

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

First Sunday of Advent 1st December page 82 of the Mass Book

A new month, the beginning of the Church's Year, the launch of The Year of the Word - The God who speaks. It's all happening! As we enter the Season of Advent, the Church invites us - as always - to reflect on God's Word; the emphases this year will be on celebrating, living and sharing God's Word, themes to reflect on and put into practice. We are now embarking on St. Matthew's Gospel and it will be our companion on most Sundays until next Advent.

St. Matthew loves to quote the Hebrew Scriptures! He has a great appreciation of the fact that Jesus is Emmanuel - God-with-us evidenced at the Annunciation to Joseph. When Jesus says: 'Where or three gather in my name I am in their midst' he reminds us of his intimate presence. Finally at the end of the Gospel, Jesus' parting words 'I am with you always, yes to the end of time' highlight his ongoing closeness to us. Matthew presents Jesus as a Mosaic figure giving great tracts of teaching. His community probably experienced huge challenges when they left the synagogues and this must have made him determined to remember Jesus' strong words about the scribes and Pharisees. St. Matthew wants us to ask the question: 'Who is this?' as we ponder the identity of Jesus Christ.

Today's passage comes just before Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. The Lord states clearly that he will return and that we must be alert to that coming because we do not know exactly when it will happen. How can you do this? Who are the people who can support you in this endeavour and the places which can illuminate this search? What makes it hard? How do we hold in tension the getting ready for the Lord's Second Coming as well as preparing to celebrate his First Coming at his Nativity? Is your life filled with hustle and bustle or can you snatch moments of peace, tranquillity and joy? Is your heart open to the person in need at home or abroad or are you weighed down with personal worry and uncertainty? So much to think about...very little time!

May God be with each one of us and bless us with special grace this Advent.

May our world be enriched by this season. **Fr. Norbert**

ADVENT During the Season of Advent which begins next weekend there will be times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in each of our churches: Mondays at Our Lady's, Thursdays at Holy Family and Fridays at St. Bonaventure's all 10.00 - 10.30am. The Service of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday 17th December at 8pm in Our Lady's.

ADVENT SCHOOL MASSES Our Lady School will have Mass on Monday 2nd at 2.15pm and Holy Family School on Tuesday 3rd at 2.15pm. Each Mass will be in the particular school.

CAROL SERVICES Our Lady School in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 18th December at 6pm. Holy Family School in Holy Family Church on Thursday 19th December at 6pm. Commonswood Primary School in Our Lady's Church on Monday 16th December at 6pm.

CAROL SINGING The Christian Churches of the town will be singing carols for shoppers in Howardsgate on Saturday 7th December 12 noon - 1pm. Also at the Woodhall shops Saturday 21st December 11.00 - 11.30am and 3.00 - 3.30pm. Come and add your voices if you are free!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASSES The practice for Holy Family Church's Children's Christmas Mass (6.30pm Christmas Eve) will be on Sunday 22nd December after 9.30 Mass. The practice for Our Lady's Children's Mass (5pm Christmas Eve) will be on Monday 23rd December at 11am. St. Bonaventure's (6pm Christmas Eve) Tuesday 17th December after Crib Service. All children welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY will be celebrated on Monday 9th December (Mass in Our Lady's at 9.30am). It is not a Holy Day of Obligation in this country.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT Holy Family today (Sunday 1st) after 9.30am Mass. Children for First Communion should be at least in Year 3 at Primary School. Any parents who missed Our Lady's meeting should speak to Fr. Norbert.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? Or are you an adult who missed out on Confirmation when younger? There is still time to join. Why not come along on Monday at 7.30pm to Our Lady's sacristy?

CONFIRMATION This weekend the young people who have started preparing for Confirmation next May will be presented at Mass. Please keep them and their catechists in your prayers. Next Sunday the young people will be making up Christmas gift bags for residents at the YMCA. They will meet in Holy Family Church at 7.15pm.

BIBLE STUDY IN 2020 Have you ever wanted to learn more about the bible, but don't know where to start? To mark the Church's 'Year of the Word' we will be running the 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' study programme, which presents the 'big picture' of the Bible from Adam and Eve to Jesus and the Church. It will run on at Holy Family on eight alternate Thursday evenings from 23rd January. Fr Tony writes: "I'm delighted that 16 people have signed up for this programme already. As places are limited, please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in coming. All welcome!"

