

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

***Second Sunday of Advent 6th December 2015 (p.84 of Mass book)***

John the Baptist appears! His life and ministry are so significant that St. Luke tells us the names of political and religious leaders at that time. St. Luke quotes from the prophecy of Isaiah and alerts us to the fact that John is the 'voice crying in the wilderness'. John's role is to PREPARE us for the coming of Christ; John challenges the people of his time and does the same for us in our day! He is determined that we should change to such a degree that we can let Christ into our lives and not miss him when he comes.

This Advent includes the start of the Year of Mercy on Tuesday. It is a privileged moment for us in Welwyn Garden City as one of our churches will have 'Doors of Mercy' to remind all who enter through them of the call to experience the Mercy of God revealed in Jesus and, in turn, to offer the selfsame loving Mercy to those we encounter. Pope Francis keeps saying that Jesus is the Face of the Father's Mercy! So to see the Lord means to encounter the One who sent him. As Christians our faces should radiate Jesus' loving Mercy which springs from our bond with him in Baptism, empowered by the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, nourished in Holy Communion. As we go out through the doors of the church, others should see in our faces the Face of Christ!

I would ask you, if you are able in this busy period, to come to Our Lady's Church on Tuesday evening at 7pm to join with me in entering the Doors of Mercy as we solemnly begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will start by candlelight outside and enter in procession. We will celebrate the Mass of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, honouring Mary who was conceived without Original Sin and is Mother of Mercy. There will be time afterwards in the hall to gather and celebrate.

Pope Francis also asks each one of us to avail of the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that is go to Confession. There are the scheduled times in each of our churches but the Advent Service of Reconciliation at 8pm on Tuesday 15th December in Our Lady's gives us a chance as a community to be together and reflect on God's Word before celebrating individual Confessions. There will be four extra priests to help that evening! Why not see it as part of your Christmas preparation? Parents bring your children! Mercy must then flow out to our relationships with others, to meeting the needs of those less well off than ourselves and trying to heal the pain and hurt of the past and present. It is never easy and much courage is crucial but God is wonderful and let us trust in his Mercy! God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

**ADVENT PRAYER** There will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Advent: on Monday after Our Lady's 9.30am Mass, on Thursday after Holy Family's 9.30am Mass and on Friday after St. Bonaventure's 9.30am Mass. Come for some quiet prayer and reflection.

**SCHOOL FORMS** Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Reception Class entry. The dates are: Wednesday 9th 4 - 6pm and Tuesday 15th 3 - 5pm. Parents are asked to arrange a 5-minute appointment through Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 and to wait in Our Lady's Church at the arranged time. Parents should come with their child, bringing the Certificate of Catholicity (available from the schools) AND collect from the back of our churches or from Kathryn an extra form to be completed for Fr. Norbert. This is essential. There will not be a January session so parents are asked to sign up this side of Christmas. Thank you for your co-operation.

**EXTRA MASSES** at 8am in Our Lady's Chapel (near the Hall) on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th. All welcome.

**CAROL SERVICE** Commonswood School will be having its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Monday at 6pm. We welcome children, staff, governors and families.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016** Holy Family Church's parents will have their enrolment meeting today (Sunday 6th) after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January. **CONFIRMATION** The young people have a session this evening (Sunday) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

**EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS** in different languages (12 so far) in the lounge of Our Lady's hall on Saturday 12th December after 6pm Mass at 7.30pm. If you are interested in taking part, please let Fr. Norbert know. Mulled wine and refreshments.

**ST. ANDREW'S DAY** Thank you to all who helped with refreshments and to those who came.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT** in Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 15th December at 8pm.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND** Thanks to the generosity of Welwyn Garden City parishioners the Hamper bank balance is very healthy so we will not need to do a bucket collection this year to fund the hampers. Hamper packing will take place in the Holy Family Church Parish Room on Fri 18th Dec at 7pm and delivery the following day 19th Dec (hampers to be collected at 10am.) If you would like to help with the hampers or know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a hamper please contact Sally Kee 07870 402510, Caroline Sherar 07929 709901, Ann Power 07732 974780 or Joss Innocent Landers 07757 753426. Your response last year was amazing and we're hoping this year will be the same as the recipients were truly delighted.

