for the tableau on December 9 and 16, and a dress rehearsal on December 23.

ST. BONAVENTURE’S lists for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas are at the back of the church this weekend. Please sign if you can minister.

YEAR OF FAITH DAYTIME GROUP As we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mondays in Advent, the group will meet again in January.

BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON will celebrate the St. Stephen’s Day Mass for altar servers on Wednesday 26th December at 10am at Holy Family Church. Servers from our three parishes are invited to come by 9.45am with their albs and serve. Any parents willing to arrange refreshments afterwards should let Fr. Norbert know. The Bishop will celebrate 10am New Year’s Day Mass at Our Lady’s and 10.30am Epiphany Mass at St. Bonaventure’s.

FULHAM VISIT to WGC will be on Saturday 11th May. More details next year!

CWL meets this Wednesday in Our Lady’s.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION If anyone missed the recent enrolment meetings for First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church and Our Lady’s Church or for Confirmation, please see Fr. Norbert. Preparation starts in January. Please note there will be an Engaged Couples’ Day on Saturday 2nd February; anyone wanting to attend should contact Fr. Norbert.

APF (MISSIO) RED BOXES The Red Boxes held by parishioners at St. Bonaventure’s raised £1609.57 throughout 2012. A big ‘thank you’ to everyone involved.

MARGARET O’NEILL R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Margaret O’Neill R.I.P. is at 10.30am on Thursday in Holy Family Church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 118 boxes were sent off for children in Africa. Thank you to everyone who filled a box.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS 7.30pm 14th Dec. at the Focolare Centre, Parkway, WGC. All are welcome for carol singing and Christmas reflection followed by refreshments. Contributions of mince pies very welcome!

TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB DRAW: Winners for November are No 32. T. McGuane £100, No 280. N. Merry £50 and No. 80 M. Naef £25. Many thanks to all for your continued support. Numbers are available for new members.

CONTACTS

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Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourlady's-parish.info

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE

Bookings should be made with
Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707
377442 or 07790 135458

peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Michael 01707 327434
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

CONFESSIONS	Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
	St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30 - 11am
	Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

10 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Advent feria
11 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
13 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Lucy
	10.30am	Holy Family	Funeral Mass
14 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. John of the Cross
	7pm	Our Lady's	
15 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

Third Sunday of Advent		
15 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
16 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family

*Lord,
 Let me see your face,
 Know your heart and
 experience your love in my life.
 Strengthen in me
 the precious gift of faith.
 I believe Lord;
 Help my unbelief.
 Amen.*

<p>CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463</p>
