

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*

Nativity of the Lord 25th December and Sundays up until 20th January

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! We are so lucky to have a God who loves us to the degree that he has come to share our lives and reveal in person what he is like! Vulnerability, humility, sacrifice, forgiveness, family life are words to sum up at this stage the Gift which is Jesus the Baby born in Bethlehem. No matter how complicated our world may be, he brings Light. No matter how messy our lives, he sees the best in us. However far we think we are away from him, he finds a pathway into our deepest being to nurture, support and encourage us. Christmas offers us the opportunity to say a huge 'Thank you!' to our God and to live out that gratitude through lives of loving service. The Shepherds and the Magi will visit him; we journey to the Crib with hearts open to receive grace and blessings from him. Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh highlight his importance and the significance of the Christ Child. His Baptism which we will celebrate at the close of the Christmas Season will remind us that he is in solidarity with us and desires that the same Spirit which seized hold of him - to carry out the Father's Mission - will come our way too if we want.

With Fr. Tom, I wish you all a blessed Christmas, praying that you and your loved ones may know his presence intimately and feel the power of his love. To the many visitors in our midst, you are welcome! Thank you for coming to share in the wonder of this great Celebration and its unfolding! If you are far from loved ones or if you are mourning the loss of someone dear to you, may the Lord's mercy enfold you and his compassion stir in your souls so that you feel his peace. May 2019 be a time of blessing and fresh hope spring forth!

In each of our churches, there are so many signs of the hard work which makes the buildings look so beautiful. The Masses are filled with the sounds of heaven and an abundance of ministries serving those who gather. The outreach to those less fortunate or who may be on their own reveals the hand of God - such generous giving radiates God's heart! Whether you help up-front or work behind the scenes, I am so grateful for your support. Fr. Tom and I want to thank you for your cards, good wishes, presents and offerings.

May God bless you in every possible way. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert***

ST STEPHEN'S DAY The feast of St. Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers! Mass will be celebrated at 10am at Holy Family on Wednesday 26th December. Servers from our three churches are invited to bring their albs and cinctures and serve at the Mass.

HOLY FAMILY The Feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on Sunday 30th December at the 9.30 Mass. Come and join the celebration! Please remember that there will not be an evening Mass at Holy Family on Sunday 30th December.

NEW YEAR'S DAY Why not come to the 10 o'clock Mass on Tuesday 1st January 2019 at Our Lady's and place the New Year in God's hands. It is the Feast of the Divine Motherhood of Our Lady, highlighting that Mary's Son truly is God as well as one of us.

MARIA O'NEILL RIP Maria's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 15th January at 9.30am.

RCIA Next session on Monday 21st January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Sunday 27th January at 7.15pm in Holy Family Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If anyone missed enrolment meetings at Our Lady's or Holy Family, please see Fr. Norbert. First parents' session will be in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 30th January at 7.30pm.

Children from Holy Family Church begin their classes on Wednesday 16th January at 4.30pm in the Parish Room. Our Lady's children start on Sunday 27th January at 10am in church. St. Bonaventure's First Communion children meet again on Saturday 19th January.

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.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL will next meet on Friday 1st February at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 22nd January at 10.15am. Our Lady's on Friday 25th January at 7.45pm. Holy Family on Tuesday 5th February at 8pm.

INTER FAITH In the past the Inter Faith group have not held their evening meetings in January because of the dark nights and possible inclement weather. However this January we are experimenting by having an afternoon meeting. This will be on 17th January at 2pm - 4 pm in the Focolare Centre for Unity and the theme will be 'Faith and Social Action'. All welcome.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY will be from Friday 18th until Friday 25th January. The main Service for Welwyn Garden City will be at Herts International Church on the Mundells roundabout (AL7 1FT) on Sunday 20th January at 4pm. It would be wonderful if many of you from our three churches joined our fellow Christians. The Baptist Regional Minister Geoff Colmer will give the address.

OUR LADY'S The Outdoor Crib will be taken down on Saturday 12th January at 10am along with the monthly church cleaning for ONE hour. All are welcome to come along to help. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S next cleaning session will be on Thursday 10th January.

FIRST FRIDAY The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on 4th January at St. Bonaventure's. There will be breakfast in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 11th January at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, worship music, reflections and silence. All are welcome.

OUR LADY'S 60TH The Foundation Stone of Our Lady's Church was laid on 30th September 1959. The Cardinal has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 15th September at 11.30am. A date for your diaries!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASSES Our thanks to all who help so generously with the Special Needs Masses and receptions: bingo, food and drink, welcoming. Two dates for the coming year for the next Special Needs Masses are Saturday 16th March 6pm and Saturday 11th May at 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS The celebration for 2019 will be on Sunday 14th July at 11.30am

OUTINGS 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.

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

2020 Don't forget that the Centenary of Welwyn Garden City will be celebrated in 2020. Hence the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Assisi 25th - 30th May. Also, the Passion Play in Oberammergau only happens every 10 years and so we have booked the 9th - 11th September for a trip. We're waiting for the brochures.

CAFOD The next meeting is on Tuesday Jan 8th at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome. **THE CAFOD group** are holding a "Thank You" event on Friday 18th Jan at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. This year our supporters in WGC have helped us to raise a spectacular £4127.18 for CAFOD. We invite you all to come along on the 18th Jan and it will be our pleasure to see you and provide refreshments, wines/tea and coffee.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP We meet again on Tuesday 15th January 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along?

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.

NEED A CLEANER? Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231, regular cleaning, fortnightly, monthly, spring cleans, ironing etc.

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

26 Wednesday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Stephen
27 Thursday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John
28 Friday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	The Holy Innocents
29 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Thomas Becket
29 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	The Holy Family
30 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	
	<i>No evening Mass at Holy Family</i>			
31 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	7th day in Octave of Christmas
01 Tuesday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	Mary, Mother of God
02 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Basil
03 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Christmas feria
04 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
05 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
05 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	Epiphany of the Lord
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	
07 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Christmas feria
08 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Christmas feria
10 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Christmas feria
11 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
12 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
12 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's	Baptism of the Lord
13 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	
14 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
15 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
16 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
17 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Anthony, Abbott
18 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
19 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria