

# 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 14th January***

‘I bring you news of great joy...today a Saviour has been born to you...Christ the Lord.’ This is the message from the Angel to the shepherds in St. Luke’s account of the Nativity...and the rest is history! As we gather as a Christian Community to share in celebrating Christ’s Birth - coming together with family, friends, parishioners and visitors - the impact of what has taken place sinks in! God is HERE in this tiny child. God is interested in ME and sends his Son to be my Saviour. God chooses US to be heralds of a message so wonderful that things can never be the same again! What strikes me as I write this piece is that you will read it again on New Year’s Eve and on the Epiphany in 2018. Will it still feel as fresh and amazing once things ‘get back to normal’?

‘News’ is something worth telling others about. As the days of Christmas unfold, listen hard to the Voice of God speaking to you personally. How has 2017 been for you? Joy, sadness, frustration, disappointment, the unexpected? What might you share with someone else when you return to work/school/the everyday about your experience this Christmas? Jesus is Saviour. How have you felt his Presence bringing life, hope, power and vigour? Are you able to approach life with a spring in your step because of him and what he is doing for you? As the New Year begins, what are you yearning for in your life? What resolution might bring you closer to God? Are you apprehensive about anything looming on the horizon? Remember that the Angel told the shepherds: ‘Do not be afraid.’ Feel the empowering grace of God coming to you through his Word.

I pray that for us as a community we might find more ways of being together to hear the message which comes from God, to make it our own and to live it out to such a degree that our world becomes a better place. Happy Christmas and God be with you in 2018! With much love and appreciation for all you do to support me. ***Fr. Norbert***

**CHRISTMAS THANKS** Fr. Norbert writes: There are so many who have helped in a huge number of ways to ensure we have celebrated Christmas well: those involved upfront in the Liturgy - musicians and singers, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word, welcomers and collectors, the catechists who have prepared the children for the Christmas Masses; those who keep our churches so clean and maintain the grounds, the flower arrangers, people who have erected the Christmas trees and Cribs and put up decorations; the behind-the-scenes helpers: sacristans who keep everything ready and wash the church linen, those who tidy up after Mass, those who prepare our orders of service, newsletters and fold them, those who serve refreshments after Mass; the counters of the collections; there are those who pray hard in the background and offer much needed support in this way. There are countless signs of your love and generosity. I am very grateful to those who prepared and distributed the hampers for the elderly and housebound, to those who brought gifts for needy children and those who transported them; to those who responded so generously to the 'shoe-box' appeal; to the Confirmation Group who prepared parcels for residents at the local YMCA; to the various groups and individuals who take care of the less privileged, lonely or isolated members of our local community. The rest of the year so much is happening nourishing people in faith and expressing the power of faith through acts of charity and kindness. Fr. Tom and I wish all of you, our people, family, friends and visitors a blessed Christmas and joyful hope in the New Year! Thank you for your generous Christmas offerings and gifts, for the cards and good wishes.

**ALTAR SERVERS MASS** on St. Stephen's Day, Tuesday 26th December, at 10am at St. Bonaventure's. We invite our servers to come with their albs and cinctures to take part in this Mass on their Feast Day. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

**HOLY FAMILY** The feast of the Holy Family will be on Sunday 31st December. Happy Feast! Please note there will not be an evening Mass that day.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** Mass will be at Our Lady's at 10am on Monday 1st January, the Solemnity of the Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**RICHARD BOND RIP** Richard's Funeral will be at Our Lady's on Friday 26th January at 12 noon.

**RCIA** Next session for adults wanting to join the Catholic Church will be in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm Monday 15th January.

**CONFIRMATION** The next session for our young people will be on Sunday 21st January at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS** from our three churches will have their first meeting in Our Lady's Church on Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm.

**THANK YOU** Isabel, who was raising money for treatment for her sick cousin, raised £450 between the cake sale, and selling raffle tickets for a Christmas draw. She would like to thank parishioners for their generous donations.

**LOOKING AHEAD** There will be an afternoon visit to St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green, Ware on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm. There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the Pugin Chapel, the Museum which has many items from Penal Times and to have a time of prayer. There will also be tea and cake!

On Saturday 5th May there will be a day in Aylesford at The Friars where there is a Shrine of Our Lady.

**SVP** The next meeting of the SVP will be on Thursday 11th January.

**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.

**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).

**OUR LADY'S** The Outdoor Crib will be taken down on Saturday 13th 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 11th January.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY** This will take place on Saturday 24th March 2018 at Our Lady's. 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.

**FIRST FRIDAY** The next early Mass will be at 6.30am on 5th 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 12th January 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.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** There will be one Service on Sunday 21st January at 4pm at Christchurch Baptist Church on Tewin Road AL7 1BW. The Bishop of Hertford, Michael Beasley, will be giving the address. We have our gaze fixed on 2020 when Welwyn Garden City will be 100 years old! Please put the date in your diaries.

**FINANCE COMMITTEES** St. Bonaventure's will meet on Tuesday 23rd January at 10.15am. Our Lady's on Tuesday 23rd at 7.45pm. Holy Family on Wednesday 7th February 7pm.

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

**CAFOD** The next meeting is on Tuesday Jan 9th at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All are welcome. **THE CAFOD group** are holding a "Thank You" supper on Friday 26th Jan at 7pm in the parish room at Holy Family. This year our supporters in WGC have helped us to raise a spectacular £4780 for CAFOD. We invite you all to come along on the 26th Jan and it will be our pleasure to see you and provide a light supper. There will be no charge or donation boxes for this evening.

**ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE** an independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, is holding their 4+ 7+ 11+ and 13+ Entrance Assessments in January and early February, for September 2018 entry. For more information or to register please contact the Admissions Registrar. Email: [admissions@stcolumbascollege.org](mailto:admissions@stcolumbascollege.org). Direct line: 01727 892040

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** We meet again on Tuesday 9th January 3.45pm - 4.45pm in the hall at St. Bonaventure's. Why not come along?

**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**

26 Tuesday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Stephen
27 Wednesday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	St. John
28 Thursday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	The Holy Innocents
29 Friday	10am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Thomas Becket
30 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Octave of Christmas
<b>30 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>The Holy Family</b>
<b>31 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>	
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>	
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	
	<i>No evening Mass at Holy Family</i>			
01 Monday	10am	Mass	Our Lady's	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>
02 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Basil
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
03 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Christmas feria
04 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Christmas feria
05 Friday	6.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
06 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	Christmas feria
<b>06 Saturday</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>07 Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Holy Family	
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	St. Bonaventure	
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Our Lady's	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Holy Family	
08 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>
09 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
10 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
11 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	feria
12 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
13 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria

**Website for our 3 parishes**  
**[www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk)**