

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## ***Second Sunday of Advent 10th December 2017 p. 85 of Mass book***

In the last few days we have heard the term ‘the end of the beginning’ in regard to *Brexit*! There have been negotiations, agreements, disagreements, fresh approaches, shuttle diplomacy and all that! What we do know is that we are not close to a settlement but that some light is shining out in the darkness. The journey will be a long one but an arrival date has been set.

I was thinking about this on Friday as I pondered today’s Gospel reading from St. Mark: ‘The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.’ Jesus Christ IS Good News. He came at a particular time and in a specific place. His words and actions intimate God’s presence in our midst, especially his Death and Resurrection. He will return in glory at the time appointed by God the Father. God, through the ministry of his prophets and his relationship with his Chosen People, prepared them for the Coming of his Son. John the Baptist, in particular, was given the task of being the final Voice summoning people to a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John’s activity by the River Jordan would point those gathered towards the One who would baptise with the Holy Spirit.

In Jesus something new has begun *and is still happening!* Each year in Advent we join the hordes waiting by the River Jordan and we prepare ourselves for Christ. What is it this year in our lives which requires the healing power of God’s reconciling love? What has gone wrong? Where is there confusion and darkness? What are the obstacles? We are told in the quote from Isaiah in the Gospel passage that we should make God’s paths straight - what might help? Extra prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, reaching out to people in need and less fortunate than ourselves, finding space just to ‘be’ and experience God. John the Baptist says that Jesus will baptise us with the Holy Spirit - what does that mean for you? Perhaps a strengthening of your bond with Christ or an extra effort to be more like him?

As we start this second week in Advent, let us pray for an opening to even more of God’s grace revealed in his Son Jesus. Who knows what will happen?! ***Fr. Norbert***

**ADVENT** There will be half an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Monday's 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's, Thursday's 9.30 Mass at Holy Family and Friday's 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's. In the midst of the busy-ness of this season, come for some peace and stillness before the Lord.

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** for our three churches on Tuesday 19th December at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. Come and share in the joy of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your Advent. There will be a time of reflection and priests available to hear Confessions.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Thank you to everyone who made last week's Mass and Get-together such a prayerful and enjoyable evening.

**CONFIRMATION** Our young people will be presented at some of the Masses this weekend. There are 50 of them! Please keep them in your prayers.

**SCHOOL REFERENCES** Parents who will need a Certificate of Catholicity for their child's entry to Reception Class or Nursery should make an appointment through Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579) to see Fr. Norbert for a 5-minute session at Our Lady's Church. There are at the back of our churches 'extra forms' for parents to fill out beforehand and bring with them. Please bring your child with you and wait in the church for your appointed time. The sessions are as follows: Tuesday 12th December 3.30 - 5pm and Friday 15th December 3.30 - 5pm.

**FR. FRANK LEONARD** has had his surgery and is now out of hospital. He is so grateful to the many parishioners who have prayed for him and is looking forward to being in action once he has completed his convalescence. Let's keep up the prayers!

**RCIA** Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 11th December.

**AVIGNON 2018** Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING** Thank you to all who came and cleaned last week.

**EILEEN FIRMINGER RIP** Eileen's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 12th December at 12 noon.

**MARY McKAY RIP** Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday 15th December at 12.30pm.

**ANGELA PICKSTOCK RIP** Angela's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 22nd December at 9.30am.

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

**\*NEWSLETTER\*** There will be a newsletter next Sunday 17th December and then one available from Christmas Eve which will take us through to Sunday 14th January 2018.

Any items for the Christmas newsletter covering that period up to 14th January need to be sent in by the morning of Wednesday 20th December at the VERY latest. Thank you.

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS Holy Family Church** are having church cleaning on Thursday 14th December at 1pm. All welcome to help clean the church ready for the Christmas celebrations. Refreshments provided. **St. Bonaventure's** are having a final clean on Thursday 21st December at 10am.

**ZUMBA** for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesday 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

**NATIVITY PLAY AND CAROL SERVICE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** next Sunday 17th December at 4pm. Rehearsals are this Sunday 2.30pm- 4pm, 3.45pm - 4.45pm 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.

**CRIB SERVICE** Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 19th 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).

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ** in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

**CAKE SALE** after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 17th December.

**T'AI CHI** for health and well-being. Relax your mind and body, improve strength, co-ordination and flexibility and get to know this ancient traditional form of self-defence and exercise. Instructor Dan Nichols has recently come back to England having trained with 19th generation Grand-master Chen Xiao Xing in China. Beginners and advanced students welcome. Classes 7-8pm every Tuesday at Woodhall Community Centre. Free introductory lesson.

**HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE MASS** The Giving Tree Mass this year will be on Sunday 17th 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. (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.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND** Our now traditional hamper packing will take place in the Holy Family Church Parish Room on Fri 22nd Dec at 7pm with delivery the following day, Sat 23rd Dec (hampers to be collected at 10am.) If you would like to help with the hampers by packing or delivering please contact Sally Kee 07870 402510, Ann Power 07732 974780 or Joss Innocent Landers 07757 753426. Your response last year was 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.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION** Bishop John Wilson, Chairman of the Diocesan Education Commission, has written the following: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' on your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools having 100% Catholic intake.

**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 Tuesday 26th December. Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's at 10am.

**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. Tom 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](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk)**

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** This will take place next year on Saturday 24th March (venue to be confirmed). Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

**CAROL SERVICES** Our Lady's School has its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Monday 18th December at 6.30pm. Holy Family School's Carol Service will be in Holy Family Church on Tuesday 19th December at 6pm. Commonswood Primary School will have its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Monday 11th December at 6pm.

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

**MASS TIMES**

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

**Third Sunday of Advent**

<b>16 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Mass	Our Lady's
<b>17 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 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: [chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net)**