

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Nativity of the Lord 25th December 2013***

***and Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 29th December 2013***

Another Christmas has come! A wonderful time such as this prompts us to reflect on the blessings God has bestowed upon us. When Jesus Christ was born, it was in a particular place and at a certain time. When the early Christians pondered all that had taken place, they realised that God had worked through the special circumstances and that the prophecies of old were fulfilled. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem. The Saviour of the World was encountered in a tiny Babe who slept in a manger and the Holy Family was housed in a stable. Angels brought Good News from heaven and this was transmitted through humble shepherds. Eternity broke into space and time on Earth and humanity has been taken into the heart of the Divinity.

As we think about our own lives during this past year, what is it we especially want to thank God for? People, things, events, the unexpected? What has happened that leaves us puzzled? Do we wonder where God has been when something took place? Perhaps a disappointment, a tragedy or a bereavement? What about our Faith? Has it grown stronger or does it feel as though we are going through a period of transition?

As we celebrate Christmas 2013 God the Father wants Jesus to come again in a particular place and at a certain time. He wants his Son to come to each one of us NOW as we are and where we are! We do not always grasp everything that is happening but we can trust. We do not have an answer for every problem but this Baby is with us every step of the way. Sometimes things have gone terribly wrong; however, we can turn to God for forgiveness and compassion. His Son is also to be found with arms outstretched on the Cross offering salvation. Allow God to work in you and through you. Let his blessings come upon you abundantly this Christmas - graces which will be active in 2014.

With Fr. Vincent I wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing in 2014. Thank you for all the support and love you give! ***Fr. Norbert***

**THANK YOU** Fr. Vincent and Fr. Norbert would like to say a huge 'Thank you!' to you all for your Christmas cards, good wishes gifts and very generous Christmas offerings. Our thanks to those who have helped clean our churches, decorated them with flowers, Christmas trees and Cribs. We are so grateful to the Musicians and Singers, the Altar Servers, Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion, to Welcomers and Collectors, to those who help with the Offertory and, especially at this time, thanks to all who have helped with the Nativities and acting out of the Christmas Gospel (Tableau). We want to express our thanks to Kathryn Hubbard for producing the Christmas booklets. There are those who work hard behind the scenes throughout the year who work tirelessly; we are indebted to you. Finally, without the entire People of God who gather, who support what is happening, who proclaim to others the Good News in their daily lives, where would we be? May God richly bless you all!

**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY** Bishop John will celebrate Mass in Holy Family Church on Thursday 26th December at 10am. St. Stephen is the Patron Saint of Altar Servers and so all our servers are invited to serve at the Mass. Come with alb and cincture by 9.30am.

**HOLY FAMILY** The feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on Sunday 29th December. At Holy Family Church there will be refreshments in the Parish Room after 9.30am Mass.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** Bishop John will celebrate Mass at 10am at Our Lady's on New Year's Day. It is the feast of Our Lady, Mother of God.

**NO EVENING MASS** at Holy Family on Sunday 29th December or at Our Lady's on Friday 27th December or Friday 3rd January.

**SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY** at St. Bonaventure's, Confessions will be at 10am and Mass at 10.30am.

**EPIPHANY** will be transferred to Sunday 5th January so the Wise Men will arrive a little earlier in 2014!

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS** Our thanks to all who helped with preparing and delivering the Christmas hampers for the elderly members of our community. Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the collection.

**DEREK HYETT** Derek the seminarian from Allen Hall, who was with us a couple of years ago is going to be ordained a deacon at Our Lady of Grace and St. Edward Church, 247 High Road, Chiswick W4 4PU on Saturday 11th January, 2014 at 11.30am. He would love the people of our three parishes to join him and so has issued an invitation to the Mass and Reception! Please let Kathryn Hubbard know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. It is not the easiest of places to get to by public transport and so we will try and organise a minibus or coach depending on numbers.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all those who came and cleaned and polished at Holy Family Church last week in preparation for Christmas.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We have a break now until Tuesday 14th January. Thank you to all the children for their hard work towards the Nativity Play and Carol Service last Sunday.

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP** The next CAFOD meeting will be on Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family Church. Anyone who would like to come along will be very welcome.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS** There will be Mass in Holy Family School Hall at 11am on Monday 13th January to mark the start of 2014. Everyone is very welcome.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** If you are planning to get married in 2014 or 2015 either here in Welwyn Garden City or in another parish in this country or abroad, please let Fr. Norbert know. There are Church papers which have to be prepared as well as civil requirements. The Marriage Preparation Day for our parishes will be on Saturday 15th February (the day after Valentine's Day!) in Our Lady's Hall.

**CONFIRMATION** Any young people (at least in Year 9) who missed the enrolment meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation should see Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The first session will be on Sunday 19th January at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Preparation for these Sacraments at Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church will soon begin for children (at least in Year 3) and their parents. If anyone missed the registration meetings, they should get details from Fr. Norbert.

**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.

**NEWSLETTER** This week's Christmas newsletter will be for two weeks taking us up to the Epiphany on 5th January 2014.



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**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**  
Bookings should be made with Phil  
(Philomena) Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790  
135458  
peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

### MASS TIMES

<b>26 Thursday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b>
27 Friday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. John
		<i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i>	
28 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Innocents

### Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

<b>28 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's	
<b>29 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	
		<i>No evening Mass at Holy Family</i>	
30 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
31 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
<b>01 Wednesday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	
02 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	
03 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure ( <i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i> )	
04 Saturday	<u>10.30am</u>	St. Bonaventure	



### Mary, Mother of God

### Epiphany of the Lord

<b>04 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>05 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