

# 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*

## ***Second Sunday of Advent 8th December 2013 (page 85)***

Since late on Thursday evening we have heard so much about the life of the late Nelson Mandela. His words and deeds, photographs and film clips, memories of those who knew him personally as well as of those influenced by him; these have touched us in so many ways. One of the major aspects about him which has made an impact on me has been the quality, depth and breadth of the forgiveness/reconciliation which he spoke about and lived. Many of the reports have commented on how his time in prison prepared him for the office of President of South Africa and formed him into a great statesman. May he rest in peace.

In our Gospel passage from St. Matthew we encounter another heavyweight - John the Baptist. His words and actions prepared the people of his day for the coming of Christ. His role was vital as a prelude to the ministry of Jesus. We know what he wore and the delicacies he ate! We read about how he baptised and the challenges he offered the religious leaders of his day. We hear his words pointing to the One who would baptise with the Holy Spirit. John needed to have his own personal time of retreat in the desert. We do not know how he spent it! How do you think he prayed? What did he hear God saying to him? How must he have felt in being called to be the one preparing/pointing and yet having to take a back seat at the arrival of Jesus? What did he experience which points to the authenticity of his message?

In this Advent week, let us consider what we should do to be formed into true disciples of Jesus Christ. Is there a special place we can go to regularly to find God? Are there ways of praying which will inspire us? Are there people with whom we should spend some time because it is the right thing to do? Let us ask God to fashion us more and more into disciples ready to welcome the Lord. Let us pray that our words and actions will point to the Lord and will spring from a relationship deepened through our journey through Advent. God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**SVP** The annual SVP collection takes place this weekend after each Mass. The SVP would like to thank the parishioners of WGC for their generous donations which help in continuing the work they do throughout the year. God bless you. SVP Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church.

**ADVENT** On Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays in Advent there will be half an hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after morning Mass at 9.30 - a time of silent prayer and reflection in each of our churches.

**ADVENT REFLECTION** To help with our preparation for Christmas, Fr. Vincent will give a reflection on how we can follow Mary's example of saying 'yes' to God. It will take place on Wednesday 11th December at 8pm in Holy Family Parish room. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** With 8th December falling on a Sunday the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady has been transferred to Monday 9th. NB In this country it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

**SAINT ANDREW'S DAY** Our thanks to all who helped with refreshments after the St. Andrew's Day Mass.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Thank you to all who helped with the Special Needs Mass last Saturday with the St. Francis Xavier dimension. The food afterwards was delicious!

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE** Our Advent Service of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday 17th December at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. Come and celebrate the healing power of the Lord's forgiveness in a peaceful, reflective atmosphere. There will be a couple of visiting priests helping Fr. Vincent and Fr. Norbert with Confessions. A wonderful way to prepare for Christmas!

**HCPT CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW** Tickets will be on sale at the back of the churches on the weekend of 7th and 8th at all Masses for your chance to win £4000!

**CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS.** Everyone welcome! Friday 20th Dec at 7.30pm in Focolare Centre, 69, Parkway, WGC. Carols, Christmas reflection, refreshments. Contributions of mince pies or small savouries gratefully received!

**DEREK HYETT** Derek the seminarian from Allen Hall, who was with us a couple of years ago is going to be ordained a deacon at Our Lady of Grace and St. Edward Church, 247 High Road, Chiswick W4 4PU on Saturday 11th January, 2014 at 11.30am. He would love the people of our three parishes to join him and so has issued an invitation to the Mass and Reception! Please let Kathryn Hubbard know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. It is not the easiest of places to get to by public transport and so we will try and organise a minibus or coach depending on numbers.

**NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S** at St. Bonaventure's next Sunday. Rehearsals are this afternoon 2.30pm - 4pm, Tuesday and Friday at 3.45pm and Saturday's dress rehearsal is at 3pm. The Nativity will be followed by a 'bring and share tea'.

**NEXT SUNDAY** 10.30am is a Children's Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARD** Please take home a card giving details of our Christmas Services (and for the week after) for the three parishes.

**SCHOOL FORMS** Parents who need a Priest's Reference Form for Reception Class entry at one of our Catholic schools should arrange an appointment through Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579. Fr. Norbert will be available in Our Lady's Church on Monday 9th December 4 - 6pm and Wednesday 18th December 4 - 6pm. Parent/s are asked to come with their forms prepared, to bring their child and to wait in church. If your child was baptised at one of our WGC churches and you need a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate, please contact Kathryn Hubbard. For this Monday's appointments you need to phone by 12noon on Monday.

**CAROL SINGING** at the Howard Centre today (Sunday 8th) by the Christian Churches. Come and add your voice between 1 and 2pm!

**WELWYN HATFIELD CAROL SERVICE** at Campus West on Thursday 19th December at 6.30pm, led by the Christian Churches All welcome.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S** lists for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas are at the back of the church this weekend. Please sign if you can minister.

**THANK YOU** from the Philippine Herts Association for your support in attending the 'Lunch for a Cause' last Sunday at Our Lady's Church. £810 was raised in aid of Haiyan victims in the Philippines.

**CWL** Meets in Our Lady's hall on Tuesday at 8pm.

**OUR LADY'S CHURCH** Many thanks to all who gave their time on Saturday morning to clean our church and tidy our grounds. Your help is much appreciated.

**LECTIO DIVINA** (praying the scriptures) during Advent - Lection Divina continues this Thursday 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. Start at 8pm and finish around 9.15pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will follow.

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH** The Christmas Tableau is at the 6.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals for this will be on 15th and 22nd Dec. If your child would like to take part please sign up on the clipboard at the back of the church. Thank you.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL** has its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Friday at 2.15pm. All welcome.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** has its Carol Service at 6pm in Holy Family Church on Monday 16th December. All welcome.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Contact Angela Edwards who will do cleaning and ironing for anyone in Welwyn Garden City for £8-10 an hour. Phone her on 07879610109.

**RCIA** Meets again this Monday at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**CRIB SERVICE** Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 17th 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).

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
**Our Lady's**  
**141 Woodhall Lane**  
**AL7 3TP**  
**Website: www.ourladys-parish.info**

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
**St. Bonaventure's**  
**81 Parkway AL8 6JF**  
**Website:**  
**www.stbonaventure.org.uk**

**Fr. Vincent 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
**Holy Family Church**  
**194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**

**OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE**  
 Bookings should be made with Phil (Philomena) Johnson 01707 377442 or 07790 135458  
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

**MASS TIMES**

09 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Immaculate Conception
10 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
11 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
12 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
13 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	St. Lucy
	7pm	Our Lady's	
14 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	St. John of the Cross

**Third Sunday of Advent**

<b>14 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's
<b>15 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



<p><b>CHAPLAINS TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:</b> If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplains: Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle, on 07884187463</p>
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