

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Vincent Malone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Christ the King 24th November 2013 (page 167)

Today we complete our celebration of the Year of Faith. Someone said to me the other day: 'But isn't every year a Year of Faith?' Of course, that is true! However, we have been given the opportunity to strengthen the bonds we have with Jesus Christ and to focus on fresh ways of getting to know him better. We have been challenged into becoming better proclaimers of the Good News to others in words and actions.

The Cross of San Damiano spoke to St. Francis and was a catalyst in the renewing of the Church centuries ago. He began in a literal way by repairing the church building; the end product was a milestone in the history of the Church which still impacts on us today. St. Francis said: 'Preach the Gospel and use words if you have to!' As we think back over these months of prayer and reflection, who knows exactly what the fruits will be for us? The Spirit has come with vitality and vigour. Who knows how we will be used? We have used the Diocesan Prayer for the Year of Faith everyday at Mass, perhaps at home too. Allow it to be an instrument of prayer in the future. Or why not look out for another prayer which could help you in the days and weeks ahead?

Next weekend Advent will be with us as we begin a new Liturgical Year. We will leave behind St. Luke's Gospel and embark on many passages from St. Matthew. The final Lucan excerpt we have today shows the sheer loving mercy of Jesus in his conversation with the Good Thief as they die on their respective crosses. 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom' is answered with the hope-filled promise 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' Here we see someone filled with a new vision of Jesus and presented with the destiny of heaven; here we see the Gospel being proclaimed with ever greater intensity.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

YOUTH SUNDAY Today in England and Wales the Church asks us to celebrate the contribution of young people to our communities. May God bless them as they journey through life maturing in their faith and growing into adulthood.

RCIA No session this week. Next meeting on Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CONFIRMATION Registration for young people (at least in Year 9 at school) will take place in Holy Family Church today (Sunday 24th) at 7pm. The meeting is for young people of our three parishes and their parents. Dates for the preparation will be given at this meeting.

SAINT ANDREW'S DAY There will be refreshments after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Saturday 30th November to mark St. Andrew's Day.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 30th November at 6pm at Our Lady's for the First Sunday of Advent will have a St. Francis Xavier dimension. Any parishioners from India, Sri Lanka and the East are invited to share their culinary delights with our wider community at the reception! Please let Fr. Norbert know if you can help in any way.

ROSALIE BALLESTER RIP Rosalie's Funeral Mass will be on Friday 29th November at 12.30pm at Our Lady's. Her body will be received into the church on Thursday 28th at 4.30pm.

DEANERY EDUCATION MASS on Tuesday 26th November at 7pm in Our Lady's Church. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate the Mass. Pupils, parents, staff and governors of the Catholic Primary and Secondary schools of the Stevenage Deanery will be attending.

PAPAL CONSULTATION Remember that Pope Francis wants to hear your thoughts about the 'pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelisation'. See the website of the Catholic Church in England and Wales for background information. You can make an online response on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySynod2014>

CONCERT FOR CAFOD in Aid of the disaster in the Philippines. The Herts Constabulary Choir are giving a concert at Holy Family Church on Monday 25th November. Tickets are £5. 7.45pm for 8pm start.

GREETINGS CARDS It is a tradition each year for parishioners to send greetings to persecuted Christians, victims of torture and their support groups. Even though the card is a small token, it means a lot to the prisoners who receive them. You will have an opportunity to send a simple message and sign a joint card next weekend at all Masses. A small donation towards the cost of card and postage would be welcomed.

SVP The annual SVP collection will take place after each Mass over the weekend 7/8 December. You will find more information about the work of the SVP and its activities throughout the year in Welwyn Garden City inside this Newsletter. The SVP is extremely grateful for the contributions you make in helping it to help others in our parish. Thank you.

HOLY FAMILY ALTAR SERVERS Calling ALL Holy Family Servers – There will be a training morning after the 9.30 Mass on Sunday 1st December followed by lunch in the parish room. Training will include some new jobs we plan to introduce in the near future. Session will end at 1pm – please sign the sheet in the parish room to confirm your attendance.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS for the Housebound and Elderly 'Bucket Collection.'

