

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*

Epiphany of the Lord 6th January 2013 (page 115)

We begin our Sundays in 2013 with the arrival of the Magi. Those Wise Men, who travelled from the East searching for the King whose birth had been highlighted by the appearance of the Star, draw us into a mystical experience of Jesus Christ. This Baby truly is King, God and (mortal) Man. We call this Solemnity the Epiphany - a revelation or manifestation of the Presence of God. The experience of the Magi in Bethlehem foreshadows the glory revealed at the Lord's Baptism, at the Wedding Feast at Cana (water turned into wine!). There are many ways that God chooses to break into our lives and manifest his Presence. Can you think of anything you have experienced this Christmas which have revealed to you in a deeper way the peace and love of God? Have you yourselves been instruments of sharing with others the true meaning of Christmas and the significance of this Babe?

The New Year is a unique time for each one of us as we plan for another year and seize opportunities which come our way. There is so much to look forward to and yet also the unexpected just round the corner. There are the resolutions which spur us on and the disappointments which hold us back. Where will you find Jesus in the midst of everything? In this Year of Faith, prayer is foundational: talking to God, listening, mulling over things, being silent and still, asking questions, contemplating...Isn't prayer an amazing experience! Having eyes open to recognising God's Presence is paramount. You never know when he's going to tap you on the shoulder and speak to you through a person or event! The Magi were prepared to go wherever the star led them. Finally, the offering of gifts to Christ, the putting ourselves at the service of the Gospel - this is a generosity which will definitely bear fruit for God's Kingdom. Allow today's Epiphany to open up for you the many epiphanies of God in your lives.

May God bless you and your loved ones in 2013 with love beyond measure! *Fr. Norbert*

YEAR OF FAITH The San Damiano Crosses of St. Francis will start their journeys again around our parishes. Just to remind you that we ask a household to 'host' a Cross for a week praying each day for the building up of faith in our area. On one day and at a convenient time (published in the newsletter), parishioners are invited to join the household in prayer. Those who have hosted the Crosses so far have found it a time of blessing for them. Please consider a week which would be just right for you and let Fr. Norbert know. We start up again next weekend.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION for our young people begins next Sunday (13th) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family.

RCIA Starts again on Monday 14th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

SCHOOL FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available on Friday 11th January 3.30pm - 5.30pm in Our Lady's Church to sign Priest's Reference Forms for admission to Reception Class. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard to book an appointment and for a copy of your child's baptism certificate if needed. It is important that you fill out the forms before coming and bring your child with you. 15th January is the deadline.

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

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 15th January. All are welcome, come and learn a little more about your faith and get to know other parish children.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS There will be Mass in Holy Family school hall at 9.15am on Friday 11th January to mark the start of 2013. Everyone is very welcome.

HCPT A big thank you to everyone who helped pack bags at Waitrose on Saturday for HCPT. We managed to raise £510.73. Thanks once again for giving up your time and for all your hard work for group 183.

CWL Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th January at 8pm in Our Lady's hall. At this month's meeting we will have a speaker - Elspeth Jackman, who will give a talk on ENJOYING LATER LIFE, which is about encouraging and inspiring people to enjoy and make the most of life whatever circumstances they may find themselves in. Elspeth is an enthusiastic and regular speaker and has also written a book, copies of which will be available should anyone wish to purchase one. Please do come along to hear Elspeth and also if you would like to know more about the Catholic Women's League.

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH GROUP meets at Space this coming Tuesday 8th January, 12.30 - 2pm (bring a packed lunch, drinks available).

JUSTICE AND PEACE Open Evening Wednesday 16th January 6-9pm. Soup, bread and cheese supper. Share ideas, meet Justice and Peace people across the diocese, get involved. St. John Vianny Parish Centre, West Green Road N15 3QH. John Fogarty is going so if you need a lift contact him: john.fogarty@ntlworld.com.

FLOWER ARRANGING COURSE beginning Monday 14th January 7pm-8.30pm in St. Bonaventure's hall. This course is being run by Connor Blackwell (a flower arranger at St. B's). This first session for the term is an open session to find out what is involved (no cost for this taster session). All are welcome, just come along.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS Thank you to all the parishioners who donated so generously to the Christmas hampers for the elderly in the parish, your generosity touched the lives of nearly 60 parishioners. A special thank you to the parishioner whose generous donation made the hampers possible, and to Sally Kee, Joss, Lindsey, Maggie, Sandy, Adam, Amy, Rebecca for all your hard work, and the volunteers who helped with delivery. At Holy Family there are two hampers to raffle (raising money for next year's hampers). Tickets are on sale after Mass.

HOLY FAMILY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS A huge thank you to all who support these charity coffee mornings by either, helping on the rota and providing delicious cakes on a regular basis or by attending and giving generously. Thanks to your involvement we were able to present a cheque of £231.75 to F.W.C.H a very worthwhile charity which visits the elderly in care homes in our parish. If you are involved in a local charity and would like us to support your cause for the next six months please let Sally Kee know on 01707 261394. To date we have supported Isabel Hospice, the Welwyn and Hatfield Home Start Branch and Aspergers4Herts.

AT HOME DECORATIVE ANTIQUES AND INTERIORS SALE with a Floristry Display by The House of Flowers and Afternoon Tea to benefit Action Medical Research. Sunday 13th January, 12-6pm at 15 Elmwood, AL8 6LD. Prices from £3. All inquiries to Jane email: athomeantiques@btinternet.com or 07847 314434.

CAP DEBT CENTRE Panshanger Church, with the support of the Churches in Welwyn Garden City, has taken the bold step of establishing a Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre for Welwyn Garden City. Our three parishes will make a contribution to the costs which will help people in complicated financial situations manage their income as they deal with debt. Rev. Mark Loney has written to offer his thanks and to ask prayer as the venture moves forward. In due course, offers of time and practical support will be sought. The date of the launch of the new centre will be announced in January.

ZUMBA WITH LISA I'm Lisa a local parishioner, I instruct Zumba classes every Thursday 6:30-7:30pm at Our Lady's Church Hall. Zumba is a Latin inspired, calorie burning, easy to follow, fun dance fitness class. Join me for your first class half price at only £2.50; you'll receive a loyalty card to work your way towards a free class. For further details please call 07837636455 or email: dancewithlisa@hotmail.co.uk.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH Cleaning of the church and dismantling of the Outdoor Crib will take place on **Saturday 12th January at 10am**. We need strong and active people for the work on the Crib and new volunteers for cleaning are always welcome! Refreshments will be available.

FUNERALS Sammy Clark's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Friday 11th January at 10.30am. His body will be received into the church on Thursday 10th at 4.30pm.

Agnes Carrollan's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 14th January at 12.30pm.

Anna Ratcliffe's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's Church on Monday 21st January at 11am.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to their families and friends.

NEED CLEANERS TO HELP WITH YOUR HOUSEWORK? Contact Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231 Regular or weekly cleans/ one off/ fortnightly or monthly or ironing.

Contact Angela Edwards to do cleaning and ironing for anyone in Welwyn Garden City for £8-10 an hour. Phone her on 07879610109.

CONTACTS

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

Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourladys-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

07 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Christmas feria
08 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Christmas feria
10 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Christmas feria
11 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
	10.30am	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass Sammy Clark R.I.P.
	7pm	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria

Baptism of the Lord

12 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
13 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.*

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