

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*

Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2015 (p. 90 of Mass book)

Have we arrived? NO!!! The fourth Advent candle is being lit at Mass today. Our Lady is visiting her cousin Elizabeth in the Gospel passage. And we still have more days ahead of us! Time seems to go slowly for some; for others there is hardly enough time for all which needs to be done.

Our Lady plays such a central role in St. Luke's account of the Birth of Jesus. She is listening and attentive at the Annunciation. She asks questions and is submissive. She says 'Yes...let it be done to me according to your word.' Today she sets off in haste to be with her elderly cousin who is also pregnant and the meeting is filled with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth recognises the importance of Our Lady; John, in her womb, jumps for joy at being so close to Jesus, his Saviour, in the womb of Mary. The encounter leads to Our Lady's song - the Magnificat where all she can do is keep praising God not only for what has happened to her through divine action but also all that God is accomplishing in our world. We will hear at some of the Christmas Masses about how Our Lady treasures all the things she is told by the shepherds and ponders them in her heart.

What about us? Some are going to be making journeys to be with others for Christmas. We have in our midst visitors who have travelled to be close to loved ones for this time of celebration. There are those who are going through difficult times at this point in their lives. There are still others who are filled with joy and anticipation. God wants us ALL to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us recognise the significance of Christ's Birth and let him in. God urges us to be like the angels singing of the joy of Christ's Nativity. The shepherds are chosen and have the privilege of finding the Christ Child. The same applies to us! Let us ask God's blessing upon us and our loved ones as Christmas approaches.

May Christmas 2015 bring you deep happiness and 2016 be filled with hope and promise.

God bless you! ***Fr. Norbert***

ALTAR SERVERS Please sign up for Masses over the Christmas Season. There are lists in each sacristy. Also, the WGC Altar Servers' Mass will be on the Feast of St. Stephen on Saturday 26th December at 10am in St. Bonaventure's. All welcome.

BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON will celebrate 11pm Mass on Christmas Eve and the St. Stephen's Day Mass at St. Bonaventure's. On Sunday 27th December he will celebrate the 9.30am Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family at Holy Family Church and on Friday 1st January he will celebrate the 10am Mass at Our Lady's for New Year's Day. This will be his last Christmas with us in the Garden City and we wish him every blessing as he prepares to take up the reins of North London!

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Sunday 17th January at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

RCIA There are 9 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter next year. The next session will be on Monday 18th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy. Please keep them in your prayers.

OUR LADY'S Children who wish to take part in Our Lady's Church Children's Christmas Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve have a practice in the church tomorrow (Monday 21st) at 11am.

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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 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!

CAROLS EVENING Our thanks to all who contributed carols in different languages last Saturday and to those who provided the refreshments. It was a lovely evening.

HAMPERS Our thanks to the team who prepared the hampers for elderly parishioners and to the drivers who distributed them. The recipients have been touched by the generous love of our parishes and have been reminded of how important they are to us especially at Christmas.

DEANERY Thanks to all who helped with the clergy Christmas Dinner last Sunday evening. The priests of the deanery had a great time.

NEXT SUNDAY Please remember that next Sunday (27th) there will not be a 6pm Mass at Holy Family Church.



CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Bonaventure's are having a cleaning morning on Tuesday 22nd December after 9.30am Mass, all welcome to come and help (refreshments will be provided to keep up the energy levels!)

Our Lady's are having a cleaning session on Wednesday 23rd at 10am.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP The CAFOD group will meet again on Tuesday 5th January at 7.30pm in the parish room at Holy Family. Anyone who wishes to make a New Year's resolution to join the CAFOD group will be very welcome.

400 CLUB The 400 Club. Due to Christmas and the New Year, the next subscription and collection will take place after weekend Masses on January 9th and 10th. We would like to thank you for continued support and help throughout the year.

ROOM A new parishioner is looking for a room to rent. This lady is willing to help in the home. Please contact Fr. Norbert for more details.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We have a break now and meet again on Tuesday 12th January at 3.45pm. All children are welcome. Thank you to all our parish children for the wonderful Carol Service and Nativity Play.

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Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

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

NEWSLETTER There will be a newsletter available from Christmas Eve which will take us through to Sunday 17th January 2016. Any items for the Christmas newsletter covering that period up to 17th January need to be sent in by the morning of Tuesday 22nd December at the latest.

21 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's
22 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure's
	7pm	Our Lady's
23 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family
24 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family

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's, 10am Holy Family, 11am Our Lady's.

26 Saturday 10am St. Bonaventure Altar Servers Mass St. Stephen

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

26 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
27 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
		<i>No evening Mass at Holy Family</i>
28 Monday	10am	Our Lady's
29 Tuesday	10am	St. Bonaventure
		<i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i>
30 Wednesday	10am	Holy Family
31 Thursday	10am	Holy Family
01 Friday	10am	Our Lady's
		<i>No evening Mass at Our Lady's</i>
02 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure
		Epiphany of the Lord
02 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady's
03 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Holy Family
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Our Lady's
	6pm	Holy Family
04 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's
05 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady's
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family
07 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family
08 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady's
09 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure



Mary, Mother of God