We are asking every parishioner to contribute £1 (or more if you can spare it) to go towards the cost of providing hampers and a bit of 'Christmas Cheer' to the elderly and housebound of the parish this Christmas. There will be 'Bucket Collections' after each Mass this week and next week. Please give generously. If you would like to help assembling (Dec 20th 7pm H.F. Parish Room) or distributing (Dec 21st 10.00am) the hampers please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, Jacqueline McCallum 01707 328460, Joss Innocent Landers 396172, Caroline Sherar 327862 or Ann Power 01438 717132.

PLEASE SUPPORT KISS AND THE PASSAGE Frilly Scarves, Self Knit kits and Personalised Santa treat plates on sale after church today (St. Bonaventure's) in aid of The London Passage and 'Kiss' Uganda charity. Scarves are £4, £6 and £8, kits are £6.50. Santa plates with your child's name added £4.50 (ready for collection next week). Thank you. Please support 11 year old Aimee McCann who has worked hard knitting etc.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 15th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part. Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 1st December from 2.30pm - 4pm. Parts given out on this day.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Please come and support the Holy Family School Christmas Fayre, which is being held on Saturday December 7th, 12-3pm.

LECTIO DIVINA (praying the scriptures) during Advent - Lection Divina will resume during the season of Advent at The Holy Family Church hall. The prayer sessions are open to all parishioners from the three parishes. All sessions will take place on the Thursday prior to the Sunday Mass they relate to. The first session will be on Thursday 28th November. All sessions will start at 8pm and finish around 9.15pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will follow. Please join us for this unique opportunity for some peace and reflection during what can be a hectic time of the year for many. If you have any questions relating to the prayer sessions or on Lectio Divina itself please contact Spencer or Jenny White on spencer.white4@gmail.com / 01707 334896 / 07425137469.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH CRIB BUILDING - on Saturday 30th November commencing at 10am we will be erecting the life size outdoor crib. Our outdoor crib is an special Advent and Christmas landmark in the Woodhall Area, and many hands are needed. We need the help of strong young people to assist with this task. Refreshments will be provided.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY Conference on 11th December 10am - 1pm at the Focolare Centre

CAN YOU HELP? A single mum is in need of rugs to cover a bare floor. If you can help contact Janet on 01707 326456.

400 CLUB October Draw Results 1st £100 B. Moore No 329, 2nd £50 F. McKenzie No. 056, 3rd £25 J. Blank No.228. Our congratulations to the winners and our thanks to all the members who contribute to this Church Fund Raising Activity. The collection of subscriptions for November will take place this weekend 23/24 Nov with the Draw during the interval at the Bingo on Monday evening. There are numbers available for anyone wishing to join and have the opportunity of winning one of the monthly prizes.

LUNCH FOR A CAUSE in aid of Haiyan victims in the Philippines. Set meal for £5 per person. Sunday 1st December from 12noon - 1.45pm in Our Lady's Hall. Contact Rizza 07960083681, Joy 07749864287, Sylvia 07879855964 for information.

BINGO Thank you to the Monday Evening Bingo group who meet at Our Lady's Family Centre. Through their generous support another £300 has been contributed to the upkeep of the centre. Anyone wishing for a game of Bingo, just turn up at the Centre at about 8pm on a Monday.

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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

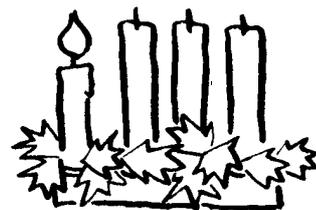
CONFESSIONS Holy Family:	Thursday 10am - 10.30am
St. Bonaventure:	Saturday 10.30 - 11am
Our Lady's:	Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

MASS TIMES

25 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	St. Catherine of Alexandria
26 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
27 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
28 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	feria
29 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	feria
	12.30pm	Our Lady's Funeral Mass	
	7pm	Our Lady's	
30 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. Andrew

First Sunday of Advent

30 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
01 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family



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
