

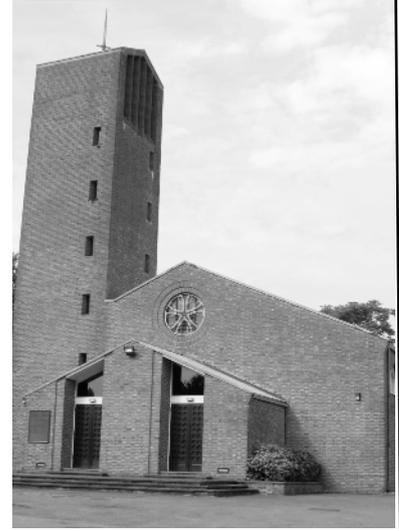
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Second Sunday of Advent 9th December page 85 of the Mass Book

Today in our Gospel passage from St. Luke, John the Baptist makes a grand appearance in the wilderness where he calls people to share in baptism as a sign of repentance of their sins. St. Luke's reflection on this man leads him to quote from the prophecy of Isaiah - John is a voice crying in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord! Next Sunday, we will focus on the people who flock to John, demanding to know what they should do. John is very clear that each must respond in ways appropriate to his or her place in life. When the crowds begin to think that John might be the Messiah, he tells them plainly that he is not. Finally, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, John is present; however, this time in his mother, Elizabeth's womb. He dances for joy at encountering the Messiah - Jesus - in Our Lady's womb. Through this visitation, the Holy Spirit is poured out and the two women begin to praise God in a variety of ways.

John the Baptist has his moment in time and in a particular place. Jesus' presence reaches out from a specific time and place to the whole of history and to the whole world. His Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection have an impact on the destiny of humanity. His Ascension in glory and his taking his place at the Father's Right Hand, will eventually lead to the completion of the ages when he returns in power and presents the Kingdom to his Father. John is the forerunner, the one who points Christ out when at last he comes. His role includes being prepared to step back and give the Lord Jesus the prominence he deserves. What skill that requires!

As we enter this Second Week of Advent, let us like John find the right way, the path which will give the Lord a clear passage into our lives, our homes, our places of work and into our world. Let us be ready to introduce those we encounter to Jesus and all he wants to offer them. Let us be ready, like John, to step back and give people space to get to know the Lord better.

God bless your week! ***Fr. Norbert***

ADVENT On Mondays at Our Lady's, Thursdays at Holy Family and Fridays at St. Bonaventure's, there will be half an hour of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - a time of peace and refreshment. Don't forget the Restoration Holy Hour on Friday 14th as another 'extra' in this holy (and very busy!) season.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 14th December soon at 7.30pm. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE This will be on Tuesday 18th December at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. Come and share in the wonderful gift of God's forgiving love celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of priests helping with Confessions.

TRACEY LAYCOCK RIP Tracey's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 12th December at 12.30pm.

MARGARET WALSH RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Friday 14th December at 10.30am.

ETHNA McSHANE RIP Ethna's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 17th December at 12.30pm.

FR. MICHAEL LAMBERT RIP Fr. Michael was Parish Priest of Hitchin and Dean of Stevenage for many years. His Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin on Monday 17th December at 11am and his body will be received into the church on the Sunday at 4.30pm with Mass at 5pm.

RCIA Next session Monday 10th at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The young people have a session this evening (9th) at 7.15 in Holy Family Church. They will be contributing to and preparing Christmas gift bags for the YMCA.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If anyone missed enrolment meetings at Our Lady's or Holy Family, please see Fr. Norbert.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

LOURDES 2019 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE – Next year's pilgrimage dates are Saturday 20th July – Friday 26th July. We are still waiting for the details of the cost to be sent out, but if you are interested in going then contact Fr Tom.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL The School will be having a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 15th December 11am - 2pm. Fr. Christmas will be there, and a magician; there will be stalls, food and a raffle. Why not come?

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS Holy Family Church are having church cleaning on Thursday 20th December from 12noon. All welcome to help clean the church ready for the Christmas celebrations. Refreshments provided. St. Bonaventure's are also having a final clean on Thursday 20th D at 10am. Our Lady's Christmas cleaning is on Saturday 22nd December at 10am for ONE hour. All welcome to come along and help.

