

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes    Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien  
Seminararian: Samuel Ejerege    Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Nativity of the Lord 25th December, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 28th December and Epiphany of the Lord 4th January***

‘You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ This is the message from the angels to the shepherds. The angels sing; the shepherds respond and make their way to Bethlehem; Mary treasures these things in her heart. Christmas has come! At the heart of everything is Jesus Christ the Babe born in a stable who is truly God and truly one of us. Messages, singing, travelling and wonder are all parts of what we are immersed in at Christmas and these dimensions should take us to the Lord who is the Saviour of the World. He really does want us to find him - in the manger, at our celebration of Mass, in our homes, in our personal lives and in situations we might not have thought of. He is in those helping the poor, the marginalised, the sick and the lonely; he is in those who have tried to reach out to others to ensure they experience the joy of Christmas through hampers, gifts in shoe boxes, food banks and cards for prisoners of conscience. Let us keep looking for him! Let us support others in their search too! Let Jesus Christ be at the heart of all we do this Christmas.

With Fr. Gerard and Samuel, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. May God’s Love revealed in his Son fill your homes and bless your loved ones. Thank you for your cards, gifts and Christmas offerings which are much appreciated. So many people have worked extremely hard to ensure that everything is just right for Christmas: in the beauty of our churches, in the heavenliness of the Liturgy and in the buzz behind the scenes getting things ready, keeping our community vibrant, faith-filled and a beacon of Gospel joy. Thank you! I welcome visitors who have come to be with us. May your stay in the Garden City be wonderful. In no time we will see in the New Year and get used to writing 2015! May the New Year continue to open you up to Christ’s presence: his peace, joy and love. Thank you for all the support you give me as your Parish Priest. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert.***

**CARDINAL'S PASTORAL LETTER** The Cardinal has issued a Pastoral Letter on family life to be read on the feast of the Holy Family, copies of which will be made available in due course. He is seeking responses to a questionnaire from the Bishops' Conference. At the back of the church are copies of the questionnaire. However, a formatted version, more attractive in style with colour pictures, is also available on the websites of both the Bishops' Conference ([www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)) and Westminster Diocese ([www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk)). The Cardinal invites parishioners to send their responses to the questions to Mr Edmund Adamus our Director for Marriage and Family Life by Pentecost Sunday, 24th May at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN or on line to [edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk)

**PARISH FEASTS** Sunday 28th December is the feast of the Holy Family and Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate 9.30am Mass on that day. Thursday 1st January is the feast of Our Lady and Bishop John will celebrate the 10am Mass on that day. Happy Feasts!

**PRIEST'S REFERENCE** for Reception class. Fr. Norbert will be available to sign forms on Monday 12th January 5 - 7pm in Our Lady's Church. Please ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book a five-minute appointment. On the day please wait in the church and have your forms already filled in. Dates for Nursery forms will be advertised in due course.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** 18th - 25th January. The main service of the week will be at Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout at 4pm on Sunday 25th January. Bishop John Sherrington will give the address; it would be great if many of you could keep the date free and come.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** On Sunday 1st February, Holy Family School will lead the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and Our Lady School will lead the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's Church.

**DATES FOR 2015** Filipino Mass Saturday 22nd June at 6pm, African Mass Sunday 12th July at 11.30am, Polish/English Mass Saturday 17th October at 6pm. Special Needs Masses: Saturday 14th March at 6pm (with St. Patrick flavour afterwards), Saturday 9th May at 6pm, Saturday 10th October at 6pm and Saturday 28th November at 6pm (with Curry Night afterwards).

**PILGRIMAGE** Pax Travel is arranging for us a pilgrimage to Padua, Verona and Venice from Sunday 25th October to Friday 30th October 2015. Brochures should be available in the New Year.

**WALSINGHAM** We will have a day in Walsingham on Saturday 16th May and will join the National Deaf Pilgrimage as we did in 2014. More details to follow.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** on Saturday 7th February in Our Lady's Hall. All couples getting married in WGC or elsewhere in 2015 and 2016 are invited to this day which will start with coffee at 10.30am and end with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. It is important that couples make contact with Fr. Norbert soon so that the paperwork and all the necessary preparations can be made, especially if you are marrying outside of WGC.

