

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*

First Sunday of Advent 3rd December 2017 p. 82 of Mass book

‘What I say to you, I say to all: “Stay awake!” ’ These are sobering words to us from Jesus as we embark on the Season of Advent launching into the perspective St. Mark will give us most Sundays in the coming months. Staying awake implies being alert, attentive and ready. Staying awake also necessitates not allowing ourselves to become so tired that we just cannot remain awake! Jesus speaks about the tasks which each one has been set. What do you consider your job this Advent which will open you up even more so to the Second Coming of Jesus and to a worthy celebration of his Birth, enriching the lives of those around you? Perhaps what might make a real difference would be to reflect not on ‘What do I have to do?’ but rather on ‘What does he ask me to do for myself and others?’ Find some quiet time to dwell on this line of questioning and pray for the courage to respond!

As I begin this new year in the Church’s Life, I come fired up with the 9-day experience of the Holy Land. Personally I was given the opportunity to strengthen my faith through the power of being in places associated with the Lord - where it all happened! - and to remember loved ones and parishioners with whom I shared this experience in the past. This pilgrimage I prayed for YOU, carrying you and so many others in my heart. Moreover, the ecumenical dimension brought many blessings as our group came closer to each other in deep prayer and a better understanding of our life as Christians to such a degree that differences did not obscure our determination to learn from one another and to share what is most treasured by us. From our Baptist friends, we felt the dynamism of ‘praise and worship’; the Baptists commented on the quiet contemplation which is the Mass and the significance of celebrating on a daily basis in the holy places. Many days we had to be up really early in order to get to chapels in time for Mass - ‘Stay awake’ was imperative!

May this Advent be a time of grace and blessing for each one of us as we seize the opportunities the Lord offers us and carry out the tasks entrusted to us! ***Fr. Norbert***

ADVENT There will be half an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Monday's 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's, Thursday's 9.30 Mass at Holy Family and Friday's 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's. In the midst of the busy-ness of this season, come for some peace and stillness before the Lord.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION for our three churches on Tuesday 19th December at 8pm in Our Lady's Church. Come and share in the joy of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your Advent. There will be a time of reflection and priests available to hear Confessions.

CONFIRMATION Young people have their next session today (Sunday 3rd) at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family Church. Next weekend the young people will be presented at Mass. Please keep them in your prayers.

SCHOOL REFERENCES Parents who will need a Certificate of Catholicity for their child's entry to Reception Class or Nursery should make an appointment through Kathryn Hubbard (01707 322579) to see Fr. Norbert for a 5-minute session at Our Lady's Church. There are at the back of our churches 'extra forms' for parents to fill out beforehand and bring with them. Please bring your child with you and wait in the church for your appointed time. The sessions are as follows: Tuesday 5th December 3.30 - 5pm, Tuesday 12th December 3.30 - 5pm and Friday 15th December 3.30 - 5pm.

RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 4th December.

AVIGNON 2018 Parish trip to Avignon in France Sunday 23rd - Friday 28th September. Brochures and booking forms are now at the back of our churches.

MID-HERTS CATENIANS invite the altar servers of the three WGC parishes and the Holy Family Band to the pantomime in the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on 27th January at 12.30. All children must be accompanied at their own expense by a parent or adult known to both parents and child. If you would like to accept this offer please contact Bill Hayes, telephone 01707325772 email William.hayes2@ntlworld.com for St Bonaventure's and Our Lady's servers, or Michael Cole telephone 01438820531 or email michaelcole@hotmail.com for Holy Family. The cost of tickets payable by accompanying adults is £22.00 per ticket. Please contact Bill or Michael no later than 8th December.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CLEANING Takes place this Thursday at 10am. All welcome to come and help. Refreshments after the hard work.

EILEEN FIRMINGER RIP Eileen's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Tuesday 12th December at 12 noon.

MARY McKAY RIP Mary's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's Church on Friday 15th December at 12.30pm.