PARISH ARTWORK CALENDARS and CHRISTMAS CARDS Luke will sell calendars for £5 each for CAFOD and also Christmas cards to go along with his calendars. £2.50 for 5 cards.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for the ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND Hamper packing will take place in the Holy Family Church Parish Room on Fri 20th Dec at 7.00pm and delivery the following day 21st Dec (hampers to be collected at 10.00am.) If you would like to help with the hampers in any way by packing or delivering (or if you 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 in previous years has been amazing and we're hoping this year will be the same as the recipients are always truly delighted to receive their hamper but also to know that we as a parish are thinking of them at this sometimes lonely time of year is the best gift of all.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE will be on Saturday 7th December 11am - 2pm. The Parents and Friends' Association would like to forge links with the parish. If anyone can help in some way on the day, please ring Michelle Ottaway on 07852 302202.

HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE MASS The Giving Tree Mass this year will be on Sunday 8th 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. (Gifts to be labelled Boy/Girl and age. These gifts will then be given to children in need in the local area. Thank you.

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS There is a list the back of the church for children to sign up to if they want to take part. There will be one rehearsal on Sunday 22nd December after the 9.30am Mass after which costumes will be handed out.

PRIEST'S REFERENCES Parents seeking a Certificate of Catholic Practice for their child's entry to Reception Class or Nursery are invited to sign up for an appointment with Fr. Norbert in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 4th December 4 - 6pm or Monday 9th December 3.30 - 5.30pm. Please ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 or email parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk to book a 5-minute appointment. Parents are asked to fill out a yellow 'Extra Form' available at the back of the churches, to bring their child and wait in the church to be called. Thank you.

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Admissions September 2020 We welcome applications to our School Reception class starting September 2020. This process is for children who were born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. The application process opened on Tuesday 5th November 2019. All application forms need to be completed and returned to the school office by 15th January 2020. All forms can be found on our website <https://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/admissions/> You must also apply online at Hertfordshire Admissions www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Tours of the school with the head teacher for prospective parents take place on Tuesday and Thursday from 10am, please contact the office to book a place.

MARRIAGE Any couples who wish to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 28th March. Couples marrying in 2020 or 2021 are invited.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 13th December at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S Rehearsals are as follows: Today 1st December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Tuesday 3rd 3.45-5pm, Sunday 8th 2.30pm - 4pm, Tuesday 10th 3.45pm - 5pm and finally the dress rehearsal on Saturday 14th from 3pm- 4pm. Hope to see you there.

CHURCH CLEANING THIS WEEK St. Bonaventure's 10am Thursday, Our Lady's 10am Saturday. All welcome. Refreshments after the hard work.

NURSE NEEDED HCPT group 183 are in need of a nurse to travel with the group at Easter. So if you fancy a trip to Lourdes helping to look after disabled and disadvantaged children for a week please contact Emma Moore on 07740858313 or email group183@hcpt.org.uk, you will have a truly amazing time.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS Friday 13th Dec 6.30-8.30pm at the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, WGC AL8 6JG. An evening of carols for all, everyone welcome! Calling all children! Join with us to sing and celebrate the coming of Jesus! If you have a torch bring it for singing in The Cloisters. Light refreshments will be served after the Carols, all contributions of savoury or sweet finger food most welcome.

SIGNED MASS Our thanks to Sarah Metcalfe of the Deaf Service for supporting our parish signers last Saturday. Roughly 2/3 of the congregation attempted to sign the hymns. It was so impressive! The celebration afterwards was a great success too. The aim is to have 3 or 4 signed Masses each year here in Welwyn Garden City. Dates will be advertised once chosen.

TRANSPORT TO MASS contact Martin Moore on 07768 650660 or Desi Russell on 01707 371399 who will endeavour to arrange a lift for you.

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

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

You can read the newsletter on the Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

INTERFAITH The inter faith group will be running a series of events marking Rites of Passage as seen by different faiths. The first of these will take place at Hatfield Fire Stration, AL10 9DA on Tuesday 10th December, 7.15 - 9.30 when the theme will be 'Birth'. All welcome

FINANCE COMMITTEE Holy Family's will meet on Wednesday 4th December at 7pm.

FIRST FRIDAY The next First Friday early Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am on 6th December followed by breakfast in the hall.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD group will meet on Tuesday 3rd December at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome.

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

MASS TIMES

02 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Advent feria
03 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	S. Bonaventure	St. Francis Xavier
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
04 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
05 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
06 Friday	6.30pm	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Nicholas
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
07 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Ambrose

Second Sunday of Advent

07 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
08 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 **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7)**
Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935.