

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien
Seminararian: Samuel Ejeregbe Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Feast of Christ the King 23rd November (p.158 of Mass book)

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. What a title! Who is he? Where do we find such a king? What is he like? Firstly, Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Father's Anointed One - the Christ. He is truly a human being except for sin. He is the embodiment of Love. In regard to my second question, the strange thing about today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew is that we do not find him in the usual places where we would normally encounter royalty: he is in a person in need; he feels our love as we support him; he understands rejection because there are so many destitute people who are still searching for someone to reach out to them. Finally, as we read from the Prophet Ezekiel, he is like - indeed, he IS - a Shepherd who looks out for his sheep, taking good care of the weak and fragile as well as the strong and healthy. Jesus Christ is the Shepherd who has laid down his life for his sheep by being lifted up on the Cross in his Suffering, Death and Resurrection. Our Lord is a King who knows us through and through AND LOVES US! On this special day, the last Sunday of the Church's Year, let us pray that we will do what we can to get to know him better and love him with all our hearts. This will inevitably mean looking out for the suffering and trying to understand why he identifies with them!

This weekend I have set off for Goa (India) where my family originally comes from. The Exposition of the body of St. Francis Xavier gives many the opportunity to remember this great Saint who took the Christian Faith to the East and gave his life in the service of the Gospel. When I went ten years ago, I was struck by the sheer numbers of people, Christian, Hindu and Muslim, who flocked to see the relics and to gather in prayer. You will be in my prayers. May God bless you and strengthen you as you follow Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. ***Fr. Norbert***

SVP ANNUAL COLLECTION This will take place this weekend after all Masses. Please give your support to the work of the SVP in Welwyn Garden City. Thank you.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOXES) Filled boxes need to be brought into church by this Sunday 23rd November as they are being collected at 10.30am on Monday. Thank you to all who have been so generous in their support of this charity.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH OUTDOOR CRIB The building of the outdoor crib will take place on **Saturday next, 29th November at 10.00am.** All are welcome to help.

ADVENT During the Season of Advent there will be quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in each of our churches for half an hour: Our Lady's on Mondays at 10am, in Holy Family on Thursdays (as usual) at 10am and in St. Bonaventure's on Fridays at 10am.

ADVENT BOOKS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN are available at the back of church, they are free so please take one if you will use it. Children will be given theirs during their Children's Liturgy. There are also calendars to take home.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARD will be available next weekend.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE before Christmas will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 8pm. This will provide each one of us with a time of reflection to take stock of our lives and prepare ourselves by celebrating God's forgiving love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of visiting priests to help Fr. Gerard and Fr. Norbert in hearing Confessions.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY on Saturday 7th February in Our Lady's Hall. All couples getting married in WGC or elsewhere in 2015 and 2016 are invited to this day which will start with coffee at 10.30am and end with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. It is important that couples make contact with Fr. Norbert soon so that the paperwork and all the necessary preparations can be made, especially if you are marrying outside of WGC.

INTER FAITH GROUP MEETING On Monday 24th November at 7.15pm at the Jim Macdonald Centre in Hatfield, shared discussion on Faith and Citizenship, Hoping to create a better world. All are welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS/CURRY NIGHT A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who helped in any way with last Saturday's Mass and the 'Curry night' which followed. It all made for a wonderful evening.

OUR LADY SCHOOL Christmas Fair – Friday 28th November 3.30pm – 5.30pm Lots of fun to be had, with the chocolate and bottle tombolas, jolly jam jars, hook a duck stalls and lots more! A fantastic raffle with prizes including pantomime and cinema tickets and a VIP trip to Roller City! Come along and join the festive fun.

BARBARA KAVANAGH R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Barbara Kavanagh will be in St. Bonaventure's Church at 9.30am on Friday 28th November.

WILLIAM GALWAY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Bill Galway will be in Our Lady's Church at 12.30pm on Monday 1st December. Our prayers to all family and friends.

NEED A CLEANER? Then contact Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980887231.

OR NEED a Mobile Hairdresser, a Decorator /Handy man or a Gardener? A family concern, offering competitive rates. Contact **Tracey (MOBILE HAIRDRESSER)** 07581212941. **Jamie(DECORATOR/HANDY MAN)** 07572527731.

Tony (GARDENER) 01707 260502.

RECEPTION CLASS PRIEST'S FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available to sign Priest's Reference Forms for children applying to Reception Class in our Catholic Schools on Wednesday 17th December 3 - 6pm at Our Lady's Church. Parents need to ring Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to arrange a 5-minute appointment. Parent/s should come with a completed form and their child and wait in the church. Another date will be proposed for early January.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2014 BUCKET COLLECTION For the last 7 years parishioners have donated items or money to make Christmas Hampers for the elderly and house bound. The recipients of these hampers have been really grateful not only with the contents of their hampers but because they indicated the parish was thinking of them at this sometimes very lonely time of year. Last year we distributed hampers to approximately 60 households using money donated by way of bucket collections where we were overwhelmed by the generosity of parishioners.

This year there will be bucket collections at all three parishes the weekend of 6th/7th Dec where we hope you will be able to give as generously. If you think you can help by shaking a bucket at the end of Masses in any of the three churches then please let us know. We will also need many helpers to assemble and distribute the hampers so please find it in your heart to volunteer and make someone's day in the run up to Christmas.

The hampers will be assembled in Holy Family Parish room on Fri 19th Dec at 7.00pm and distributed on Sat 20th Dec from 10.00am. If you know of anyone who you think would benefit from receiving a hamper or are able to help in any way please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394, Jacqueline McCallum 01707 328460, Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172, Caroline Sherar 01707 327862 or Ann Power 01438 717132.

FLOWER ARRANGING St. Bonaventure's Flower Arranging Classes are back for the festive season! Connor & Julie are back with four different flower arranging classes, starting on Tuesday 2nd December - 7pm - open to all abilities, beginners welcome! Places for classes need to be booked in advance as flowers are provided. First class is £7, for more information about the classes please call Connor on 078012 06721.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of Our Lady on Monday 8th December. This is not a Holy Day in our country. As well as 9.30am Mass there will be an extra Mass at 7pm at Our Lady's.

CAROLS IN HOWARD CENTRE led by the Christian Churches of WGC on Sunday 7th December 3 - 4 pm. Come and lend your voice!

COUNCIL CAROLS on Thursday 18th December at 6.30pm on the Campus Roundabout. All welcome.

CAROL SERVICES Holy Family School's KS2 Carol Service will be in Holy Family Church on Thursday 11th December at 6pm. Our Lady School's Carol Service will be in Our Lady's Church on Friday 12th December at 2pm. Springmead Primary School will be having their Carol Service in Our Lady's Church (for the third year) on Wednesday 10th December at 6pm, Commonswood Primary School will have their Carol Service for the first time in Our Lady's Church on Monday 15th December at 6pm.

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION ask you to call on Asda and Tesco to protect poorest farmers and workers from the UK's banana price wars by going Fairtrade.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 14th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part. Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 30th November from 2.30pm - 4pm.

CONCERT FOR DEKAMILE Saturday 13th December in Our Lady's at 7.30pm. Megumi Rolfe (violin) and Belinda Jones (piano) playing works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and other composers. All welcome. See poster and flyers at the back of church.

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Holy Family Church
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OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson 01707 377442
 peartreepomegranatecafe@googlemail.com

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

MASS TIMES

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

First Sunday of Advent

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



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain: Jacqueline Humphreys on 07884187463