MONTHLY ADORATION The next 'Restoration' Holy Hour will be on Friday 8th December at 7.45pm 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 A big thank you to all who came to clean the church, maintain the grounds and to build the Outdoor Crib on Saturday morning. Your help is much appreciated.

OUR LADY'S Thank you to the Monday Bingo Group for their generous donation of £150.00 towards the Benches Refurbishment Fund.

SCHOOL MASSES Holy Family School will have an Advent Mass on Monday at 11am. Our Lady School will have Mass in Our Lady's Church on Friday at 9.15am. All welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of Our Lady is on Friday 8th December. Please note that it is not a Holy Day of Obligation in this country.

NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 17th December at 4pm, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is **today Sunday 3rd December** from 2.30pm - 4pm. Hope to see you there in the hall at St. Bonaventure's.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ in Our Lady's Hall every third Thursday of the month 10am - 2pm. There will be activities and refreshments.

ZUMBA for those with physical and learning disabilities in Our Lady's Hall on Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. The instructor brings in her dog Pickles for 'pet therapy'! Cost £6 which includes refreshments and fruits. Those who need support/carer must bring their own support/carer (who enters free).

SENIOR CITIZENS TEA PARTY Nicholas Breakspear School students will be presenting an afternoon of Christmas songs, bingo, afternoon tea and a seasonal performance by their choir on Tuesday 12th December at 12.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Sharon Robson on 01727 860079 (ext. 224) or email robsons@nbs.herts.sch.uk

INTER FAITH On Monday 11th December from 7pm at the Quaker Meeting House in Handside Lane, the Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group will be hosting a Seasonal Evening for all faith communities. We will be sharing our favourite prayers followed by a selection of seasonal goodies to go with our tea and coffee. All welcome.

CAKE SALE after 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 17th December organised by Isabel Coleman and her friends from Our Lady School. They are raising funds to help Isabel's 2year old cousin who is having treatment (in Great Ormond Street Hospital) for Neuroblastoma - a rare form of cancer. Money raised will go towards further treatment. Donations of cakes etc. would be very welcome. Call Isabel's mum on 07813304798 or email juliemurphy704@gmail.com if you can help or just bring a cake on 17th December.

Thank you.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS: This Friday 8th December, 7-9pm, Come and celebrate the Christmas season singing carols in The Cloisters (off Parkway) followed by refreshments and more carols at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Contributions of mince pies or soft drinks most welcome!

CONCERT The Mid Herts Wind, Brass and Percussion groups will be performing their Winter Concert at Our Lady's Church on Thursday 7th December from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are £6 (full price), £4 (concessions), free for children. Please come along for an evening of musical entertainment by these young people.

CAFOD The CAFOD group will be meeting on Tuesday 5th Dec at 2pm in the Parish room at Holy Family. Anyone who wishes to come along will be very welcome and The CAFOD group are currently selling tickets for their Christmas Raffle which will be drawn on 17th December after the 9.30 am Mass. Tickets are £1 per strip. Various prizes.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION Bishop John Wilson, Chairman of the Diocesan Education Commission, has written the following: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' on your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools having 100% Catholic intake.

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 Our Lady's Church
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parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
 St. Bonaventure's Church
 81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Fr. Tom 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

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY This will take place next year on Saturday 24th March (venue to be confirmed). Please let Fr. Norbert know if you are planning to marry in 2018/19 whether in Welwyn Garden City or further away so that the Papers for Marriage can be sorted out.

CAROL SERVICES Our Lady's School has its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Monday 18th December at 6.30pm. Holy Family School's Carol Service will be in Holy Family Church on Tuesday 19th December at 6pm. Commonswood Primary School will have its Carol Service in Our Lady's Church on Monday 11th December at 6pm.

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

MASS TIMES

04 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	Advent feria
05 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Nicholas
07 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Ambrose
08 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Immaculate Conception
	12.30pm	Nuptial Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
09 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Advent feria

Second Sunday of Advent

09 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
10 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 Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) **Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net**