**ART EXHIBITION** 24 Guessens Grove, an exhibition of Deborah Kennedy's work (some local subjects) 11/12/13th December from noon to 6pm.

**CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S** Next Sunday 13th December at 4pm. Please come along, there will be a Bring and Share tea afterwards.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** Twenty young people came to the meeting a few weeks ago. Brochures are at the back of the church. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?! Any questions - ask Fr. Norbert!

**GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS** Our cards are sent to prisoners in 17 countries around the world who are suffering torture and neglect. 24 joint cards will be sent from the three churches in WGC and there will be an opportunity for you to add your signature to several of them at the end of every Mass this weekend. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked us to pray for these people suffering inhumane conditions "that they may find healing peace and safety". (A small donation would help towards costs)

**INTER FAITH MATTERS ...** We celebrate Christmas in midwinter but most other faiths also hold celebrations at this time of year. At the Backhouse Room, 116 Handside Lane on Monday 7th December at 7.15 come and learn more and taste some of their festive refreshments. Also the Ladies will have their monthly sandwich and chat in the Parish Room at St. Francis' Church from 12.30 to 2pm on Tuesday 8th December.

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS Holy Family Church** cleaners would be very grateful if any mothers could spare them 1 to 2 hours on Tuesday 15th December to help clean the church ready for the Christmas celebrations. At this moment the four church cleaners (who have done this for many years) would welcome any help. Many thanks. **St. Bonaventure's** are having a cleaning morning on Tuesday 22nd December after 9.30am Mass, all welcome to come and help (refreshments will be provided to keep up the energy levels!)

**HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE MASS** The Giving Tree Mass this year will be on Sunday 13th December at 9.30am. During this Mass the children will be encouraged to think about children less fortunate than themselves. The idea is that every child who attends the Mass brings up a wrapped Christmas gift to be placed under a 'Giving Tree' during the offertory. (Please label your gifts either Boy/Girl and a suggested age range, under 5, 5-12 or teenager.) These gifts will then be given to children in need in the local area. Last year the response was fantastic so please try your hardest to give what you can.

**HCPT Christmas Fair** Thank you all who helped and attended. The fair raised £530. Guess the weight of the Christmas cake was won by Sylvie Nichols, it weighed 8lb 5oz.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** Many thanks to all who came on Saturday morning to clean the church and maintain the church grounds. Your help is much appreciated.

**HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS** If your child would like to take part in this Mass please write your child's name on the list at the back of the church - there will be one rehearsal after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 20th December. All children are invited to take part.

**THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** Christmas Celebrations. Wednesday 9th December 10am - EYFS Nativity Play, Thursday 10th December 10am KS1 Nativity Play. All these take place in the school. On Monday 14th December at 6pm - KS2 Christmas Carol Service in Holy Family Church. All parishioners welcome.

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
**Our Lady's**  
**141 Woodhall Lane**  
**AL7 3TP**  
**Website: www.ourlady's-parish.info**

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
**St. Bonaventure's**  
**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**  
**Website:**  
**www.stbonaventure.org.uk**

**Fr. Martin 01707 327434**  
**Holy Family Church**  
**194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**

**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**  
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson  
 01707 377442

17 cyclists riding, as part of a Westminster Justice & Peace group, reached Paris, on Friday 27th November, after setting off from Dieppe (more than 150 miles away) 25th. We attended a reception, for "faith" pilgrims, in the church of St Merry on the Friday evening and, then, on the Saturday, an Inter Faith service in the basilica of St Denis, following which we presented the Faith petition (of 1.7 million signatures), concerning Climate Change, to the UN Climate "chief", Christina Figueras, in the presence of President Holland's Climate chief (Monsieur Hublot) a Brazilian cardinal and Yeb Sano, the Filipino Climate activist. Many thanks to all of the parishioners who sponsored me, on the Cycle ride. **John Fogarty.**

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

**MASS TIMES**

07 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Ambrose
08 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Immaculate Conception
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	*8am*	Mass	Our Lady's chapel	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
10 Thursday	*8am*	Mass	Our Lady's chapel	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
11 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>				
12 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family	



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