

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*

Epiphany of the Lord 3rd January 2010

Happy New Year 2010! Isn't that amazing? As we gather for Mass on this first Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Magi come in search of Someone special, led by a star and they offer gifts. It would be very easy to focus on these Wise Men, their origins and motivation. What about the star? Was it a comet? Which one? Gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh...how exotic! The Epiphany is about the *revelation* of **God's Son** to peoples of every time and place; without him the *Essence* is missing. The gifts highlight who he is: King, God and Priest, a mortal whose body would be anointed in death. The star reminds us of how things, people and events can lead us to, and help us discover, Jesus. Let us reflect on this today.

As the celebration of Christmas draws to a close, there is so much Fr. Michael and I would like to thank you for: your gifts, cards, good wishes and very generous Christmas offerings. Each of our three churches has been beautifully decorated for Christmas with cribs, flowers, wreaths and trees. The various Christmas Masses each had so much hard work put into them with different ministries, gifts and talents. Your giving of yourselves is a constant reminder of Christ's giving of himself for others; it also highlights the hard work going on throughout the year up front and behind the scenes. Thank you also for your generous giving to others locally and abroad, sharing with them a taste of our Christmas joy.

As the New Year unfolds, let us think about how we can be stars for others, pointing them to Jesus Christ. In our world sadly there is much darkness which can be a real strain on us as we grapple with our faith in Jesus, its intensity and our ability to persevere. We must be on the lookout for the stars which will bring us closer to Christ. We have to search and never give up - just like the Magi. *(next page)*

And what a discovery they made in Jesus Christ! He is waiting for us too in 2010 and beyond! May God bless you and your loved ones. *Fr. Norbert*

FR. McCOY AND FR. JOE Would like to thank all parishioners for their gifts, cards, and good wishes this Christmas.

LATIN MASS SOCIETY The Latin Mass Society will celebrate Mass at St. Bonaventure's this Tuesday, 5th January, at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP We meet again this Tuesday, 5th January, at 7.30pm in the parish room. All are welcome.

PILATES CLASSES There are two classes taking place in St. Bonaventure's parish hall starting on Monday 11th January for 6 weeks at 18:30 and 19:45, £45 for the course. Contact Helen Creak: email helencreak@physio4you.co.uk or mobile 07979253033.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S MOTHER AND TODDLER Meets again this Wednesday in the parish hall from 10am. All are welcome to come along with their babies and toddlers.

OUR LADY'S JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP We would like to thank all those in our parishes who supported the Greetings Card Campaign, for "Prisoners of Conscience". It is hoped to continue this practice next Christmas. For future Justice and Peace events watch this space.

DEVELOPING A HEALING MINISTRY On January 9th from 10.30am – 5pm at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew RC Church, Hitchin, Myles Dempsey will be leading a day focused on developing the healing ministry in a parish including prayer and services. Myles Dempsey is a Roman Catholic layman and, is the founder and leader of the Prince of Peace Community. He has been working in full time lay ministry in the church for over 20 years. As well as being very involved in private counselling, he travels a good deal in England and abroad giving talks and retreats, and is known for his powerful healing ministry and inspirational teaching. All parishioners are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to look at prayer and God's healing power in our lives. Please feel free to come for all or part of the day. Please bring some food for a shared lunch. If you need more details contact Trish Bennett (Pastoral Assistant) on 01462 455577 or 07801 752141.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP This group resumes again on Tuesday 12th January 3.45pm in the parish hall. All children welcome.

CWL CHRISTMAS QUIZ We hope you have enjoyed doing the Christmas Quiz. The last day for returning the answers is Sunday 17th January. Please return your answers in the box at the back of the church. The next Catholic Women's League meeting is 12th January after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. All are welcome to attend.

REVIEW MEETING There will be a review meeting to reflect on the changes in Welwyn Garden City these last sixth months. Bishop George Stack will be at this meeting on **Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm** in Our Lady's Hall. Please put the date in your diary.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S SICK AND HOUSEBOUND These parishioners will be visited with Holy Communion next Friday 8th January. There is also a Eucharistic Service at 11am on this day for the residents of St. Andrew's Care Home. If you know of any parishioners who would like to receive Holy Communion please get that information to the parish office by 9am Friday morning.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S FLOWER GROUP There will be a meeting for all members of the Flower Group at 5.15pm on Sunday 24th January in the parish hall. The rota for the following year will be worked out then. New members are very welcome to join this flower arranging group. If you need details phone Jenny on 01438 717798.

CLEANING THE CHURCH AND DISMANTLING THE CRIB: for Our Lady's will take place on **Saturday 9th January 2010 at 10.00am**. Help is needed for just ONE hour to clean the church or assist with the dismantling and storage of the outdoor crib. Young people are very welcome to help with these necessary tasks. Refreshments will be available! Everyone is invited.

THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING: resumes at Our Lady's church from 10.30am in the Sacristy. Please use the side door of the church to enter. An opportunity to meet and develop fellowship.

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR Sue Edwards writes: "I would like to pay tribute to the initiative of St. Mary's, Welwyn in organizing the local shopkeepers to display a Christmas theme which was unveiled, one a day, throughout Advent The artwork has involved local artists and schools, groups such as Brownies as well as individuals. The windows will remain on display and illuminated after dusk until today. At each opening local people gathered outside to sing the carol portrayed and to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine and other Christmas fare. This is a tremendous community event. Welwyn is part of our parish (and one of the local hairdressers has a replica of our Holy Family sculpture on display.) The organizers are to be congratulated on raising the awareness of the true spirit of Christmas.

MEETING FOR ALL PARENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN The first of these meetings takes place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th January in the lounge of the parish centre at Our Lady's.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

St. Bonaventure's Saturday 10.30am - 11am

Our Lady's Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm

Holy Family Friday 7.30pm - 8pm

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	
	7.30pm	St. Bonaventure's	Latin Mass Society
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