

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Mannion
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

First Sunday of Advent 29th November 2009

Today, with the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new year in the Church's life. This season prepares us for Christ's Coming. What signs can we see which point to his Coming? The leaves on most trees have died and fallen to the ground; the evergreen on the Advent Wreath highlights that God's love is everlasting. The world does not always truly understand or believe in love - God's love; the circular shape of the Advent Wreath emphasises that God's love and life have no beginning or end. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, the days are getting shorter, darkness seems to be victorious; as each of the four candles of the Wreath, representing the four Sundays of Advent, is lit, the light will grow brighter radiating the splendour of Christ's presence drawing ever closer. In the Church purple is the colour of Advent, indicating our commitment to get ready - heart, mind and soul - for the Coming of Christ.

Christ will return in glory! This is the bold proclamation of the Church at the start of this season. It calls on us to put all our trust in God as we think of the end of time and the signs associated with the Lord's Coming (technically called the Parousia). If we prepare well for that Second Coming, then we will be ready to enter into the mystery of the Nativity which we will celebrate at the end of Advent.

As we enter this season, let us ask ourselves what we really need from God as he sends us his Son. What is our world yearning for? What is lacking in our family, among our friends or in our community which Jesus our mighty Lord could remedy? What about each individual? How might his or her life be enlightened by the Coming of Jesus Christ? We need silence to reflect, time to take stock and the willpower to respond to the graces God is offering us. Don't let this Advent be one which comes and goes! Make it special, significant and life-changing for you and those around you. All your efforts will bear much fruit. God bless you. ***Fr. Norbert***

SVP There will be a retiring collection for the work of the SVP after Mass this weekend at Holy Family and Our Lady's. Please be generous in your support.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 5th December at 6pm at Our Lady's for Welwyn Garden City and beyond. At 4.30pm there will be a time of preparation getting ready an altar frontal and learning some simple sign language. If you would like to help, you would be most welcome. The gifts of those with special needs and learning difficulties will enrich the celebration.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY There will be a Highland knees up in the sacristy of Our Lady's after 9.30am Mass this Monday to mark the feast of St. Andrew. The refreshments will have a Scottish flavour perhaps with a wee dram!

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 1st December at 7.30pm in the parish rooms at Holy Family. New faces are welcome to come along and join us.

CAFOD LUNCH Friday's CAFOD Lunch at St. Bonaventure's raised £252. Thank you to all who helped in any way. A lot of work goes in to the preparation of these very successful monthly lunches. It would be lovely to have more volunteers to help - it may be that you could provide a pudding, bake some bread, help set up, wash up etc. If you feel you would like to be involved in any way please contact Mavis Cleasby on 01707 330830. You will be very welcome.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND There is a crate at the back of each church for contributions for the hampers (there are lists at the back of the church giving ideas for contributions). As you do your weekly shop please think about our lonely, elderly and housebound who might appreciate a little surprise at Christmas.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLEANING This will be on Monday 14th December commencing at 9.30am. Just turn up or if you want to know more phone Vera Chase on 01707 893491. Thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS MEETING for the three churches of Welwyn Garden City on Tuesday 8th December at 7.45pm at Our Lady's.

OUR LADY'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR If you would like to be involved in the singing and/or music at Our Lady's for any or all of the Christmas Masses, please contact Ciaran Pugh on 01707 886428 or email ciaran.pugh@ntlworld.com.

CLEANING AND OUTDOOR CRIB: the cleaning of Our Lady's Church will take place on **Saturday 5th December commencing at 10.00am**. Everyone is invited to assist in this work. At the same time the outdoor crib will be built and help will be needed. Refreshments will be available!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MEETING for **Our Lady's parents** who wish to register their children for the sacraments of First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion on Tuesday 1st December at 7.45pm following the 7.00pm Mass.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Winter Festivals 9th December at 7.45pm. Come and hear how the faiths in our community celebrate. Fr. Norbert will give a PowerPoint presentation of Bethlehem. In the Park Lounge, Campus West.

CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's at 3pm on **13th December** there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part. Our first rehearsal is **this Sunday 2.30pm - 4pm**. Other rehearsal times are: Mon 30th & Tues 1st 3.45pm - 5pm, Sat 5th & Sun 6th 2.30pm - 4pm, Tues 8th 3.45pm - 5pm, Fri 11th 3.45pm-5.30pm (pizzas today) and dress rehearsal on Sat. 12th from 3pm - 4pm. Please don't be put off by the number of rehearsals (come as often as you are able). All are welcome to take part.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD A big 'thank you' to all who filled boxes - 99 boxes were collected from St. Bonaventure's on Wednesday. These boxes are for distribution to children in Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. There are 'thank you' cards at the back of the church.

HOLY FAMILY CHILDREN'S MASS AND CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE Children are invited to take up a gift for a child less fortunate than themselves as an offering and place it around a Christmas Giving Tree. If you intend to come to this Mass please bring with you a wrapped gift labelled Boy/Girl Under 12 or Boy/ Girl Teenager. There will be a short practice for readers and singers on 12th Dec at 10am led by Fr. Norbert. Any queries please contact Sally Kee 01707 261394. Joss Innocent Landers 01707 396172, Jackie McCallum 01707 331551 or Suzanne Meenan 01438717783.

PAINTER AND DECORATOR If you have need of a painter and decorator please contact Janet Lewis of the SVP. Also the SVP needs a chest of drawers and two new mattresses (single and double) for a client. Contact Janet on 01707 326456

CAROL SINGING The Churches in Welwyn Garden City will be singing carols outside the Howard Centre on Sunday 6th December 4 – 5pm. Why not come and add your voice? Bring a torch and wrap up well!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be at Holy Family on Monday 21st December at 7pm.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY Mass for the Altar Servers of the area on Saturday 26th December at 10am at St. Bonaventure's. Servers are invited to come with their albs or cassocks and cottas. There will, of course, be a reception afterwards in the Parish Hall. If anyone would like to help, please see Fr. Norbert.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY will this year be on Sunday 27th December. There will be wine and canapés after 10am Mass. If anyone would like to help in any way, please see Fr. Norbert or Fr. Michael.

HAMSTER FREE TO A GOOD HOME A parishioner has a seven month old female hamster going free to a good home. She comes with all her comforts - cage, toys etc. If you are interested phone Annemarie on 07983709503.

RELIGION AND BELIEF SURVEY If you would like to take part in this Herts County Council survey please take a form from the back of church (St. B's).

BE WARNED! If you double park outside St. Bonaventure's you are very likely to get a parking ticket. Park in the garden if you can't find anywhere else.

WALK WITH ME A journey of Prayer for Advent, please take a free copy.
CALENDAR FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS There is a free one of these for every family in the parish. Please take one home with you.

MISSION SUNDAY (APF) COLLECTION The collection for this from St. Bonaventure's came to £175.51. Next week you will hear information about Missio (APF Mill Hill Fathers) and how much was raised through the Red Boxes.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY The grand total from the three churches came to £1869.84. Our Lady's £626.10, Holy Family £660.72, St. Bonaventure's £583.02.

BINGO AT OUR LADY'S Every Monday in the Parish Centre, a small friendly Bingo Game. All are welcome, no entry fee. Ticket sales start at 8.00pm.

CONTACTS

Fr. Norbert 323234
welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's
141 Woodhall Lane
AL7 3TP
Website:
www.ourladys-parish.info

Kathryn Hubbard 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's
81 Parkway AL8 6JF
Website:
www.stbonaventure.org.uk

Fr. Michael 327434
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass	6pm	Our Lady's (Special Needs Mass) Confessions 5pm - 5.30pm
Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure
	10am	Holy Family
	12noon	Our Lady's
	6pm	St. Bonaventure

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family
Thursday	9.30am	Our Lady's
Friday	9am	St. Bonaventure + Exposition + Benediction
	7pm	Holy Family + Exposition, Benediction + Confessions
Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure Confessions 10.30am - 11am



CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital you can contact the R.C. Chaplain, Mrs Bernadette Cassidy, on 07884187463