

# 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*

## ***First Sunday of Advent 2nd December 2012 (page 82)***

Last Thursday Bishop John Sherrington invited the clergy of Hertfordshire to have a Day of Recollection. We gathered at the Niland Centre in Bushey and, as well as catching up with others, we had time for quiet, prayerful reflection and two talks given by the Bishop. It seems strange that nowadays we need to have time to prepare for a time of preparation! Advent requires space, thought and planning. I was eager on Thursday to find some fresh insights and pointers to guide me through the Season of Advent.

Something I discovered from Bishop John is that in the Middle Ages the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent was taken from Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday! This came as quite a shock to me. I know that Advent is about 'Coming' - derived from the Latin word Adventum. Jesus is going to return in glory. However, I had never thought of linking this Second Coming with the Entry into Jerusalem. The other element I found stimulating was connected with the French word attendre - to wait for. As we wait for Christ to come, we must be attentive, on the lookout for the One who will bring us everything and take us to be with the Father who is the source of all that is. Just as a waiter is of service, keeping an eye out for any need a diner might have, so our attitude must be one of total attention to Christ.

So today as we begin a new Liturgical Year with the Season of Advent, let us reflect on his Triumphal Coming: the expectation of the people, their desire to make him King, their singing and waving of palms. Let us not forget how they changed on Good Friday demanding his Crucifixion! Let us look forward to Christ's Second Coming and his desire to take us to the Feast of Heaven where we will praise God eternally. How can you in your busy life be more attentive to him and the needs of the less fortunate? How can you get yourself more ready for his Return?

May God bless all our efforts. *Fr. Norbert.*

**YEAR OF FAITH** The San Damiano Crosses of St. Francis continue their journeys round our parishes underpinning the Year of Faith with prayer. A household is asked to 'host' the Cross for a week each day praying with this important Icon (with prayers provided) and one day to have a time of prayer open to others. The following weekend at Mass, the Crosses will be passed on to another person/couple/family/household. Today from St. Bonaventure's the Cross will go to Brenda French (19 Guessens Road AL8 6QL) Prayer Gathering at 3pm on Tuesday 4th. From Our Lady's to Alice Hurley (62 Leigh Common - off Hollybush Lane) Prayer Gathering at 3pm on Thursday 6th. From Holy Family to Sean Cox (25 Cherry Croft AL8 7QU) Prayer Gathering on Thursday 6th at 5.30pm. *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](mailto:emmam92@hotmail.com).

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** recently had its Ofsted Inspection and has made huge progress in standards, being judged a 'good school.' Congratulations to the children and their supportive parents! Well done to Mrs Corr and her dedicated Staff and to Paraic McKenna, Chair of Governors, and to the whole Governing Body.

**ST ANDREW'S DAY** Thanks to all who made Friday's St. Andrew's Day celebrations so wonderful!

**OUR LADY'S** will have its music practices for Christmas on Sundays 2nd, 16th December 10.45am and on Wednesday 12th December at 7.45pm.

**MEMORIAL MASS** On Thursday 6th December in Our Lady's at 11am, the Brothers of St. John of God will be having a Memorial Mass for those they have served in this area who have died in recent years.

**RCIA** 18 adults are now 'interested' and want to join the Catholic Church or complete their initiation into the Church. Please keep them in your prayers. They meet in Our Lady's sacristy at 7.30pm on Mondays.

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

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS** for the elderly and housebound. There are crates at the back of church for your contributions.

**NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S** 16th December. Our first rehearsal is today from 2.30pm - 4pm. Further rehearsals are Tuesday (4th at 3.45pm), Sat/Sun(8/9th at 2.30pm), Tues (11th) and Fri (14th) at 3.45pm and the Dress Rehearsal Sat 15th.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP** meet at Holy Family in the parish room at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th December. All welcome.

**SVP COLLECTION** This weekend after all Masses. Please be generous.

**GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN** The Justice & Peace group are running the Greetings Card campaign next weekend (8th/9th), when parishioners will be 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** Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the ‘Priest’s Reference Forms’ for entrance into Reception Class on Monday 3rd December 3.30 - 5.30pm in Holy Family Church and on Wednesday 12th December 3.30 - 5.30pm in Our Lady’s Church. Parents should contact Kathryn Hubbard 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.

**FILIPINO CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL** in Our Lady’s Hall on Sunday 9th December 12noon - 6pm. Food, dance, activities, raffles and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome.

**HOLY FAMILY Children’s Mass and Christmas Giving Tree** on 9th December. Children are asked to bring a wrapped Christmas gift to be placed under a ‘Giving Tree’ during the Offertory. (label Boy/Girl/age) These gifts will then be given to organisations that help children in need.

**CHILDREN’S EVE MASS HOLY FAMILY** There will be a special Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm where the children will act out the gospel dressed in traditional Nativity Costumes. If you would like your child to be involved please leave their name and your contact details on the clipboard at the back of the church. Rehearsals for this tableau will take place after 9.30am Mass on December 9 and 16, and there will be a dress rehearsal on December 23.

**SCHOOL MASSES** On Monday 3rd December there will be Mass in Holy Family School at 11am and on Tuesday 4th there will be Mass in Our Lady School at 9.15am. The Masses are to mark the start of the season of Advent. Parishioners are welcome.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady will be celebrated on Saturday 8th December with Mass at 10am. Please note that in this country it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

**CAROL SINGING** with fellow Christians outside the Howard Centre on Saturday 8th December 1 - 2pm. Come and sing your favourite carols for the shoppers in readiness for Christmas!

**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.

**SINGING FOR PLEASURE** are holding their Family Christmas Concert at Christ the King in Haldens on Saturday, December 15th at 7.30pm. Tickets £6.50 and £4.50 (child). Box office 01707 377543. Proceeds to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

**PRAYERS FOR THE HOLY LAND** Archbishop Vincent Nichols has asked us to make 4th December a Day of Prayer for the Holy Land and Middle East. That day is the Feast of St. John Damascene, the last of the Greek Fathers and Doctor of the Church, who was born in Damascus and died in Jerusalem.

**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!

**CONTACTS**

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234 Jeffrey Downie**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**

**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**

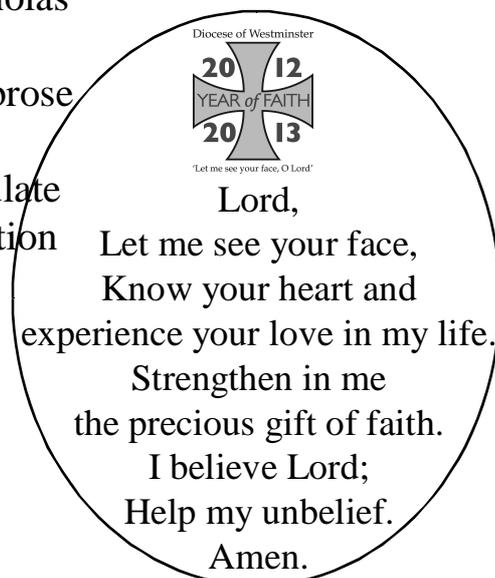
**Fr. Michael 01707 327434**  
**Holy Family Church**  
**194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**

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

**MASS TIMES**

03 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Francis Xavier
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
06 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Nicholas
	11am	Our Lady's	
07 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Ambrose
	7pm	Our Lady's	
08 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Immaculate Conception

		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>08 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's	
<b>09 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family	
	<b>10.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady's	
	<b>6pm</b>	Holy Family	



**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