

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminararian: Samuel Ejerege Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Second Sunday of Advent 7th December (p.85 of Mass book)

Advent As this season of waiting and anticipation continues we reflect, with guidance from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, about God becoming man, God becoming flesh. The story of the stable can be over romanticised and seen as a very nice story. But something truly amazing happened in that stable all those years ago in Bethlehem. Through Jesus Christ, the invisible God becomes visible. He became human like us. This shows us how far God's love goes. He bears our whole burden. He walks every path with us. He is there in our abandonment, our sufferings, our fear of death. He is there when we can go no farther, to open up for us the door leading into life. In Jesus Christ, God reconciled the world to himself and saved mankind from the imprisonment of sin. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. In Jesus, God took on our mortal human flesh (incarnation) shared our earthly lives, our sufferings and our death and became one like us in all things but sin. In Jesus, God became one like us, *but did not cease to be God at the same time*. Let us continue to reflect and pray about that great event that happened in Bethlehem all those years ago. The message is true; life giving and the beginning of our salvation and the consequences of that night are as relevant to the world today as they were then.

Continued Advent blessings on you all. *Fr. Gerard.*



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2014 BUCKET COLLECTION This takes place after Mass today in our three churches. The money raised will go towards making up hampers for our elderly and housebound parishioners. We hope you will be able to give as generously as you can. Many helpers are needed to assemble and distribute the hampers so please find it in your heart to volunteer and make someone's day in the run up to Christmas. The hampers will be assembled in Holy Family Parish room on Fri 19th Dec at 7pm and distributed on Sat 20th Dec from 10am. If you know of anyone who you think would benefit from receiving a hamper or are able to help in any way please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, Jacqueline McCallum 01707 328460, Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172, Caroline Sherar 01707 327862 or Ann Power 01438 717132. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of Our Lady on Monday 8th December. This is not a Holy Day in our country. As well as 9.30am Mass there will be an extra Mass at 7pm at Our Lady's.

ADVENT On Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays in Advent there will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after morning Mass at 9.30 - a time of silent prayer and reflection in each of our churches. .

CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARDS are available at the back of church.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE before Christmas will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 8pm. This will provide each one of us with a time of reflection to take stock of our lives and prepare ourselves by celebrating God's forgiving love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of visiting priests to help Fr. Gerard and Fr. Norbert in hearing Confessions.

MARY MARTIN R.I.P. The Funeral Service for Mary Martin will be in St. Bonaventure's at 12.30pm on Wednesday 10th December.

RECEPTION CLASS PRIEST'S FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available to sign Priest's Reference Forms for children applying to Reception Class in our Catholic Schools on Wednesday 17th December 3 - 6pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents need to ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 5-minute appointment. Parent/s should come with a completed form and their child and wait in the church. Another date will be proposed for early January.

INTERFAITH MATTERS 'Decorations', Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm at the Backhouse Room, Handside Lane. Celebrating Seasonal Festivals with seasonal food samples.

KEYBOARD PLAYER required for Our Lady's music group. We play at least once a month at 11:30 mass on Sunday morning. Own keyboard preferred. Ability to read music preferred. Contact Ciaran Pugh on 07748 464640 for more details.

CHARITY CONCERT at 7.30pm next Saturday, 13th December, in Our Lady's Church, to raise money for the charity Dekamile, www.dekamile.co.uk, which helps a village in Togo and is run from Welwyn Garden City. Music by Beethoven, Gershwin-Heifetz, Ysaye, Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saens and all concert-goers will receive a glass of wine and a mince pie. Entry is free but there will be a collection, during the evening, for Dekamile.

CWL There will be social evening for CWL at 8pm on Tuesday in Our Lady's.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH many thanks to all who came and cleaned the church and maintained the grounds on Saturday 6th December. Your work is greatly appreciated by our community.

CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY at St. Bonaventure's next Sunday. Rehearsals are this afternoon 2.30pm - 4pm, Tuesday and Friday at 3.45pm and Saturday's dress rehearsal is at 3pm. The Nativity will be followed by a 'bring and share tea'. **ST. BONAVENTURE'S** lists for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas are at the back of the church. Please sign if you can minister.

CAROLS IN HOWARD CENTRE led by the Christian Churches of WGC this Sunday 7th December 3 - 4pm. Come and lend your voice! Coffee and mince pies in YMCA space afterwards.

COUNCIL CAROLS on Thursday 18th December at 6.30pm on the Campus Roundabout. All welcome.

CAROL SERVICES Holy Family School's KS2 Carol Service will be in Holy Family Church on Thursday 11th December at 6pm. Our Lady School's Carol Service will be in Our Lady's Church on Friday 12th December at 2pm. Springmead Primary School will be having their Carol Service in Our Lady's Church (for the third year) on Wednesday 10th December at 6pm, Commonswood Primary School will have their Carol Service for the first time in Our Lady's Church on Monday 15th December at 6pm.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS. All welcome. Carols and Christmas reflections followed by refreshments. 7pm - 9pm Sat 20 Dec in the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, WGC. Contributions of festive snacks to share appreciated.

MASS AT ST. ANDREW'S CARE HOME This Friday at 11am. Parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass in celebration of Christmas.

CRIB SERVICE Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 16th 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). We also have a Children's Mass on Sunday 21st December.

HOLY FAMILY Christmas Giving Tree Mass 2014 The Giving Tree Mass this year at Holy Family is on December 14. 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 the gifts appropriately - either 'boy' or 'girl' and an approximate age. The gifts will then be given to organisations which help children in need in our area. Last year the response was tremendous so please try your hardest even in these difficult times to give what you can to help.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S NATIVITY MASS The Children's Nativity Mass will take place on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday December 21 after the 9.30am Mass. Please sign your child/children up for parts - there is a board at the back of church - or speak to Joss. Children of any age are welcome. If your child is in Key Stage Two please also leave your e-mail address so we can e-mail you their reading part to practise. Thank you.

400 CLUB November Draw Results

1st £100 No.61 Mrs S. Rand. 2nd £50. No.210 Mrs Higgins. 3rd £25 No.11 Bharrat. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all members for their continued support. The subscriptions for the December draw are due the weekend 27/28 December and the draw will be made in the Parish Centre on Monday during the Bingo Interval.

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE There will be an opportunity to sign cards to be sent to Persecuted Christians, Human Rights Activists and their Support Groups in different parts of the world on 13th/14th December. This will be after the 10.30 Mass at St Bonaventure's and at the 6.00pm and 11.30am Masses at Our Lady's.

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS CLEANING This starts on Monday 15th December at 10am. Anyone who can help in any way is most welcome. Please speak to Linda Finn, Winifred Blackburn or Sandy Leys or just turn up. Thank you.

Fr. Norbert 01707 323234
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Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website: www.ourladys-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:
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Fr. Gerard 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
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

08 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Immaculate Conception
	7pm	Our Lady's	
09 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
10 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
	12.30pm	St. Bonaventure's	Funeral Service Mary Martin R.I.P.
11 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
12 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
13 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Lucy
	Third Sunday of Advent		
13 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's	
14 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Holy Family	



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