

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Martin Tate
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

First Sunday of Advent 29th November 2015 (p.82 of Mass book)

Today we enter the **Season of Advent** and start a new year in the Church's Life. This year will have an extra significance as we will enter the **Year of Mercy** on Tuesday 8th December; it will end on Sunday 20th November, 2016. Pope Francis wants the Church to open her doors to a fresh experience of the Mercy of God which reaches out to all peoples and places and is revealed most especially in his Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. This Mercy touches our hearts and brings healing and peace; this Mercy challenges us to offer the same radical experience to those around us. This Mercy is evidenced in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy which underpin our personal lives as well as the life of our community. Each family or household will receive a booklet from the Cardinal which will outline the themes of the Year of Mercy. Please take one and in your homes talk about, and reflect on, how the Pope's words can be realised in the every day.

The Cardinal has asked that Our Lady's Church should have '**Doors of Mercy**'. (There are around twenty others in the Diocese.) There is a porch which is never used (just beyond the main doors); the doors will be solemnly opened at **7pm Mass on Tuesday 8th December**. We will gather outside the church and enter by candlelight, renewing our Baptismal Promises and celebrating the Mass of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. Altar servers from our three churches are asked to come at 6.30pm. Singers and musicians from the three churches should gather at 6.30pm. There will be a reception in the Hall afterwards to mark this special occasion. **YOU ARE ALL INVITED!**

The 'Doors of Mercy' will have a special **plenary indulgence** attached - an extra grace which will come from recitation of the Creed, Prayers for the Pope's Intentions, Reception of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) a week before or after a visit to the church. Pope Francis says: 'Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of sin remain ... sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the Mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees

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him or her from every residue of sin, enabling that person to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.' Prayer and action are at the heart of this Year of Mercy. As our understanding is strengthened, we must reach out to offer others this Gift of Mercy.

Advent points us to the rich mercy at the heart of the Incarnation where God is revealed in flesh and chooses to enter our life and offer us hope. Advent opens us up to Christ's Second Coming in glory when the close of the ages will take place as the Lord returns. Please pray hard that all our endeavours will bear rich fruit for us and our world.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

TWO NEW BISHOPS! Pope Francis has chosen Canon Paul McAleenan (Parish Priest of Watford) and Monsignor John Wilson (from Leeds) to be Auxiliary Bishops for our Diocese. The Cardinal has asked Bishop John Sherrington to take charge of North London which means he will move from Welwyn Garden City in the new year. Bishop-elect Paul will have responsibility for Hertfordshire, perhaps living in WGC. (We are still waiting to hear!)

FR. NORBERT'S DAD is now out of hospital and back in the nursing home in Harrow Weald. He is so grateful for your prayers.

SCHOOL FORMS Fr. Norbert will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholicity Forms for parents applying to a Catholic School for Reception Class entry. The dates are: Tuesday 1st December 3 - 5pm, Wednesday 9th 4 - 6pm and Tuesday 15th 3 - 5pm. Parents are asked to arrange a 5-minute appointment through Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 and to wait in Our Lady's Church at the arranged time. Parents should come with their child, bringing the Certificate of Catholicity (available from the schools) AND collect from the back of our churches or from Kathryn **an extra form** to be completed for Fr. Norbert. This is essential. There will not be a January session so parents are asked to sign up this side of Christmas. Thank you for your co-operation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST CONFESSION 2016 Holy Family Church's parents will have their enrolment meeting next Sunday (6th December) after the 9.30 Mass. Preparation will begin in January and usually takes place midweek after school. Children for First Holy Communion and First Confession should be at least in Year 3 at school. Parents' sessions start in January.

CONFIRMATION The young people who started their preparation last week will be presented at Masses this weekend. Please keep them and their catechists in your prayers as they journey towards Confirmation next May.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY will be on Monday 30th November. Mass will be at 9.30am in Our Lady's and will be followed by refreshments in the sacristy.

