

# 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*

***Nativity of the Lord 25th December (covering Sundays up until 17th  
January 2016***

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! The long and frenetic journey to this Day has finally been completed. Are you 'happy' ? Is it sheer exhaustion which has set in? Has the holiness of this Solemnity of the Nativity sunk in? For us as Christians, Christmas has only just begun! We still have the feast of Our Lady on New Year's Day and the Epiphany which this coming year, for us as Catholics in this country, will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd. This always leaves the conundrum of when to take down the decorations! For us, the Christmas Season ends with the Baptism of the Lord which will be celebrated on Sunday 10th January. So there IS time to make sure Christmas is celebrated well.

Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, spends so much of this period pondering on all she hears and experiences. She and Joseph are far from their home region of Nazareth in Galilee. They are not surrounded by family and friends but receive shepherds and wise men in the stable. We actually do not hear Our Lady utter a word! However, just imagine her heart full of joy, faith and love, ready to carry out God's will and care for her Son - God's Son! Perhaps for some of you, your loved ones are far away? Maybe things have not turned out as you expected? Did you just run out of time? Think about Mary and contemplate with her the Birth of Jesus. Keep opening yourself to the Spirit of God who works in a myriad of ways bringing order out of chaos, refreshing us with peace and putting us in touch with Christ and God the Father, that is, with Divine Love.

As we enter 2016, the Year of Mercy continues to unfold with the fresh outpouring of grace. Let us place our hopes for our world, for our community and ourselves as individuals in God's merciful hands, trusting in his care for us. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!

God bless you and your loved ones. ***Fr. Norbert***

**CHRISTMAS THANKS** In recent weeks so much hard work has gone into preparing for the Christmas Celebrations and ensuring that all would run smoothly. Fr. Norbert and Fr. Martin would like to thank Musicians and Singers, Altar Servers and Welcomers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, to the Catechists who have worked with the children for the Children's Masses and Services, to all who have prepared the Cribs and Christmas Trees, and those who arranged the beautiful flowers, and so many who have kept our churches clean and tidy. A special word of thanks to Kathryn Hubbard for preparing the booklets and to all who work hard behind the scenes in each church. That is the Liturgical side of the life of our parishes! Great generosity and hard work have gone into the hampers for the elderly parishioners, presents for needy children, the shoe boxes sent abroad and the service of our various organisations in supporting those less fortunate members of our community. Also, Christmas Cards for prisoners of conscience. Lots of prayer has sustained all the activity and so many people have come to church to celebrate Christmas Mass. Finally, we are so grateful for your Christmas Cards, gifts and very generous Christmas offerings. **THANK YOU!**

**NEW BISHOPS** The Episcopal Ordinations of Canon Paul McAleenan and Fr. John Wilson as Auxiliary Bishops for our Diocese will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Monday 25th January at 12 noon. Bishop-elect Paul will serve in Hertfordshire and will be resident at St. Bonaventure's in the Presbytery. Parishioners are most welcome to attend and should arrive by 11.30am. (There will not be reserved seats.)

**BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON** will leave us in the coming weeks. We have been enriched by his presence in our midst and the service he has given to Hertfordshire. He really has felt at home in Welwyn Garden City and we wish him well in North London and in his new home - still to be announced.

**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY** Our thanks to all our altar servers as they celebrate their patronal feast on Saturday 26th December. Bishop John will be the Main Celebrant at Mass. There will be refreshments in the hall after 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's.

**HOLY FAMILY** Happy Feast on Sunday 27th! Bishop John will celebrate Mass at 9.30am.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will be marked by Mass at 10am at Our Lady's Church. Bishop John would like to start Mass by coming through the Doors of Mercy. If the weather is good, we will all gather outside and process in for Mass.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd January in 2016, so 6th January will not be a Holy Day of Obligation.

