

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*

Epiphany of the Lord 5th January 2014

Happy New Year! The Wise Men follow the Star and eventually arrive in Bethlehem. They worship the Christ Child and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They return to their country but by a different path. The theme of journey is so strong in this passage from St. Matthew. God-with-us/Emmanuel is to be found in Jesus Christ; he is waiting to be found, drawing the whole world to himself. When the encounter takes place, he allows people to return back home to their normal activities transformed by the impact of what has taken place.

It is not always easy to journey to Christ! We can find ourselves all over the place at times! We can bump into obstacles which impede progress; there are moments when we can be misunderstood. However, God sends us 'stars' to light up our way, to guide us and help us find him. We have gifts ready to present him; and yet, we might have within us even more to offer him if we but take the risk and offer him ourselves totally. As the Christmas Season draws to a close, we do have to return back to the everyday. How do we make our way back to 'normality'? Is it only about packing up the Crib, taking down the decorations, disposing of the cards and tree? Perhaps there might be another path we might discover? How about rereading the Christmas cards and praying for the people who sent you their greeting? Would you have time for quiet reflection and thank God for the blessings you received at Christmas 2013? As you look ahead to the unfolding of 2014, is there a way you could let Jesus be at the heart of all you say, do and are?

May God the Father shower his blessings upon us all this year. May the Lord Jesus help us to build up his Kingdom. May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to bear witness to Christ - and be ready for the unexpected!

Happy New Year! ***Fr. Norbert***

DEREK HYETT Derek the seminarian from Allen Hall, who was with us a couple of years ago will be ordained a deacon at Our Lady of Grace and St. Edward Church, Chiswick on Saturday 11th. Please pray for him as he takes this important step in his journey towards priesthood. Those who have booked a seat on the coach need to be at Our Lady's Church, Woodhall Lane next Saturday at 9.40am ready to leave promptly at 9.45am. There are still a few seats available on the coach (phone the office 322579). Cost of the coach is £10 per adult (£5 child). Money to the office please.

MARIE FITZGERALD RIP Marie's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Thursday 9th January at 12 noon.

AMELIA NIECKARZ RIP The Funeral Mass for Baby Amelia will be at Holy Family Church on Monday 13th January at 1.30pm.

TED O'LEARY RIP Ted's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 15th January at 12.30pm.

Let us pray for the repose of their souls and for their grieving families and friends.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY begins on Saturday 18th January. As has become the custom, there will be a main Service (45 mins) on the Sunday and daily services (30mins) in a number of churches usually followed by refreshments.

Saturday 18th Our Lady's at 12 noon + Soup lunch

Sunday 19th Christchurch Baptist Church, Broadwater Road, AL7 3AX at 3pm (Fr. Norbert will be giving the address at this service)

Monday 20th Space, Church Road, AL8 6PW (near Sainsbury's) at 8am

Tuesday 21st Panshanger Church, Hardings AL7 2EJ at 12.30pm

Wednesday 22nd St. Mary Magdalene's, Hollybush Lane, AL7 4JS at 12.30pm

Thursday 23rd Digswell Village Church, Warren Way AL6 0DH at 12.30pm

Friday 24th Free Church, Church Road, AL8 6PS at 12 noon

Saturday 25th Shared Supper at Focolare Centre, Parkway at 7pm.

OUR LADY'S OUTDOOR CRIB The dismantling of the Outdoor Crib will take place on **Saturday 11th January at 10am**. We need strong and active people to help with this. Refreshments will be provided.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CLEANING New volunteers are most welcome to join in the monthly cleaning of the church on **Saturday 11th January at 10am**. Refreshments will be provided.

'I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME' Thank you to all who signed cards and sent greetings to Prisoners, Victims of Torture and their Support Groups. An appraisal will be made in a few weeks time of the system we used this year, where we sent fewer cards with multi - signatures.

SCHOOL FORMS Any parents who need a Priest's Reference for their child's entrance into Reception Class and missed the sessions before Christmas, should come to Our Lady's Church on Monday 13th January at 5pm with their child and completed forms. It will be the last opportunity for these forms to be signed by Fr. Norbert. No need to book a time, just turn up.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 14th January. All are welcome to come and learn a little more about your faith and get to know other parish children.

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

CAN YOU HELP? A young Polish woman is looking for a cheap room to rent. She would like to take a job as a care assistant. She is hardworking and honest, speaks good English, can cook and drive. For more information please call Alicja 07772891750 or Emilio 07572316877. Thank you.

NEW INSPIRATIONS New music for Lent and Holy Week with Frances Novillo, Saturday 25th January 2014 2-5pm at St.Bartholomew's Church, Vesta Avenue, St.Albans AL1 2PE, £5 per person. Singers and instrumentalists welcome. Booking in advance essential for both singers and instrumentalists. Contact Peter Godwin 01727 843309 or godwin.peter@gmail.com

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

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

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

MASS TIMES

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

Baptism of the Lord

11 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
12 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family

<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>
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