

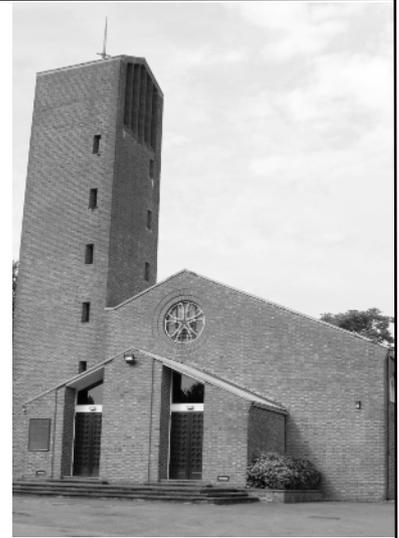
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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 4th December 2016 p. 85 of book

John the Baptist has arrived! Every year in Advent we have two Sundays which include the presence and ministry of this mysterious figure. This Second Sunday of Advent, John is to be found in the desert - a wild and desolate place. People flock to him to hear his message, to be baptised and to encounter God's grace.

John calls out: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand!' Repentance is a change of heart, a refocussing of our lives and perspectives, putting God first and keeping him in our sight. There seem to be so many people making their way to the Baptist and St. Matthew tells us that they are ready to confess their sins and want to be baptised. It all seems very Lenten, don't you think?! Indeed there have been periods in the Church's history when Advent has had a very austere and penitential feel. Now the Church invites us to be joyful and filled with anticipation at the Coming of the Lord. Don't forget though that it is the Second Coming we still await as well as celebrating what happened at the Nativity! For this reason, John's voice is crucial at this time: whatever gets in the way of the Lord's Coming we must work at to eradicate; even though we know he has come already and put our trust in him, we cannot leave it at that; a constant renewal of our lives enriches us and keeps us vigilant.

Secondly, the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. This kingdom comes in Jesus. When we encounter him and grow in love of him, we are welcoming the kingdom into our lives, and experience and share the joy and grace of God's Reign. What do you regard as the 'values' of this kingdom? Think about the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5). Open yourself up to the power of the parables of the Talents (where we discover that so much has been entrusted to us and must be used) and the Last Judgement (where Jesus says he is to be found in the person in need) - both in Matthew's 25th Chapter.

So as we begin this second week in Advent, let us find our 'deserts'. Let us pray and reflect on renewal in our lives, especially through repentance. And let us allow God's kingdom to come in us through Jesus his Beloved Son. God bless you.

Fr. Norbert

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

AN INVITATION FROM HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Dear Parishioners, our key stage 1 children will be presenting an additional Nativity performance this year on Thursday 8th December at 1:30 in our school hall for parishioners followed by mince pies and tea. We do hope that you will be able to join us on this special day. If you are unable to attend may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a lovely Christmas on behalf of our children, staff and Governors. God Bless, Ms Stevens (headteacher).

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

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

MICHAEL BARRETT R.I.P. Michael's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 15th December at 10.30am.

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: 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.

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 (4th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church's Parish Room. Next Sunday the young people will be presented at Masses in our three churches.

RCIA Next meeting on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

FIRST FRIDAY EARLY MASS at St. Bonaventure's. Next Early Mass will be on Friday 6th January.

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.

INTER FAITH MATTERS With Christmas approaching the next evening meeting open to all faith communities will be on the subject of 'Symbols of Light in Religion' on Tuesday 13 December at 7.15pm at the Jim McDonald Centre in Hatfield. There will be a short presentation on the significance of the Paschal candle.

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 **today Sunday 4th December** from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

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 MASS 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 organised by the Churches in WGC. Come and lend your voice to create a heavenly sound for the shoppers! An extra this year: The Howard Centre has agreed to let the Churches 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 who does Thought for the Day on Radio 4. Why not put the date in your diaries? And come well-wrapped up!

ST. ANDREW'S DAY Our thanks to all who came and for the refreshments too.

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.

THE CAFOD group will meet in the parish room at Holy Family on Tuesday 6th Dec at 2.30pm.

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

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

ST. BONAVENTURE'S Thank you to all who came and cleaned on Thursday. Our Christmas cleaning session will be on Thursday 22nd December at 10am. All welcome to come and help.

HCPT NEWS A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the Christmas Fair on Saturday. We raised £583 helping to pay for group 183 pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We will be having a quiz night on Friday 9th December £5 per person at Our Lady's Church hall starting at 7:45, tables of up to 8 people. All money raised will go toward funding a child's place on next year's trip. To book your table please contact Barbara Moore on 07789 743703

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 18th December. All children are invited to take part.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
 Our Lady's Church
 141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

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

Fr. Martin 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

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 £689. 13 places have already been booked!

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

05 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Advent feria
06 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Nicholas
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Ambrose
08 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Immaculate Conception
09 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

Third Sunday of Advent

10 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
11 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 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net