

# 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*

## ***The Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 2014 (page 297)***

This year Sunday and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) come together. We are given such a wonderful opportunity today to celebrate the riches of the Liturgy with the lighting and blessing of candles and the reminder that Jesus is the Light of the Gentiles (pagans) - Light of the World. How gloomy it is outside! The rain keeps falling and the wind blows a gale! No snow or ice (yet!) this year and yet sunshine is what we really want - light to warm us up within and longer days to point us towards the change of season with the new life of spring.

An old man, Simeon, in our Gospel passage from St. Luke takes the Child Jesus in his arms and praises God, recognising in this baby the Light of the Gentiles. A devout widow, Anna, gives thanks to God when she beholds his Beloved Son and then wants everyone to know his significance. We discover in these mature people great wisdom, deep faith and unending joy. We see in Jesus hope for the future and the vitality which this young child brings into our world.

The candles we receive and hold today remind us that Jesus wants to be Light in our own lives personally as well as for our world. He guides us. He warms us with his presence. His love for us burns so strongly. He is ready to sacrifice himself for us just as the wax is burned up to give light and heat. His Light connects us with the eternal light of heaven where we hope one day to be with him for ever. The flame of one candle can be used to pass on light so that it spreads and makes a huge difference; our faith in Jesus Christ is just like that - think of your Baptismal Candle.

Perhaps today you might consider one way you would like to share with others the Light of Jesus? Is there an area of your life which needs Divine Light? Looking out to our world, where do you see darkness which might be transformed by the Lord? Let us pray for inspiration, love and life which will radiate out from us - in and through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Happy Feast! ***Fr. Norbert***

**SARAH FOX RIP** Sarah's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Friday 7th February at 11.30am.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** Our condolences go to the Head Teacher, Mrs Catherine Corr, whose husband Brendan died suddenly during the week.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** Because Education Sunday falls in half-term, we are marking it in WGC today. Children from Holy Family School will lead 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and children from Our Lady School will lead 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's Church. We welcome children and their parents, staff and governors. May God bless all involved in education.

**SAINT BLAISE** The Blessing of St. Blaise will be given **before** Mass at 9.20am on Monday 3rd February. You are invited if you wish to come and have your throat blessed.

**THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE** Archbishop Nichols will be inviting to the Cathedral couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversaries. This year's Mass will be on Saturday 7th June at 3pm. Please give your details to Fr. Norbert (names of husband and wife, wedding date, full postal address and email/phone number) who will then pass on the names to the Archbishop's Office; in due course invitations will be sent out. In recent years many couples from Welwyn Garden City have gone to this Mass and had a wonderful, prayerful experience.

**LECH WALES** Campus West cinema will be showing a film called "Walesa. Man of Hope" about the founder of the "Solidarity Movement" and Polish president. The film will be a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the life of this famous union activist - a person who helped to break down communism and who had such a huge influence on the history of modern Europe. Andrzej Wajda, the film director, described "Walesa" as the biggest challenge of his career. The film will be shown at 8.45pm on Wednesday 5th February at 8.45pm. More info on <http://www.gardencitycinema.co.uk/>

**FUNDRAISER** Stand up comic (star of ITVs Splash!) Patrick Monahan is bringing his 'Cake Charmer' Tour to us in WGC on Saturday 22nd February. Fun, laughs and cakes guaranteed as Patrick helps to raise money for YMCA Space centres in Hatfield and WGC. Tickets for the gig at Gosling Sports Centre are £12 from <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/242784-> but hurry - tickets are going like....well, hot cakes really!

**CARDINAL NICHOLS** There will be a Mass of Welcome for Cardinal-designate Nichols on Friday 28th February at 5.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Parishioners are welcome. Come early to get a seat!

**THE HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP** will be holding a meeting this Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm in the Parish Room at Holy Family. Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee to discuss fundraising ideas for our new project Connect2Ethopia. We will also be holding a home-made CAKE SALE on Sunday 9th February after the 9.30am Mass. If you are able to bake a cake or buy something from the cake stall on that date it will be very greatly appreciated.

**DOG WALKING** If you would like to help an elderly parishioner by walking her dog then please phone Nora on 01707 321432.

**CONFIRMATION** Today (Sunday) our young people have a retreat afternoon (including Mass) at the Focolare Centre on Parkway at 3pm. Next Sunday morning they will be presented at Mass in our three churches. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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.

**CATHEDRAL MASS FOR THE SICK** in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at 2pm on Saturday 8th February. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside, and as in previous years, the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets.

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CHOIR 9.30am Sunday Mass** Our choir is made up of musicians and non-musicians alike and we are looking for new recruits. If you enjoy singing and would like to come and join us please just wander upstairs to the choir loft and make yourself known to one of the choir members. There is very little commitment involved. All we ask is that if you are at 9.30am Mass please come and join us upstairs. We have informal rehearsals once a term to learn new material or practise for specific celebrations in the form of 'Sing for your Supper' evenings at Sally's house where eating, drinking, singing, socialising and having a good time are the order of the evening. Children, Teenagers, Young adults, Parents with children and the more mature members of the congregation will be warmly welcomed. Please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394 if you would like to join us or come upstairs next Sunday and join our happy throng.

**400 CLUB** (full title -Tommy Mansfield 400 Club Draw) The 400 club is a small lottery run for the benefit of Our Lady's Church with prizes totalling £175 each month. A subscription of £1 secures a number and the prizes of £100, £50, and £25 are paid to the first three paid up numbers drawn. Subscriptions are usually collected during the last weekend of the month after the Masses with the draw on the Monday during the Bingo interval. A person may hold as many numbers as they wish and can pay as far in advance as they want. All monies raised are currently paid to Our Lady's heating fund. When fully subscribed, the 400 Club can raise more than £2500 each year for the church, but steadily falling membership has seen this decline to no more than £200. We are recruiting new members this weekend 1/2nd Feb, anyone over 18 can join. Please see the collectors at the back of church after Mass. Help us to bring the 400 Club back to a healthy condition and help the Church pay for the new heaters.

**ST. ALBANS CHAMBER CHOIR** Saturday 1st March at 7.30pm - 'Pole Stars', music from Polish composers - Gorecki, Szymanowski, Lukaszewski and Borkowski. Leaflets giving details are at the back of church.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S READERS ROTAS** Readers please collect your new rotas from the back of church.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S TUESDAY GROUP** This week we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord by making Christingles and having a short service. 3.45pm.

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH** The Role of Women in Different Faiths at The Jim McDonald Centre, Hatfield. Wednesday 12th February 7.30pm. See flyers at the back of church.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION** Holy Family Church children have their first session this Wednesday at 4.30pm in the parish Room.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** Thank you to all who came to clean the church and look after our grounds on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

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**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
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**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**  
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**www.stbonaventure.org.uk**

**Fr. Vincent 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
**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

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

**MASS TIMES**

03 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	SS Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Agatha
06 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Paul Miki and Companions
07 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	11.30am	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
	7pm	Our Lady's	
08 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

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



**CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:** If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463