**CONFIRMATION** The next session for our young people will be on Sunday 17th January at 7pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. **RCIA** The next meeting will be on Monday 18th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

**WESTMINSTER JUSTICE AND PEACE Commission Annual Open Evening**, at St John Vianney Parish Centre, 386 West Green Road, London N15 3QH, on Wednesday **January 27th 2016**. There will be discussion of the future direction, in the diocese, for Justice and Peace, all are invited and there will be a free Supper (of soup, bread and cheese) from 6-6.30pm. Discussion 6.45-9pm. John Fogarty will be going and, if you would like a lift, please contact him ([john.fogarty@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.fogarty@ntlworld.com), tel' 01707 327771).

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE for 2017** There will be an information meeting presented by Pax Travel on Tuesday 26th January at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall. All welcome.

**FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN (SB)** meet again on Saturday 16th January and there is a Children's Mass on Sunday 17th.

**NOTE** There will be no Confessions at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 2nd January.

**NORA O'LOUGHLIN R.I.P.** The Funeral Mass for Nora will be on Wednesday 6th January at 12.30pm in St. Bonaventure's Church. The body will be received into the church at 4pm on the Tuesday. We offer our prayers and sympathy to family and friends.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS** The first meeting for the parents of children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion at our three churches will be on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND 2015** A huge thank you to all the parishioners who helped in any way to enable us to deliver 51 hampers and 10 small gifts to grateful recipients this year. You are all truly wonderful and your help is much appreciated.

**OUR LADY SCHOOL Admissions Consultation (2017 Entry):** Our Lady School does not wish to make any changes to its Admissions Policy for entrance to Nursery or to Reception that requires public consultation, however has decided to consult publicly on the 2017/18 Admissions Policy to both as it is good practice. The proposed policy is available on the school website ([www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk)) and via the school office until 31st January. If you have any views on our Admissions Policy for we would like to hear from you. Please address your reply to the Chair of the Governors Admissions Committee either by sending a letter to the School Office, or by emailing [admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk) and putting 'Admissions Consultation' as the subject of the message. Please make sure you tell us your name and email address so that we can get back to you if we need any clarification. Thank you very much.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We meet again on Tuesday 12th January at 3.45pm. All children are welcome.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** Monday 18th - Monday 25th January. There will be daily services which will be advertised in the next newsletter. However, the main Service of the week will be on Sunday 24th January at 3pm in Our Lady's Church. It would be great to have many of you present to welcome the visitors who come.

**PRAGUE PILGRIMAGE** Saturday 22nd - Wednesday 26th October 2016. Brochures and booking forms will soon be available at the back of our churches. Everyone welcome to join the pilgrimage.

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Our Lady's  
141 Woodhall Lane  
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**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
St. Bonaventure's  
81 Parkway AL8 6JF  
Website:  
[www.stbonaventure.org.uk](http://www.stbonaventure.org.uk)

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

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

## MASS TIMES

**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**

*No evening Mass at Holy Family*

28 Monday 10am Our Lady's

29 Tuesday 10am St. Bonaventure

*No evening Mass at Our Lady's*

30 Wednesday 10am Holy Family

31 Thursday 10am Holy Family

**01 Friday 10am Our Lady's Mary, Mother of God**

*No evening Mass*

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

12.30pm Funeral Mass

07 Thursday 9.30am Holy Family

08 Friday 9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady's

09 Saturday 10am St. Bonaventure

**6pm Our Lady's**

**10 Sunday 8am St. Bonaventure**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**9.30am Holy Family**

**10.30am St. Bonaventure**

**11.30am Our Lady's**

**6pm Holy Family**

11 Monday 9.30am Our Lady's

12 Tuesday 9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady's

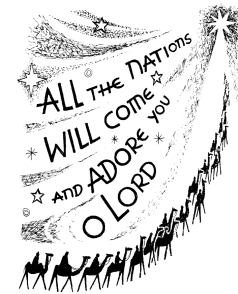
13 Wednesday 9.30am Holy Family

14 Thursday 9.30am Holy Family

15 Friday 9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady's

16 Saturday 10am St. Bonaventure



**Next newsletter will be out for the weekend of 17th January**