NATIVITY PLAY AND CAROL SERVICE AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S next Sunday 16th December at 4pm. Rehearsals are this Sunday 3.30pm- 4.30pm, Tuesday 3.45pm - 4.45pm and Saturday is the dress rehearsal at 3pm. There is also a Children's Mass next Sunday.

CRIB SERVICE Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 18th December at 3.45pm. Come and see our new Nativity figures and stable, 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 (at 6pm on Christmas Eve).

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE Parents applying to Catholic Primary Schools for entry into Nursery and Reception class will need this certificate. Parents are asked to contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579 to make a 5-minute appointment at Our Lady's Church with Fr. Norbert. At the back of our churches is an additional form which parents are asked to fill out beforehand and bring with them to the meeting together with their child. Please wait in the church and Fr. Norbert will call you. The dates are: Friday 14th December 4 - 5.30pm and Wednesday 19th December 3.30 - 5pm.

CAROL SERVICES Commonswood Primary School will have theirs in Our Lady's Church on Monday 17th December at 6pm. Our Lady School has theirs in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 19th December at 6pm and Holy Family School has theirs in Holy Family Church on Thursday 20th December at 6pm. The Christian Churches will have the annual Christmas Service outside the Howard Centre on Thursday 20th December at 6.30pm.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS Friday 14th Dec 6.30-8.30pm at the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, An evening of carols, everyone is welcome! Calling all children! Come and join with us to sing and celebrate the coming of Jesus! If you have a traditional costume, do wear it, if not come as a shepherd, king or angel - or come just as you are! Light refreshments, all contributions of savoury or sweet finger food most welcome.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND There will be a bucket collection to raise money for our Christmas Hampers this weekend allowing time for purchasing items. Should you not have money with you this week you may make a donation later and put it in an envelope clearly marked 'Hamper collection'. Hamper packing will take place in Holy Family Parish Room on Fri 21st Dec at 7pm and delivery the following day 22nd Dec (hampers to be collected at 10am). If you would like to help with the hampers in any way - perhaps by shaking a bucket this Sunday or by packing or delivering (or if you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a hamper) please contact Sally Kee 07870 402510, Caroline Sherar 07929 709901, Ann Power 07732 974780 or Joss Innocent Landers 07757 753426. Your response in previous years has been amazing and we're hoping this year will be the same as the recipients are always truly delighted to receive their hamper but also to know that we as a parish are thinking of them at this sometimes lonely time of year is the best gift of all.

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS There is a list the back of the church for children to sign up to if they want to take part There will be one rehearsal on Sunday 23rd December after the 9.30 Mass after which costumes will be handed out.

INTER FAITH MEETING Earlier this year Fr. Norbert gave a presentation about Christian pilgrimages. On Thursday 13th December at 7.15 in the Focolare Centre there will be an opportunity to hear about pilgrimages in other faiths: Baha'i, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish. All welcome.

The AFRICAN COMMUNITY will be meeting on Sunday, 16 December after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's. The meeting will be held at Our Lady's Sacristy and all African parishioners are invited to attend.

CWL Very many thanks for all the generosity at our cake sale last Sunday. We made £120 to go towards our charity fundraising. The CWL wish all our supporters and friends a very Happy Holy Christmas with God's Blessings.

NEWSLETTER Next Sunday's newsletter will cover the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent so please make sure that any information you send in includes 22nd/23rd December. There will then be a Christmas newsletter from 25th December up to Sunday 13th January - the Baptism of the Lord - which concludes the Christmas Season. Again, please think about what needs to be in the newsletter for this period. Thank you.

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 Our Lady's Church
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Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
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 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6J

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

CONFESSIONS

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

Website for our 3 parishes
www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

ST ALBANS Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

DO YOU KNOW anyone who would like to attend Mass but cannot manage the journey? We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399

SVP REQUEST A single mum needs a TV. If you have one you don't need phone Janet on 326456. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARDS are at the back of church. Please take one.

DATES Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong in Cathedral. Keep the dates free!

MASS TIMES

10 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Advent feria
11 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Advent feria
	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Lucy
14 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. John of the Cross
	10.30am	Funeral Mass	Holy Family	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
15 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

Third Sunday of Advent

15 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
16 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



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS: If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent**