

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*

***Third Sunday of Advent
13th December 2009***

‘What must we do?’ is a question *all the people* put to John the Baptist in today’s Gospel reading from St. Luke. If all the people asked you what they must do, how would you respond? Now that we have reached the Third Sunday of Advent, you would probably begin by pointing out how many shopping days are left until Christmas or remind them to get their overseas cards in the post (or else!). Perhaps you would make sure they had bought sufficient food and drink to keep them going just in case?! What about the Christmas decorations? *What must we do?!!*

John the Baptist asks some to share what they have with the person who has nothing. He challenges others to be just and still others to be content with their pay. In last week’s Gospel John wanted the people to repent of their sins. His list isn’t quite like the one above! At this holy time, do I take a moment to think of people who are not as fortunate as I am and do what I can to share something with them? There are so many practical opportunities offered to us here in the Garden City to give to someone in need. Am I just in the way I treat others, in the respect I show to people no matter what their background? Am I content with what I have and thank God for what I have received? Am I ready to celebrate God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as being prepared to offer forgiveness in my daily life to the person who offends me? This is very demanding!

Today the Church calls out: Gaudete! Rejoice! We are now over the half-way mark of Advent; the Lord’s Coming is even closer. What helps me to rejoice? Is my rejoicing founded on the truth of *who* Jesus is and *what* he is going to do for us and our world? We need silence and stillness to reflect on these questions.

May God bless you in your response to him. ***Fr. Norbert***

CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY This takes place today in St. Bonaventure's at 3pm. There will be a collection for the Catholic Children's Society.

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.

CAROLS AT CAMPUS WEST on Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm. All welcome!

CHILDREN'S MASS Next Sunday 6pm at St. Bonaventure's. The theme is 'Are you Ready?'

CRIB SERVICE Come along with your children to a short and informal Crib Service at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 21st December at 3.45pm. We place the figures in the crib, have a story and then decorate the Christmas tree. We will also have a practice for the tableau for our **Children's Christmas Mass** at 6pm.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE for our three churches will be on Monday 21st December at 7pm at Holy Family. Come and share in the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in readiness for Christmas. If you have not been to Confession for a long time, don't worry! There will be a number of priests available to help you.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY Mass for the servers of the area is on Saturday 26th December at 10am at St. Bonaventure's. Servers are asked to come with their albs or cassocks and cottas and vest in the front room of the Presbytery before Mass. There will be refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards for everyone.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY will be celebrated on Sunday 27th December. Please bring a bottle of wine (or soft drink) and a plate of finger food for the reception which will follow the 10am Mass at Holy Family Church.

A PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED A part time administrator is required for the Interfaith Group to undertake general duties and administrative support to enable the efficient operation of the group. The post will be for one year starting early 2010. Hours are flexible approximately two half days per week. This is a paid position. Please phone 01707 324828 for further information.

MUSIC PRACTICE for Our Lady's Christmas Choir, in the church, 7:30pm – 9:30pm Thursday 17th December.

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS There will be a practice after 10am Mass today and next week for the children involved in the Tableau.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL MASS You are invited to come to Holy Family School Mass on Friday 18th December in the school at 11am.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MIDNIGHT MASS If you can help with serving refreshments after Midnight Mass at St. Bonaventure's please let Kathryn know.

MISSIO - APF/ MILL HILL FATHERS The Pontifical Mission Societies now have a new name, Missio, although we will still think of the APF and the Mill Hill Fathers regarding the Red Boxes. This year the total collected from the Red Boxes was £1025.42 from St. Bonaventure's, £1852.30 from Our Lady's and £311 from Holy Family making a Welwyn Garden City total of £3188.72. Many thanks to everyone for their generosity. This money will go to the expanding church of Africa and Asia, young churches which often face extreme difficulties. The money we collect via the Red Boxes and donations will help people to rebuild their lives and become reconciled with God and one another. Perhaps you could consider having a Red Box in your house - it is very useful for all that loose change, or maybe you could make a small annual donation. If you could give just 10p a week that would be £5.20 a year. For more information about having a Red Box contact: Mavis Cleasby (330803) for St. B's, Margaret O'Neill (325984) for OL or Jenny White for HF.

OUR LADY'S CHILDREN'S NATIVITY MASS - CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm We have had a good response from children wanting to take part in the Nativity Mass on Christmas Eve. We still have some roles available, so if your child/children would like to take part, our rehearsals are on Saturday 19th December 10.30am - 11.30am and Sunday 20th December 10.30am - 11.30am in the church. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

OUR LADY'S MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: welcomers, readers and Eucharistic ministers are asked to please sign up on the form at the back of Church to indicate which Mass you can assist at. Many thanks.

OUR LADY'S CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS: this will take place on **Tuesday 22nd December at 10am**. Everyone is invited to come and prepare the church for the Christmas Season. Refreshments available!

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

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP are having a cake sale at the back of the Church in aid of CAFOD after the 10am Mass on Sunday.

CHURCHES IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY There are leaflets at the back of the church listing church services over Christmas for all denominations. Please take some and deliver them to houses near where you live. Note that for St. Bonaventure's the Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm has been left out likewise for Our Lady's Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm.

LATELY DEAD We offer our prayers and sympathy to the families and friends of Placy DeSouza R.I.P. and Carmel Conroy R.I.P. who died this week. Funeral details will be announced in next week's newsletter.

FR. JOE'S ADDRESS Fr. Joe Boward, St. John's Convent, Lindenhill Lane, Kiln Green, Reading. RG10 9XP.

CWL CHRISTMAS QUIZ The CWL are running a Christmas Quiz. £1 for a sheet of questions which will be available after all Masses this weekend. A fun thing to do over Christmas!

PARISH CHRISTMAS HAMPERS The hampers will be assembled this Friday 7pm in Holy Family Parish Room and delivered on Saturday from 10am onwards. Please continue to give generously this week. If you know someone who would benefit from a hamper or if you can help in any way please contact Sally Kee 261394, Jackie McCallum 331553 or Joss Landers 396172. We need your help!

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 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 + Exposition
Tuesday	9am	St. Bonaventure
	7pm	Our Lady's
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family
Thursday	9.30am	Our Lady's
Friday	9am	St. Bonaventure
	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