

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

## ***Baptism of the Lord 13th January 2013 (page 118)***

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. In the passage we hear from St. Luke's Gospel, the emphases are very much: after his Baptism, Jesus is at prayer; the Spirit comes down on him in bodily shape like a dove; the Father's voice is heard calling Jesus his Son, the Beloved, on whom his favour rests. What an amazing revelation - epiphany - to those who witness the event! What a profound moment for Jesus himself as his identity is affirmed!

Through his sharing in the life of humanity, Jesus experiences all that it is truly to be human, even temptation - though he did not sin. At his Baptism, he is in solidarity with humanity as he allows John to immerse him in water and he himself sanctifies the waters which will be poured out on individuals. The Spirit which fills his whole being is the driving force in his response to the Father and he willingly breathes this Spirit upon his disciples to strengthen them and enable them to renew the face of the earth. Christ wants us all to feel the anointing of the Holy Spirit, to hear his Father affirming us as his children and to be instruments of the growth of his Kingdom.

So what about YOU? Will you let Jesus come so close to you that his life is one with yours? Are you open to the forgiveness he brings? Will you allow his Spirit to be your driving force so that your words and actions resonate with his? Are you ready to renew the face of the earth, by using the gifts his Spirit bestows? Do you really think of yourself as the Father's beloved child? There is much to reflect on as we honour the Lord's Baptism, lots to pray about and so many to intercede for as this new year unfolds and the Year of Faith progresses.

May God bless you and your loved ones. May you be a blessing for others. ***Fr. Norbert***

**YEAR OF FAITH** The San Damiano Crosses of St. Francis will start their journeys again around our parishes. Just to remind you that we ask a household to 'host' a Cross for a week praying each day for the building up of faith in our area. On one day and at a convenient time (published in the newsletter), parishioners are invited to join the household in prayer. Those who have hosted the Crosses so far have found it a time of blessing for them. *Please consider a week which would be just right for you and let Fr. Norbert know.* This week the San Damiano Cross will be with John and Winifred Blackburn (48 London Road, Welwyn AL6 9JA) They invite parishioners to join them in prayer on Friday 18th January at 7pm.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION** for our young people begins today (13th) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family.

**YEAR OF FAITH GROUP** meets in Our Lady's Hall after 9.30am Mass this Monday, 14th January - all are welcome!

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

**FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS** from our three churches have their first meeting in Our Lady's Church this Wednesday at 7.30pm.

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

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We meet again on Tuesday at 3.45pm. All are welcome

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION (S.B's)** We meet this Saturday when we will learn about the gift of Friendship.

**CHILDREN'S MASS (S.B.s)** Sunday at 10.30am - 'Jesus is our Special Friend'.

**JUSTICE AND PEACE** Open Evening Wednesday 16th January 6-9pm. Soup, bread and cheese supper. Share ideas, meet Justice and Peace people across the diocese, get involved. St. John Vianny Parish Centre, West Green Road N15 3QH. John Fogarty is going so if you need a lift contact him: john.fogarty@ntlworld.com.

**FLOWER ARRANGING COURSE** beginning Monday 14th January 7pm-8.30pm in St. Bonaventure's hall. This course is being run by Connor Blackwell (a flower arranger at St. B's). This first session for the term is an open session to find out what is involved (no cost for this taster session). Further sessions will be on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome, just come along.

**NEWMAN SOCIETY TALK** on Thursday 17th January at Our Lady's given by Bishop Angaelos, head of the Coptic Church in the UK, which has its cathedral in Stevenage. The title of the talk is "Being a Christian in Egypt today". We are very fortunate to have at first hand an authority on what the reality is in Egypt. Everyone is welcome to arrive at 7.30pm that evening for a free glass of wine before the talk.

**THEATRE TICKETS** Peter Bell has two tickets that he is unable to use, for "Swinging at the Cotton Club" at the Hawthorne Theatre (Campus West) on 25th Jan at 7.30pm. If you can make use of them please phone Peter on 01707 325512.

**ARCHBISHOP NICHOLS** has had a hip replacement and is now convalescing which means he will be out of action for the next two months. He asks us to pray for him. May God grant him a speedy recovery.

**HOLY FAMILY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS** For the next 6 months all proceeds from the coffee mornings will go to the Welwyn and Hatfield Support Group for the national charity 'Dogs for the Disabled.' Information regarding the charity will be available on the coffee morning table a.s.a.p. This charity, along with Home Start whom we previously supported, is one of the Mayor's chosen charities. Thanking you all in advance for your continued support.

**MUSIC DAY** on Saturday 19th January in Our Lady's Hall and Church 10am-4pm. Run by RSCM and titles 'Songs to Sing in the Darkness and Music to Light up our Lives.' Instrumentalists and singers are invited to learn, sing and play with others from this area. It should be an excellent day. Bring a packed lunch. The costs for WGC parishioners attending will be covered by our parishes.

**AT HOME DECORATIVE ANTIQUES AND INTERIORS SALE** with a Floristry Display by The House of Flowers and Afternoon Tea to benefit Action Medical Research. This Sunday 13th January, 12-6pm at 15 Elmwood, AL8 6LD. Prices from £3. All inquiries to Jane email: [athomeantiques@btinternet.com](mailto:athomeantiques@btinternet.com) or 07847 314434.

**ZUMBA WITH LISA** I'm Lisa a local parishioner, I instruct Zumba classes every Thursday 6:30-7:30pm at Our Lady's Church Hall. Zumba is a Latin inspired, calorie burning, easy to follow, fun dance fitness class. Join me for your first class half price at only £2.50; you'll receive a loyalty card to work your way towards a free class. For further details please call 07896916514 or email: [dancewithlisa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dancewithlisa@hotmail.co.uk).

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** begins on Friday. The daily prayer services will be as follows:

Friday 18th 1pm at Quaker Meeting House, Handside Lane AL8 6SP

Saturday 19th 1pm at Digswell Village Church, Warren Way AL6 0DH

Monday 21st 8am Space, Church Road AL8 6PW

Tuesday 22nd 1pm Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons AL7 4RS

Wednesday 23rd 1pm St. Mary Magdalene, Hollybush Lane AL7 4JS

Thursday 24th 1pm St. Francis, Parkway AL8 6HH

Friday 25th 1pm Free Church, Church Road AL8 6PS

The Main Joint Service will be at Our Lady's, Woodhall Lane on Sunday 20th January at 3pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

Come to one or all! Your presence on Sunday to welcome other Christians would especially be appreciated.

## **FUNERALS**

Agnes Carolan's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 14th January at 12.30pm.

Anna Ratcliffe's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's Church on Monday 21st January at 11am. *We offer our prayers and sympathy to their families and friends.*

**TOMMY MANSFIELD 400 CLUB DRAW:** Winners for December 2012 are No. 312 A. O' Keefe £100, No. 085 R. Dicks £50 and No. 132 K. Hunter £25. Thank you for your support.

**THE WELWYN GARDENER** Garden in need of some New Year Cheer? Then call 07860861863 for all types of Garden Maintenance and a competitive, no obligation quote.

**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.ourlady-s-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**

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

**MASS TIMES**

14 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	feria
	12.30pm	Our Lady's	Funeral Mass
15 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
16 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
17 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	St. Anthony, Abbot
18 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
19 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	feria

**Second Sunday of the Year**

<b>19 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>20 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

*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.*

**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