

# 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*

## ***Third Sunday of Advent 15th December 2013 (page 88)***

Gaudete! Rejoice!’ This is the cry of the Church today as we light the third candle of the Advent Wreath and celebrate Mass. Only one more to go and then Christmas will be here! Perhaps we might reflect on the word ‘Rejoice’ ? What is it that makes you happy and rejoice at this time? Is it the coming together of loved ones? Are the memories of the past evoked in a wonderful way as Christmas approaches? Is it the singing of carols and the Christmas Nativities which touch your heart and soul? Have you completed all you set out to do and you are able to express a sigh of relief?! On the other hand, who are the people who find it very hard to rejoice at this time? As we look to countries far away, we see on our televisions scenes of hunger, disease, war and inequality. On our own doorstep there are those who are crippled with debt, struggling to make ends meet and doing there very best to bring happiness into the lives of their loved ones. Then we all know of people whose dear ones have died and for whom, their absence is still very painful. There are people who have been isolated from those closest to them and for them Christmas is flooded with the sadness of separation.

In our Gospel reading John the Baptist wants to know if Jesus is the one to come or if there will be someone else. The response from the Lord is quite clear: ‘...tell what you hear and see...’ There is so much good taking place! The Saviour of the World is at work! If we look carefully around us we will see the generosity of so many doing their best to relieve poverty, bring happiness to the distressed, make a practical difference to the lives of those less well off. God is good and works through the hands and hearts of a huge number. He is working through us! Let us pray that in these last days of Advent our words and actions, our aspirations and love may remind those around us - and those further away - that they are very special in God’s eyes and worthy of the Gift of Jesus! If you are going away, travel safely and have a blessed Christmas. To visitors, welcome to this Garden City and thank you for sharing Christmas with us.

God bless you all. ***Fr. Norbert***

**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.

**CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY** at St. Bonaventure's this Sunday afternoon at 4pm, followed by a 'bring and share' tea. Do come and support our children.

**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!

**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 (6pm on Christmas Eve).

**CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS CANCELLED** This year's event has been cancelled as the funeral of Manfred Kochinky, (a member of the Focolare Community in WGC) will be held on the 20th December.

**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.

**ALTAR SERVERS** are asked to sign up for the Christmas Masses on lists in each sacristy.

**BISHOP JOHN** has asked to celebrate 11pm Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Christmas Eve, 10am Mass at Holy Family on St. Stephen's Day and 10am Mass at Our Lady's on New Year's Day. We look forward to welcoming him to these celebrations.

**FUNERALS** We have a number of funerals this week. We offer our prayers and sympathy to all family and friends of the deceased.

The Funeral Mass for Maye Cooper is at 10am on Wednesday in St. Bonaventure's.

The Funeral Mass for Mary White is at 3pm on Wednesday in Holy Family.

The Funeral Mass for Maureen Botwright is at 11.30am on Thursday in St. Bonaventure's.

The Funeral Mass for Manfred Kochinky is at 10am on Friday in Our Lady's.

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

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

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** Margaret O'Neill, a former parishioner of Our Lady's phoned from Ireland this week to wish Fr. Norbert and all her friends at Our Lady's a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**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 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. Please phone before Wednesday morning.

**HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS CLEANING WEEK** Beginning at 10am on Tuesday 17th, come and spend a little time cleaning the church. If you prefer a sitting task then there is brass to be cleaned. Many thanks.

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

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** had a very successful Christmas Fayre last Saturday. There are lists of raffle prize winners at the back of each church.

**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. If you are able to help with the serving of mulled wine after Midnight Mass please let Kathryn know. Thank you.

**OUR LADY'S** The Nativity Mass will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve - the children need to arrive at 4pm (having eaten already please) and the rehearsal is on Monday 23rd December 11am to 12:30pm.

**LECTIO DIVINA** Thursday at Holy Family Church hall. Open to all parishioners from the three parishes. 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 this Sunday and 22nd Dec.

**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.

**NEWSLETTER** Today's newsletter will take us to Christmas; so there will not be a copy on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The following newsletter will be a Christmas Newsletter available from Christmas Eve and will take us through to the Epiphany (next year on 5th January).

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE Children's Vigil Masses** 5pm Our Lady's, 6pm St. Bonaventure's, 6.30pm Holy Family.

**Mass of the Nativity** 9pm Our Lady's, 10pm Holy Family, 11pm St. Bonaventure's, all preceded by Carols.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** 9am St. Bonaventure, 10am Holy Family, 11am Our Lady's.

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**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**

16 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Advent feria
17 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Our Lady's	
18 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
	10am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure's
	3pm	Funeral Mass	Holy Family
19 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Advent feria
	11.30am	Funeral Mass	St. Bonaventure's
20 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	10am	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's
	7pm	Our Lady's	
21 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

<b>21 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	Our Lady's	
<b>22 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	
23 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Advent feria
24 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria



**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