

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*

First Sunday of Advent 27th November 2016 p. 82 of book

A new year in the Church's Life. A fresh entry into St. Matthew's Gospel. Our time of preparation for the Coming of Christ commences with the First Sunday of Advent. 2016 will afford us four full weeks of preparation as Christmas this year falls on a Sunday.

On the Fourth Sunday we will listen to the account of the Annunciation to St. Joseph, when the Angel tells him that Mary will give birth to a Son and that he will be called Emmanuel a name which means 'God-is-with-us' (1:23). Two-thirds of the way through the Gospel, Jesus says: 'Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them' (18:20). Finally, right at the end of this Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples: 'And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time' (28:20). What is very clear from these three passages is that St. Matthew wants us to have the conviction that in Jesus we encounter God's loving presence and to know that Jesus is intimately with us, empowering us as his disciples. From the Baby born in Bethlehem to the Crucified and Risen One, God is with us. And in the every day, such as today as we gather for Mass, he breaks into our lives. Keep this in mind as we journey through St. Matthew's Gospel almost every Sunday of the coming year.

The message of today's passage as we embark on the Season of Advent is to be alert and ready for 'when the Son of Man comes'. Jesus will return at the end of time. In the Catholic Church our Advent begins with a wake-up call to remember that one day Jesus will return and that there will be signs and indications that this is going to happen. No one knows the exact day or hour but he is on his way. Rather than instilling fear into us, Jesus' words invite us to trust in him even more so. And so we should!

Let each of us find time this Advent to be still in God's presence and contemplate the awesome Gift offered to us by the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that Jesus' Coming will enrich our lives and transform our world. God bless you.

Fr. Norbert

CLOSING OF JUBILEE YEAR On Friday 18th November a huge number of people from across the Deanery gathered in Our Lady's for Mass to mark the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Our thanks to all who prepared for the Mass and party, to those who took part in the Liturgy, to the Confirmation young people, and to all of you who created such a warmth of welcome. Fr. Frank is still bubbling with the joy of his 80th! He wrote: 'The Garden City Parishes deserve congratulations for their commitment to Friday's closing service, Mass and party. And a great many people from other parts of the deanery contributed by their presence. Also, the participation and service of the young people shows that the Church is alive in this part of Hertfordshire. We priests must thank God for being there among us and for the example, encouragement and prayers the generous people of our parishes give us. I'd like to add that I enjoyed the party and the gifts, prayers of those who wished me well on having completed four score years.'

ST. ANDREW'S DAY on Wednesday 30th November will be marked by Mass at Holy Family at 9.30am and refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. All welcome.

MARIE SIMMONDS RIP Marie's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 29th November at 12 noon.

ARTHUR CAMPBELL RIP Arthur's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 14th December at 12.30pm.

PATRICIA LEE RIP Patricia's Funeral will be at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 13th December at 1pm.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION PRIEST'S REFERENCES Fr. Norbert will meet with parents who need a Certificate of Catholic Practice on the following days at Our Lady's Church: Friday 2nd December 3.30 - 6.00pm, Monday 5th December 3.30 - 6.00pm and Tuesday 13th December 3.30 - 6.00pm. Parents should contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to book an appointment time and to request a Baptismal Certificate if Baptism was in Welwyn Garden City. Over the next few weekends, Fr. Norbert will give out at the end of Mass the draft Certificates and an additional form for him to have your details. Parent/s should come with these completed forms AND their child and wait in the church. Please remember that the expectation of the Catholic Church is that families should be at Mass every week in order to receive the Certificate.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 3rd December at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a 'Curry Night' in the hall. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to bring a curry (or something less spicy!). There will also be a quiz and bingo.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you missed one of the enrolment meetings for Holy Family Church or Our Lady's Church please see Fr. Norbert.

CONFIRMATION The next session for our young people will be today (27th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church's Parish Room. After that Sunday 4th December at 7.15pm

RCIA Next meeting on Monday 28th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Welwyn New Cemetery today (Sunday 27th) at 2pm.

FIRST FRIDAY EARLY MASS at St. Bonaventure's this Friday (2nd) at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the hall. All welcome. Next Early Mass will be on Friday 6th January.

BAKE SALE £200 was raised by the Loreto students Bake Sale. Thank you for your support.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Christmas Fair, Friday 9th December from 3.30pm.

HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE MASS The Giving Tree Mass this year will be on Sunday 11th December at 9.30am. 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 include a suggested age range, e.g. under 5, 5 to 12 or teenager) These gifts will then be given to children in need in the local area. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE SINGING at 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's? If so please come along on a Sunday morning for a short practice before Mass at about 10.15am. You will be very welcome.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE is having a cake sale on 4th December at Our Lady's church at the 11.30 M

ass. Please support us with making cakes for us to sell and also, of course, buying our delicious efforts.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 18th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is on **Sunday 4th December** from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for the Elderly and Housebound There will be a bucket collection to raise money for our Christmas Hampers for the elderly and housebound this Sunday 27th November. Hamper packing will take place in the Holy Family Church Parish Room on Fri 16th Dec at 7pm and delivery the following day 17th Dec (hampers to be collected at 10am.) If you would like to help with the hampers by packing or delivering please contact Sally Kee 07870 402510, Caroline Sherar 07929 709901, Ann Power 07732 974780 or Joss Innocent Landers 07757 753426.

THE MID - HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH of the Wives Fellowship has organised a Christmas Carol Service, 6th December at St Bonaventure's Church at 10.30am. You are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL ADVENT MASSES Holy Family School on Friday 2nd December at 9.15am and Our Lady School on Wednesday 7th December at 9.15am. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS will be sung in the Howard Centre on Saturday 10th December 3 - 4 pm. Come and lend your voice to create a heavenly sound for the shoppers! An extra this year: The Howard Centre has agreed to let us use the former 'Anna Fashion shop' on the same day to do a 'Get in the Picture' project. This will involve setting up a life-size nativity scene and inviting shoppers to come and dress up and be part of the scene and we'll take a photo. We'll be doing this from 10am - 4pm. If you'd like to help with this extra outreach, contact Reverend Simon Cragg on simon@christchurchwgc.org.uk

COUNCIL CAROL SERVICE will take place in Howardsgate outdoors on Thursday 22nd December at 6.30pm. It will be hosted by the Churches in Welwyn Garden City and the address will be given by Reverend Rob Marshall from St. John's, Digswell. Why not put the date in your diaries? And come well-wrapped up!

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES Commonswood School in Our Lady's Church on Monday 12th December at 6pm. Our Lady School in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 14th December at 6.30pm. Holy Family School in Holy Family Church on Tuesday 20th December at 6pm.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE for our three churches will be on Tuesday 13th December at 8pm in Our Lady's.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL met last Tuesday. Minutes will be available soon. One suggestion was to invite representatives from all the groups in our three parishes to the summer meeting so that there could be a sharing of what is happening in our three churches and an opportunity to rejoice in all which is being realised through so much goodwill and hard work. What do you think?

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Holy Family - Thursday 8th December at 7pm.

OUR LADY'S OUTDOOR CRIB: A big thank you to all who came on Saturday morning to build the Outdoor Crib. It is a powerful, visible witness to the true meaning of Christmas for everyone in our local community as they pass the church.

OUR LADY'S: The monthly cleaning of Our Lady's Church and maintenance of the grounds will take place next Saturday 3rd December at **10am** for ONE hour. There will be refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to come along. Can you help?

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CLEANING - this Thursday at 10am.

SHOEBOXES Last Monday the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes were collected, 170 in total. Thank you for your generous support - there will be many very happy children this Christmas.

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welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 38 have already paid deposits for the Holy Land Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017. (50 places in all!) Brochures and booking forms are at the back of our churches.

FATIMA 2017 Next year will be the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima in Portugal. Pax Travel is offering us 25 places from Sunday 10th until Thursday 14th September at a cost of roughly £689. Brochures now at the back of our churches.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 4th February in Our Lady's Hall. Couples who wish to get married here in WGC or in another place in 2017/18 are invited to come. Keep the date free. After the summer, please contact Fr. Norbert so that all the necessary paperwork can be arranged.

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

MASS TIMES

28 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Advent feria
29 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	12noon	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
30 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Andrew
01 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
02 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Francis Xavier

Second Sunday of Advent

03 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
04 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



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: [01438 285138](tel:01438285138) (24/7)**
Urgent need: [01438 314 333](tel:01438314333) via text message: [07876 526935](tel:07876526935) email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net