

# 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*

## ***Second Sunday of Advent 6th December 2009***

A week ago I had the good fortune of having time to go on retreat to St. Beuno's in North Wales. It gave me the great opportunity to have some space for myself *with the Lord*. (Though I did pray very hard for all of you every day!) It is so easy to get caught up with many very important things and to devote one's time to people who are most deserving. However, the fact of being on retreat is that gentle nudge from the Lord to focus completely on him regularly and to let his grace enrich the ministry I have received from him in the service of others.

Advent is a call from the Lord to us to give him *time* and *space*. He comes to us with an abundance of gifts and blessings if only we will turn to him with open arms expressing our need. The sound of John the Baptist's voice was the wake-up call needed by the people of Israel to welcome the Messiah. He was firm and direct. He himself found an oasis of peace in the desert which gave him the courage to carry out his ministry. He was preparing *a way for the Lord*. We should listen and respond! Let each of us in the busy-ness of this period seek the Lord's presence and draw those around us into the fruitful joy of spending time with him. We must *together* prepare a way for Jesus to come into our lives and our world.

On a different note, I have spoken to Bishop George Stack about having a review meeting to reflect on the changes in Welwyn Garden City these last few months. The first available date he can make will be in February as the Bishops of England and Wales will be in Rome to meet the Pope in January. The meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm** in Our Lady's Hall. (The Bishop does not want the meeting in a church.) Everyone is invited to this. Please put the date in your diary.

May God bless you this Advent. *Fr. Norbert*

**CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY ST. BONAVENTURE'S** This takes place next Sunday 13th December at 3pm and is followed by a 'Bring and Share Tea.' Please support this event as it is our children's and young people's special contribution to the life of our church. At the end of the service there will be a collection for The Catholic Children's Society.

**NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSALS** Today 2.30-4pm. Tuesday 8th & Friday 11th 3.45/4pm - 5pm. On Friday we have pizzas so finish a bit later (5.30pm), and on Saturday 12th from 3-4pm we have the Dress Rehearsal.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES CARD** Please take home the Christmas Services Card which is at the back of church.

**SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES** On Tuesday 15th December Holy Family School 6pm in Holy Family Church, and on Wednesday 16th December Our Lady School 2.30pm in Our Lady's Church. All are welcome to come along.

**CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS** At 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th December, you are warmly invited to come and celebrate the Christmas season singing carols in The Cloisters (off Parkway) followed by refreshments and more carols in the Focolare Centre. Contributions of mince pies welcome.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND** Don't forget the crates at the back of church for your contributions.

**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.

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS MEETING** Takes place for the three churches of Welwyn Garden City this Tuesday, 7.45pm at Our Lady's.

**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.

**MALAWI** Following the very successful evening last Friday at Our Lady's where £150 was raised, a further £320 will be sent to Fr George Buleya for the maintenance of the well in Makunami Village. The well is now up and running and by Christmas this appeal will have closed. Very many thanks to all those who supported the appeal, especially for the fantastic raffle prizes that were donated for each of our fund raising events and for all the practical help that has been offered and accepted! An amazing total of £8320.45 has been raised.

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

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** on Monday mornings for half an hour after 9.30 Mass at Our Lady's. A time of peace and reflection in this Advent season.

**JOHN AKERS R.I.P.** Please pray for the repose of the soul of local artist John Akers R.I.P. who has died. His funeral service is on Saturday 12th December 2pm at Harwood Park Crematorium and a Mass will be offered for him on Wednesday 30th December at Holy Family Church.

## **OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S NATIVITY MASS - CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm**

Any children who would like to take part in the Nativity Mass on Christmas Eve are invited to attend the rehearsals on Saturday 19th December 10.30am - 11.30am and Sunday 20th December 10.30am - 11.30am. We look forward to seeing you.

**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.

**ALTAR SERVERS** All existing altar servers of **Holy Family** Church will have a pre-Christmas practice in the church on Saturday 19th December 12noon - 1pm. New servers are asked to come and train at this session.

Similarly for **Our Lady's** on Saturday 19th December 3 - 4pm there will be a practice and training for new and existing servers in Our Lady's Church. Servers should have made their First Holy Communion.

**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.

**ACCOMMODATION** An Asian parishioner currently doing further studies is looking for accommodation, preferably a room within a house. She is willing to do domestic jobs instead of rent. Please contact Fr. Norbert for more information.

**OUR LADY'S ROTA FOR MINISTERS** the combined Rota for the Welcomers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for December and January is now available at the back of the church. It is also posted on the website of Our Lady's . Please complete the form at the back of the church to indicate which Mass at Christmas you can assist at. Many thanks.

**MANY THANKS** to all those who came to clean Our Lady's Church and build the outdoor Crib on Saturday. We are very grateful for the sterling work done to achieve these tasks.

**CAFOD** John Fogarty has CAFOD merchandise for sale: Fairtrade footballs (full-size soccer balls, £12 each), CAFOD candles (£3.50 each), Aspire CAFOD mugs (£3.50), Romero crosses (three different sizes, large £30, medium £15 and small £2.50 each), Live Simply jute shopping-bags (£5) and Images of Prayer (a book of prayers and photographs, from around the world, £4.50). Delivered free of charge, anywhere within the Welwyn Garden City parish area and items guaranteed to get to you by Christmas! All proceeds go to CAFOD. If you would like to buy something, please telephone 01707 327771 or e-mail john.fogarty@ntlworld.com. The Romero crosses, which are in memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero (who was assassinated in March 1989), are hand-painted in El Salvador, where the Archbishop lived and died.

**READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS** Please fill in the lists at St. Bonaventure's if you can exercise your ministry during Christmas.

**SISTER JOAN WRITES:** ‘I would like to take this opportunity to thank all in the parish of St. Bonaventure for your generosity to our students in Tamale over so many years. You have helped so many young people to have access to education which would have been an impossibility otherwise. Many have even managed to complete university. I say ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you’ from myself, the St. Gilda’s Community past and present and especially from all the many students you have helped along the way. May the good Lord reward you abundantly. You will be forever in our prayers.’ The Tamale Project has now come to an end. Money raised from the sale of coffee will now go to different charities until it has been decided which long term project to support.

### CONTACTS

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**Kathryn Hubbard 322579**  
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**St. Bonaventure’s**  
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**Fr. Michael 327434**  
**Holy Family Church**  
**194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ**

### MASS TIMES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

#### SUNDAY MASSES

<b>Saturday Vigil Mass</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Our Lady’s</b> Confessions 5pm - 5.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>
	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Our Lady’s</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>St. Bonaventure</b>

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

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



**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