

# 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*

***Third Sunday of Advent 11th December 2016 p. 88 of book***

Just two weeks to go! 'Rejoice!' is the Church's message to us this Sunday as we gather for Mass. Rejoice because he is so close! Rejoice because he can't wait to come! Rejoice because we are going to be saved!

In our Gospel reading from St. Matthew, John the Baptist is in prison and hears about what Christ is doing. He wonders if Jesus really is the One to come. He sends his disciples to Jesus who in turn asks them to go back and tell John all that they hear and see: the Kingdom is breaking in in so many ways. The people John commissions to put the question to Jesus then become heralds of Good News for John. We do not hear about John's response but I can imagine that he draws hope and courage from the messengers and is then ready to meet his end as a martyr for the truth.

In our own time there are so many who are imprisoned whether actually in jail or suffering persecution. There are those who are tortured by illness, physical or mental who long for release and healing. There are people who are imprisoned by memories of the past and the pain of what they have done or what others have inflicted on them. We all know of someone who can find no answer to his or her problems and nothing we do is enough to help them. Salvation is God's gift and it can be experienced in the Person of Jesus Christ..

Do you have questions or concerns at this time? Do you think of yourself as a messenger? Is it really Good News, the Good News of Jesus Christ which you carry? What signs can you see of the Lord's presence in your own life? How is his still small voice speaking to you at the moment? Who are the people around you who this week will need to be encouraged and supported *by you* ? There is much to think about today with Christmas so close. God bless you and your loved ones! ***Fr. Norbert***

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE** for our three churches will be on Tuesday 13th December at 8pm in Our Lady's. In the midst of all the busy-ness, come for some silence and peace. Take time to reflect on your life and experience the healing power of God's grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation - a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas!

**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.

**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. The parents' meetings begin in January.

**CONFIRMATION** the young people will be presented at Masses in our three churches today (Sunday). Please pray for them as they take this important step. Let us also remember their sponsors and catechists as well as their families.

**RCIA** Next meeting on Monday 12th December at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**NURSERY AND RECEPTION PRIEST'S REFERENCES** Fr. Norbert will meet with parents who need a Certificate of Catholic Practice on 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 the Baptism was in Welwyn Garden City. 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.

**WOMEN OF VALOUR** is a Prayer Group made up of women who meet every Saturday at 4pm in Our Lady's Chapel (near the entrance to the Hall) to say the Rosary and to share the Word. They would like to invite you to join them and encourage you to bring your children along.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL PTA** are having a Christmas Raffle Bonanza. 1st Prize - 40 inch TV, 2nd Prize - 7inch Tablet 3rd Prize - Bottle of Champagne

Tickets are £1.00 each and will be sold this weekend after Mass at Our Lady's Church.. The raffle will be drawn at the Carol Concert on 14th December.

**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.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our thanks to everyone who helped with the Mass and the Curry Night which followed. It was a very enjoyable evening.

**\*PLEASE NOTE\*** There will be no Confessions or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Thursday.

**NATIVITY PLAY AND CAROL SERVICE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** next Sunday 18th December at 4pm. Rehearsals are this Sunday 2.30pm- 4pm, 3.45pm -5pm on Tuesday and Saturday is the dress rehearsal at 3pm.

There is also a Children's Mass next Sunday at St. Bonaventure's at 10.30am.

**ALTAR SERVERS** There are lists for you to sign up for the Christmas Masses. Don't forget your Patron Saint, St. Stephen whose Feast will be on Monday 26th December. Mass will be at Our Lady's at 10am.

**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!

**CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS** Saturday 17th December, 7-9pm. Come and celebrate the Christmas season singing carols in The Cloisters (off Parkway) followed by refreshments and more carols at the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, WGC AL8 6JG. Contributions of mince pies most welcome.

**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.

**GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE** Please write a simple greeting, blank card or postcard to the prisoner saying that you are thinking of him/her and not to lose hope. Prisoners' details will be at the back of the Church please feel free to take a leaflet. Due to the anti-christian attitude of prison authorities, no mention should be made of Christmas as this could endanger the prisoner (there are exceptions). More info, Anne Stapleton 01707 707063.

**CRIB SERVICE** Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 20th 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).

**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.

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS Holy Family Church** are having church cleaning on Thursday 15th December at 1pm. All welcome to help clean the church ready for the Christmas celebrations. Refreshments provided

**St. Bonaventure's** are having a cleaning morning on Thursday 22nd December at 10am, all welcome to come and help (refreshments will be provided to keep up the energy levels!)

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARDS** are at the back of church. Please take one.

**\*NEWSLETTER\*** There will be a newsletter next Sunday 18th December and then one available from Christmas Eve which will take us through to Sunday 15th January 2017.

Any items for the Christmas newsletter covering that period up to 15th January need to be sent in by the morning of Wednesday 21st December at the latest. Thank you.

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
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 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** (Sat 27th May - Sunday 4th June, 2017) and **FATIMA** (Sunday 10th - Thursday 14th September 2017) £689. We have run out of brochures for both pilgrimages, so best to contact Pax Travel for more details on 020 7485 3003 or [info@paxtravel.co.uk](mailto:info@paxtravel.co.uk)  
**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: No Confessions at Holy Family this week  
 St. Bonaventure: Saturday 10.30am - 11am  
 Our Lady's: Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

**MASS TIMES**

12 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Advent feria
13 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Lucy
	1pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
14 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John of the Cross
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
	10.30pm	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure	
16 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
17 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

<b>17 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>18 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	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 314333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: [chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net)**