**PAUL AND MARY BRANNAN** would like to thank the parishioners of the three WGC parishes for the kind messages that they received before moving down to Devon after over 22 years in WGC. While it is great being nearer to our family we will miss Fr Norbert and everyone and hope that parishioners will look us up if they are in the area!

**FROM CARDINAL NICHOLS:** “After three years’ effort across the parishes of the Diocese, our Growing in Faith campaign is coming to a close. I want very much indeed to express my thanks to you for the attention and support you have given to its three key themes: strengthening parish life; supporting priests, in formation and old age; and Caritas, our work with the poor. I thank you for your prayers, the work done by the volunteers and I thank all who have made financial contributions. In total, with gifts and pledges, a sum of £37 million has been given. This great achievement will do so much to enable us to meet our needs and look forward confidently. This is a marvellous measure of your great generosity and love for the Lord and His Church. Thank you so much.”

**CARDINAL’S MASS** of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

**CONFIRMATION** preparation begins on Sunday 18th January. Please let Fr. Norbert know as soon as possible if you missed out on the enrolment meeting.

**FIRST COMMUNION** Preparation for parents and their children at Holy Family Church and Our Lady’s Church begins in January. Again, if you missed out on the enrolment meetings, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**THANK YOU** The SVP would like to express our thanks for your generosity to this year’s collection which amounted to £1211.42. SVP members please note: the next meeting is on Thursday 8th January.

**SVP REQUEST** A single mother with a one year old daughter needs toys and books for her. No soft toys please. If you can help contact Janet on 326456. Thank you.

**ST. BONAVENTURE’S CHILDREN’S TUESDAY GROUP** We have a break now and meet again on Tuesday 13th January at 3.45pm. All children are welcome. Thank you to all our parish children for the wonderful Carol Service and Nativity Play.

**FREE LEGAL ADVICE** Problems at work, someone taking you to court, etc. Pop in for some free legal advice during the Peartree councillors surgery on Saturday 3rd January at Woodhall Community Centre 10am - 10.45am. See poster at back of church.

**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.

OR Experienced domestic assistant (Romania&Italy) very good with cleaning houses, ironing or cooking. If you need her services call Cecilia on 07776771112 or text or send an e-mail to irinaursu2014@yahoo.co.uk.

**CONTACT:**

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
**Fr. Gerard 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**

## MASS TIMES

**26 Friday** 10am **St. Bonaventure Altar Servers Mass St. Stephen**  
**27 Saturday** 10am St. Bonaventure St. John

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

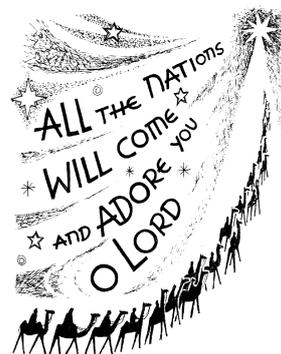
**27 Saturday** 6pm Our Lady's  
**28 Sunday** 8am St. Bonaventure  
 9.30am Holy Family  
 10.30am St. Bonaventure  
 11.30am Our Lady's  
*No evening Mass at Holy Family*



**29 Monday** 10am Our Lady's St. Thomas Becket  
**30 Tuesday** 10am St. Bonaventure  
*No evening Mass at Our Lady's*  
**31 Wednesday** 10am Holy Family

**01 Thursday** 10am **Our Lady's** **Mary, Mother of God**

**02 Friday** 10am St. Bonaventure  
*No evening Mass at Our Lady's*  
**03 Saturday** 10am St. Bonaventure



**03 Saturday** 6pm Our Lady's  
**04 Sunday** 8am St. Bonaventure  
 9.30am Holy Family  
 10.30am St. Bonaventure  
 11.30am Our Lady's  
 6pm Holy Family

**05 Monday** 9.30am Our Lady's  
**06 Tuesday** 9.30am St. Bonaventure  
 7pm Our Lady's  
**07 Wednesday** 9.30am Holy Family  
**08 Thursday** 9.30am Holy Family  
**09 Friday** 9.30am St. Bonaventure  
 7pm Our Lady's  
**10 Saturday** 10am St. Bonaventure

**Next newsletter will be out for the weekend of 11th January**

**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