

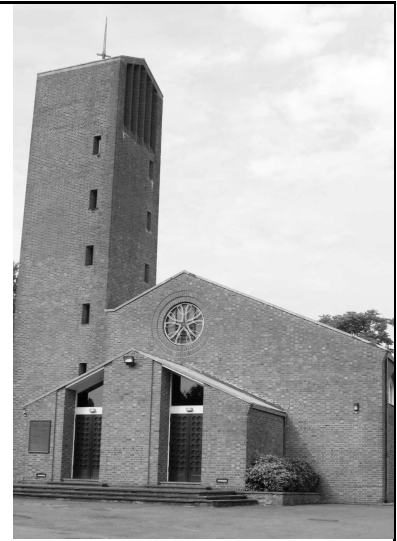
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Deacon: Jeffrey Downie Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Third Sunday of Advent 16th December 2012 (page 87)

***Statement by Archbishops Vincent Nichols and Peter Smith on the
government response to the same sex marriage consultation***

The meaning of marriage matters. It derives that meaning from its function as the foundation of the family. The union of one man and one woman for love and mutual support and open to procreation has over the centuries formed a stable unit we call the family. Marriage is the enduring public recognition of this commitment and has been rightly recognised as unique and worthy of legal protection.

The government has chosen to ignore the views of over 600,000 people who signed a petition calling for the current definition of marriage to stay, and we are told legislation to change the definition of marriage will now come to Parliament.

We strongly oppose such a Bill. Furthermore, the process by which this has happened can only be described as shambolic. There was no electoral mandate in any manifesto; no mention in the Queen's speech; no serious or thorough consultation through a Green or White paper, and a constant shifting of policy before even the Government response to the consultation was published today.

We urge everyone who cares about upholding the meaning of marriage in civil law to make their views known to their MPs clearly, calmly and forcefully, and without impugning the motives of others. We urge all parties to ensure their Members have a free vote. It is not too late to stop this Bill.

*This was sent to us on Friday afternoon from Archbishop's House,
Westminster. Our Archbishop, Vincent Nichols, wanted priority to be given to it.*

YEAR OF FAITH Today the Cross of San Damiano will go to Jacqueline and Tony Humphreys (26 Lower Green, Tewin AL6 0LA). They invite parishioners to join them in prayer on Tuesday 18th at 3pm.

Another Cross of San Damiano will go to Noreen Patterson (13 Raymond's Close, WGC AL7 4TH). She invites parishioners to join her in prayer on Wednesday 19th at 3pm.

With the Christmas holidays the Icon Crosses will resume their travels the weekend of 12th/13th January. Please let Fr. Norbert know if you would be willing to host one of the Crosses.

CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY at St. Bonaventure's this Sunday afternoon at 4pm, followed by a 'bring and share' tea.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE On Tuesday evening in Our Lady's Church there will be a Service of Reconciliation for our three parishes at 8 o'clock with a couple of visiting priests joining Fr. Michael and Fr. Norbert. There will be Scripture, reflection and then time to celebrate the Sacrament individually. This is a great gift we have in the Catholic Church giving each one of us the opportunity personally to make our peace with the Lord and each other especially as Christmas fast approaches. Why not come - and, parents, bring your children too!

CRIB SERVICE Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 18th December at 3.45pm. We place the figures in the crib, have a story and then decorate the Christmas tree. We will also have a short practice for those who will be at our Children's Christmas Mass (at 6pm on Christmas Eve).

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY Hertfordshire Migration Partnership is organising a "mini" conference on Tuesday 18th December between 10am - 12pm at the Focolare Centre.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Josephine Barcroft, a parishioner, will be trekking across Jordan in April 2013 to raise money for the Institute of Cancer Research. As part of her effort to raise money for this charity, she is holding a Christmas Raffle and tickets (£1) will be on sale at St. Bonaventure's after Masses this Sunday. The raffle will be drawn after the Carol Service.

