

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

***Nativity of the Lord 25th December 2012***

***and Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 30th December 2012***

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

This year as we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, it comes in the midst of the Year of Faith. Pope Benedict has asked us to be strengthened in faith and to let others know what it means to believe. So, it is over to you and me - to us!

The shepherds hear glad tidings in the fields as they watch their flocks. As they carry out their normal business, angels break into their usual activities and make sure they do not miss out on what has taken place that very night. The shepherds have the privilege of hearing the heavenly hosts singing and praising God. What is crucial to the reading from St. Luke is that after the message has been given, the shepherds respond by going to see the Baby. Jesus is someone waiting to be found AND they find him! The sheer delight which fills their hearts leads Our Lady to treasure the words in her heart; she contemplates the Mystery of the Birth of God's Son, who is truly her Son too!

For each one of us gathered today, Jesus is waiting for us to find him and for us to give him a place in our lives. He wants to seal the bond between each individual and himself with the Holy Spirit and to bring us together to such a degree that our wider community might come to know him, love him, appreciate his presence and live out what this faith entails. That's when it starts to get tricky! All we know about the shepherds is that they go back to their fields full of joy after seeing the Christ Child. What difference do you think it has on them, on their work and on the relationships they have with others? As you encounter Jesus Christ today here at Mass and through the coming together of family, friends and community, how will your life be different? You might find yourself being a bearer of Good News to those around you!

May God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas. May 2013 be a wonderful and fruitful year in your life and for our community. ***Fr. Norbert.***

**NEWSLETTER** This week's Christmas newsletter will be for two weeks taking us up to the Epiphany on 6th January 2013.

**THANK YOU!** Fr. Michael, Jeffrey and Fr. Norbert would like to thank you for your generous Christmas offerings, gifts and cards. They want to express their appreciation to all who have worked so hard in the liturgy, behind the scenes and in 101 ways getting things ready, celebrating well and making sure the needy of our community are not left out. May God bless you all.

**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY** Wednesday 26th December is the feast of St. Stephen, patron of altar servers. This year Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass in Holy Family Church at 10am for the servers of our three parishes. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Parish Room. Servers please remember to collect your albs and cinctures after the Christmas Masses.

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY** The feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be celebrated on Sunday 30th December. There will be refreshments after Holy Family's 9.30am Mass.

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

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Bishop John will celebrate the 10am Mass in Our Lady's for the people of our three parishes.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** (5th/6th January) Masses will be at the usual times. Bishop John will celebrate the 10.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

**CAP DEBT CENTRE** Panshanger Church, with the support of the Churches in Welwyn Garden City, has taken the bold step of establishing a Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre for Welwyn Garden City. Our three parishes will make a contribution to the costs which will help people in complicated financial situations manage their income as they deal with debt. Rev. Mark Loney has written to offer his thanks and to ask prayer as the venture moves forward. In due course, offers of time and practical support will be sought. The date of the launch of the new centre will be announced in January.

**FULHAM VISIT to WGC** will be on Saturday 11th May. More details to follow!

**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.

**RCIA** Starts again on Monday 14th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**SCHOOL FORMS** Fr. Norbert will be available on Friday 11th January 3.30pm - 5.30pm in Our Lady's Church to sign Priest's Reference Forms for admission to Reception Class. Please contact Kathryn Hubbard to book an appointment and for a copy of your child's baptism certificate if needed. It is important that you fill out the forms before coming and bring your child with you. 15th January is the deadline.

**HCPT GROUP 183** desperately needs help on Saturday 29th December to help pack bags at Waitrose in WGC to raise money for HCPT. If you are free at all and can give up an hour in the day please contact Emma on 07740858313.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND QUIZ** Josephine Barcroft would like to thank all those who helped her to raise £162 for the Institute of Cancer research. She also received two private donations of £50 each! Many thanks for your generosity - you know who you are!

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We have a break now until Tuesday 15th January. Thank you to all the children for their hard work towards the Nativity Play and Carol Service.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS** There will be Mass in Holy Family school hall at 9.15am on Friday 11th January to mark the start of 2013. Everyone is very welcome.

**SAMUEL CLARK RIP** Samuel's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Friday 11th January at 10.30am. His body will be received into the church on Thursday 10th at 4.30pm. We offer our sympathy to his family and friends.

**YEAR OF FAITH** The San Damiano 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.

**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.

**TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB** Collection of subscriptions for Dec 2012 will be taken at Masses at Our Lady's over the weekend 5th/6th Jan 2013 with the draw being made on Mon 7th Jan. Numbers are available for new members!

**JUSTICE AND PEACE** On Saturday 23rd March 2013, the (diocesan) Justice & Peace Commission will be holding a Networking day for the whole of Hertfordshire in Our Lady's Parish Centre. As well as being an opportunity to meet and socialise with others from across the county, Bishop Sherrington will give a talk on Catholic Social Teaching and there may be other speakers. More details will follow and everyone is invited to this event.

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**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**  
**Website:**  
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**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**

Bookings should be made with Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790 135458  
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

**MASS TIMES**

<b>26 Wednesday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b>
27 Thursday	10am	Holy Family	St. John
28 Friday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Innocents
		<i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i>	
29 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Thomas Becket

**Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

<b>29 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>30 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady's
		<i>No evening Mass at Holy Family</i>



31 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	
<b>01 Tuesday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>
		<i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i>	
02 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	SS Basil and Gregory
03 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Holy Name of Jesus
04 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
		<i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i>	
05 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria

**Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

<b>05 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>06 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Family
	<b>10.30am</b>	St. Bonaventure
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady's
	<b>6pm</b>	Holy Family

