

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

81 Parkway

Tel: 01707 322579

Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JF



email: parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk

website: www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Registered Charity 233699

Parish Priest: Father Bill McConalogue

Parish Secretary: Mrs Kathryn Hubbard

(Father Bill can also be contacted on 01707 327434)

First Sunday of Advent 2nd December 2007

The rich feast of Advent scriptures is spread before us today as we hear the prophetic words of Isaiah. His vision of God's kingdom challenges us to work for peace and justice. In a time when war grips many areas of our world, let us allow these words to prompt us to be real peacemakers in our homes, our places of work, and in our neighbourhoods. As the sacred word of God is proclaimed, let us be alert, awaiting the very presence of Christ.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

Psalm 121

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help!

Alleluia!



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

My dear Parishioners and Visitors,

WELCOME I extend a very warm welcome to everyone. If you have recently moved into the parish, or have started coming to Mass here, please do introduce yourselves to me or Father Joe after Mass.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday	3rd	St. Francis Xavier
Thursday	6th	St. Nicholas, Bishop
Friday	7th	St. Ambrose, Bishop
Saturday	8th	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

JAMES (JIM) CROWE R.I.P. It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Jim Crowe R.I.P. who died peacefully on Thursday morning. Jim was a very active and dedicated member of this parish for many many years and was loved by all who knew him. Jim was 99 years old and would have celebrated his centenary birthday in January. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace. The Funeral Mass takes place this coming Friday 7th December at 11am and is followed by burial at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery at 12.15pm.

SVP COLLECTION There is a second collection today for the work of the SVP at Christmas. All the money given will go towards making someone's Christmas happy.

FIRST FRIDAY There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday because of the funeral, nor will the sick and housebound be visited on this day. (Holy Communion will be taken to the sick and housebound on Friday 21st December.)

NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSALS All children/young people are invited to take part in our Nativity Play. Our first rehearsal is this Sunday afternoon from 2.30pm - 4pm. We have quite a few rehearsals but we welcome everyone however often they can get to a rehearsal, ideally the more they come to the better! Other rehearsal times are as follows: Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th 3.45/4pm - 5pm. Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th 2.30-4pm. Tuesday 11th & Friday 14th 3.45/4pm - 5pm. On the Friday we finish a little later as we have pizzas. Saturday 15th Dress Rehearsal 3-4pm.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS FUND The final total for this fund is £952.35. This money will help towards making life more comfortable for our many sick and retired priests in the Diocese. Thank you very much for your generosity.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES Please fill in the lists at the back of church if you are available and willing to carry out your ministry over Christmas. Thank you.

CHOIR FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS If you would like to be part of the choir for Advent and Christmas come along to the practice on a Thursday in the church from 8pm-9pm. You will be very welcome.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE This year there will be a combined Penitential Service for our three parishes and it will take place here at St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday 12th December at 7.30pm.

UNUSUAL PICTURES OF THE NATIVITY An illustrated talk by Dr. Roger Aubrey on Friday 14th December at 8pm in the parish room of Holy Family Church. Light refreshments. Donations towards the cost of disabled access to the Parish Room. All are welcome.

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP The Mother and Toddler Group have their Christmas Party next Wednesday from 9.30am. The group then takes a break until Wednesday 16th January.

GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN 2007 Once a year Amnesty International UK asks us to send cards to 'Prisoners of Conscience'. Next Sunday after each Mass, you will be offered a booklet to take home which gives information about the prisoners you might like to send cards to. Roisin Toole will be outside the church after Mass with these booklets. Please give this campaign your support today and help to bring hope and encouragement to the selected prisoners and maybe bring about an improvement in their treatment by the prison authorities.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC RAMBLERS CLUB Welcomes parishioners to join them for a ramble on Sunday 9th December. Meet at Hitchin Station 10.10am for 10.25am start. Lunch: Gosmore. Tea: Hitchin. Distance 11 miles ending at Hitchin. For more details please call Paul Connolly on 07906 666748.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP 'Birth' - Monday 3rd December 7.45pm in St. Francis Church Hall. For further details contact Valerie Skottowe on 01707 324828. For future Interfaith events please see the card on the notice board.

A FEW REMINDERS • Some parishioners are still double parking, we have been approached by the police asking that you do not do this as it is dangerous.

- If you borrow something from the hall or hall kitchen please return the item(s) as soon as you've finished with them.
- The hall heaters are operated from inside the little doors on the front, please do not switch off the main switches on the wall. Thank you.

May God bless you all,

Father Bill

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 2ND DECEMBER

02 Sunday 8am Margaret Eadan (lately dead)
 10.30am Baby Francesca Staniforth (12th anniversary)

Weekdays

03 Monday 12noon Funeral Mass for David Pilbeam R.I.P.
04 Tuesday 9am Thanksgiving to St. Anthony
05 Wednesday 9am Joseph Walstan and Mary Teresa Ottaway R.I.P.
06 Thursday 9am Mavis Cleasby (intentions)
07 Friday 11am Funeral Mass for James (Jim) Crowe R.I.P.
08 Saturday 10am Intentions of Jane and Tony

09 Sunday 8am Angelo and Winnie Gismondi (anniversary)
 10.30am Sandra Kennedy R.I.P. and family

Please note: There is Mass at 7pm every Sunday in Holy Family Church

Morning Prayer of the Church begins 15 minutes before Mass on each weekday.
The Rosary is recited on Wednesdays and Fridays after Mass.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT First Friday of the month
from 9.30am concluding with **BENEDICTION** at 12noon (not this week).

CONFESSIONS Saturdays 10.30am - 11am.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS are on a page 26 of the Mass Book.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Nicola Coles (a young mother in the parish), Debrae Betts, Colin Wright, Susan Hughes, Kathleen Campbell, Teresa Mitchell, Charlie Botwright, Maureen Botwright, Phyllis Coughlan, Meg Ansell, Marjorie Davis, Peter Conroy, Catherine Conroy, Nora O'Loughlin, Pat Wells, Ted Evans, Ruth Bauer-Flynn, Mollie Brennan, Anna Bushell, Patrick Burke, Ruth Williams, James May, Keith Kerrison, Mrs Power, Peter Ferguson, Kitty Stephens, and all the sick amongst our personal friends and relations, those in the Q.E. II hospital and all who are in need of our prayers.

LATELY DEAD Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jim Crowe.

ANNIVERSARIES Please remember Kevin Purtell, Stephen Nugent, Agnes and Alexander Kennoy, Michael O'Shea, Thomas West, and all those who have no one to pray for them.

<p>CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain, Mrs Bernadette Cassidy, on 07623 897178.</p>