GEN VERDE concert: Saturday 5th December at 7.30 pm at Herts International, Unit 2, Sterling Court, Mundells, AL7 1FT. Tickets (£10 / students £7.50) can be purchased online at www.focolare.org/gb, or from a member of the Focolare, or at the door. If it is difficult for you to make your own way there, you can get a lift from the car park of the Focolare Centre for Unity (AL8 6DU) from 6.45pm onwards.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY for couples marrying in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere in 2016/17 on Saturday 6th February 2016. Please let Fr. Norbert know if are planning to get married so that the necessary paperwork and preparation can be arranged.

SHOEBOXES 107 boxes were collected on Thursday morning. Thank you to all those who gave their support so generously. If you still have a flat pack box at home please either return it to St. Bonaventure's or keep it and fill it for next year's appeal.

NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S On 13th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's children). Our first rehearsal is today Sunday 29th November from 2.30pm - 4pm.

YEAR OF MERCY booklets are at the back of church, they are free.

CYRIL CRAWLEY R.I.P. The Funeral Mass for Cyril Crawley R.I.P. will be tomorrow at 12noon in Our Lady's Church, Reception of the body is at 5.30pm today.

WORLD YOUTH DAY Twenty young people came to the meeting a few weeks ago. Brochures are at the back of the church. The dates are 23rd July - 3rd August, 2016. 2 - 3 million young people (16 - 30 years old) will gather in Krakow with Pope Francis. Why not be one of them?! Any questions - ask Fr. Norbert!

400 CLUB After each Mass this Sunday, there will be members of the 400 club at the back of the church, to collect your subscriptions, and to welcome any new members who may wish to join.

GREETING CARDS FOR PRISONERS Our cards are sent to prisoners in 17 countries around the world who are suffering torture and neglect. 24 joint cards will be sent from the three churches in WGC and there will be an opportunity for you to add your signature to several of them at the end of every Mass on 5th/6th/ December. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked us to pray for these people suffering inhumane conditions "that they may find healing peace and safety". (A small donation would help towards costs)

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD group will be holding a festive meeting on Tuesday 1st Dec 2015 at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Please do come along as we hope to organise our fundraising events for 2016.

OUR LADY'S OUTDOOR CRIB: A big thank you to all who came on Saturday morning to build the Outdoor Crib. It is a powerful, visible witness to the true meaning of Christmas for everyone in our local community as they pass the church.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH : Next **Saturday 5th December** at 10am, the monthly church cleaning and grounds maintenance will take place for ONE HOUR. New volunteers are very welcome. Will you help?

INTER FAITH MATTERS ... We celebrate Christmas in midwinter but most other faiths also hold celebrations at this time of year. At the Backhouse Room, 116 Handside Lane on Monday 7th December at 7.15 come and learn more and taste some of their festive refreshments. Also the Ladies will have their monthly sandwich and chat in the Parish Room at St. Francis' Church from 12.30 to 2pm on Tuesday 8th December.

EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS in different languages in Our Lady's Hall on Saturday 12th December after 6pm Mass at around 7.15/7.30pm. If you are interested in taking part, please let Fr. Norbert know.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT in Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 15th December at 8pm.

DO YOU NEED? a Mobile Hairdresser or a Decorator /Handy man? Competitive rates offered. Contact Tracey (MOBILE HAIRDRESSER) 07581212941 Jamie(DECORATOR/HANDY MAN) 07572527731.

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

OUR LADY'S PARISH CENTRE
 Bookings should be made with Phil Johnson
 01707 377442

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL invites parishioners to join them for the Children's Advent and Christmas Celebrations. Friday 4th December 9:15 - School Advent Mass, a Saturday 5th December 12-3 Christmas Fayre including Father Christmas, lucky dip, cake stalls, tombola and lots of exciting games! Wednesday 9th December 10am - EYFS Nativity Play, Thursday 10th December 10 KS1 Nativity Play. All these take place in the school. On Monday 14th December at 6pm - KS2 Christmas Carol Service in Holy Family Church. All parishioners are more than welcome to attend and celebrate these special events with us. We look forward to seeing you.

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

MASS TIMES

30 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	St. Andrew
	12noon	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	Cyril Crawley R.I.P.
01 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
02 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
03 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Francis Xavier
04 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
Second Sunday of Advent				
05 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family	



<p>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</p>