LOURDES 2013 Brochures and booking forms are available at the back of our churches. Deposits and completed forms should be returned to Pax Travel.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL has its Carol Service in Holy Family Church on Monday at 6pm. All welcome.

WELL DONE to our schools for the beautiful, prayerful Nativities presented in the last week. Our children have reminded us through reading, song, acting, dance and their enthusiasm of the centrality of Jesus to our Christmas celebrations. Thanks to them and our staff!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARD Please take home a card giving details of our Christmas Services for the three parishes. Please note that there is a 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 30th December and on Sunday 6th January, these Masses were missed out of the card!

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be for Christmas and New Year, this will be available at our Christmas Masses (not next Sunday).

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for the elderly and housebound. There are crates at the back of church for your contributions to make Christmas a little happier for our elderly and housebound parishioners.

PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORMS In the New Year Fr. Norbert will publish an extra day for signing school Priest's Reference Forms.

RCIA Final session before Christmas this Monday at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU Holy Family at 6.30pm. Just a reminder to the children involved that there is a rehearsal for the tableau on December 16, and a dress rehearsal on December 23.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READERS (St. B's) We need more Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas Masses and one more reader for the Carols before Midnight Mass. Please fill in the list if you can minister.

SPRINGMEAD SCHOOL in Panshanger had its Christmas Carol Service in Our Lady's Church last Monday evening. 300 children plus staff, governors, parents and friends piled in. For many it might have been their first experience of being in a church - and they were awestruck!

CAROLS ON THE CAMPUS WEST ROUNDABOUT around the Christmas Tree on Thursday 20th 6.30-7.15pm. This is a joint service between Churches in WGC and Welwyn Hatfield Council (who are providing refreshments in the Campus West Theatre Foyer afterwards!) If it is cold – wear a warm coat and bring a torch! If it is wet – the service will be held in the Campus West Theatre foyer. Father Norbert is hosting.

ALTAR SERVERS Please sign your names on list in the sacristy of the church where you serve. Don't forget St. Stephen's Day (26th December) is YOUR Feast and all are invited to serve that day at Holy Family Church.

BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON will celebrate the St. Stephen's Day Mass for altar servers on Wednesday 26th December at 10am at Holy Family Church. Servers from our three parishes are invited to come by 9.45am with their albs and serve. Any parents willing to arrange refreshments afterwards should let Fr. Norbert know. The Bishop will celebrate 10am New Year's Day Mass at Our Lady's and 10.30am Epiphany Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

FULHAM VISIT to WGC will be on Saturday 11th May. More details next year!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION If anyone missed the recent enrolment meetings for First Holy Communion at Holy Family Church and Our Lady's Church or for Confirmation, please see Fr. Norbert. Preparation starts in January. Please note there will be an Engaged Couples' Day on Saturday 2nd February; anyone wanting to attend should contact Fr. Norbert.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE Children's Vigil Masses 5pm Our Lady's, 6pm St. Bonaventure's, 6.30pm Holy Family.

Mass of the Nativity 9pm Our Lady's, 10pm Holy Family, 11pm St. Bonaventure's, all preceded by Carols.

CHRISTMAS DAY 9am St. Bonaventure, 10am Holy Family, 11am Our Lady's.

NEED CLEANERS TO HELP WITH YOUR HOUSEWORK? Contact Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231 Regular or weekly cleans/ one off/ fortnightly or monthly or ironing.

Contact Angela Edwards to do cleaning and ironing for anyone in Welwyn Garden City for £8-10 an hour. Phone her on 07879610109.

CONTACTS

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234 Jeffrey Downie
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP

Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE

Bookings should be made with
Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707
377442 or 07790 135458

peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Michael 01707 327434
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

MASS TIMES

17 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Advent feria
18 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
19 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
20 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
21 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
22 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
23 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	
24 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Advent feria

*Lord,
 Let me see your face,
 Know your heart and
 experience your love in my life.
 Strengthen in me
 the precious gift of faith.
 I believe Lord;
 Help my unbelief.
 Amen.*

<p>CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463</p>
