



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)

Newsletter No 1559

21st Dec 2013 – 4th Jan 2014 Third Sunday of Advent Year A



Mass Times

Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.00pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am following Mass

Contacts

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Parish Safeguarding Representative

Carol Mascarenhas Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)



If you are going into hospital please notify the RC Chaplain, Jacqueline Humphreys on **07884 187463** directly, as the Hospital is not able to pass on the information to them. If you are in Pinehill Hospital, please contact the parish directly. When you come out of hospital or if you are ill and housebound please ring the parish office so we can minister to your needs if required.



If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.



Parish Prayer Heavenly Father, we offer you our Parish of Our Lady and St Andrew. May all who seek love, solace and security in our midst find them through the Christ who is in us. May His Spirit move us to proclaim the Gospel joyously in our homes, in our town, in our country and to our world. May Your Spirit guide and inspire us in all that we do to promote your kingdom every day. Amen.



If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.

Diary

Sunday 22nd	Coffee Morning Catholic Children's Society
Monday 23rd	Choir - Church 8pm
Tuesday 24th	Children's Nativity Church 4pm
Wednesday 25th	Christmas services see separate sheet
Thursday 26th	Guild of St Stephen Mass 10am Church
Sunday 29th	Coffee Morning Friends of Gainsford House
Sunday 5th	Coffee Morning Catholic Children's Society

Readings: Is 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24

Entrance antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Psalm: **Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory**

Intercessions: We pray to the Lord.....

Response: **Who is with us always!**

Next week: Ecc 3:2-6.12-14, Col 3:12-21, Matt 2:3-15.19-23



The Christmas service times sheet is available in the porch. **Sunday December 29th: there will NO Evening Mass for this week only. PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE: THE OTHER MASSES ARE AT THE USUAL TIMES.**



Offerings at the Christmas Masses go to our Priests. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collections are made out to the Parish, and not to the Order. These offerings can also be gift aided; envelopes are available in the porch for this. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place!



This Newsletter: covers two weekends, so please keep till the New Year. Please refer to the Special Sheet for the events of this time covering Christmas.

Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring **07582 648433**

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.

Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself

This weekend: We welcome **Frederick Dennis Bochnall Sales**, through the Sacrament of Baptism on December 21st. We pray for him and his family and god-parents, as they start his Journey into Faith.

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We are celebrating the forthcoming Birth of our Saviour, with our **Carol Service**, led by our Confirmation Candidates at 6.15pm Sunday.

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Our Children's Nativity Celebration at 4.00pm on December 24th. All are welcome and we ask children and their families to bring a gift to place before the Crib during the service. That gift can be baby toiletries, a toy or game (new please), or food which will be distributed by our local Home-Start charity in our community. Home-Start is a national charity supporting families who are struggling to cope. Our local Team is based in Letchworth supporting the Hitchin area.



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At the end of the Year, it is always a delight to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to all who work so hard over the year to keep our parish so alive and active, with the climax being our working together to ensure that the Christmas and New Year are expressions of this gratitude. It is also important to ensure that all of you who work so hard behind the scenes and are not visible to the wider parish, are thanked too; if our Church is beautiful it is because, we as God's people are beautiful – not the other way round! The Assumptionist Community would like to thank all those of you who have kindly sent in greetings, gifts and other signs of appreciation for our work in the Parish. We are most grateful and renew our Christmas and New Year Greetings as mentioned in the Special Christmas Sheet.

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Next Sunday is **Holy Family Sunday, NO EVENING MASS ON THAT DAY**. We pray for our families as they share in the Covenant of Love, revealed through their life together, remembering any who are undergoing stress or strain.

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The Weekend of **January 4th/5th** is the **Celebration of Epiphany**, the reality that the Lord has come for all nations and peoples, no matter who they are.

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All lost property to be recycled at the end of this month. Please check if anything is yours.

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Thank you to all who have supported for the Traidcraft stall over the last year, and last week in particular. Your continued monthly support is also needed and much appreciated.

Accommodation needed There are two male parishioners in the parish who are looking for accommodation in Hitchin. They would both like to rent a room in a house or share a house with a Christian person or family. One is retired and the other is a trainee teacher in the area. If you have any spare accommodation and would find the income useful contact Trish for more details.

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New Sound System: The second stage of the new sound system to extend the choir platform will start on Friday Dec 27, and will continue on working days, hopefully ending on Thursday Jan 2. During this time there will be carpentry activity, with inevitable noise, in the area between the organ and confessionals during daylight hours. The team will take a break each day between 9.40 and 10.45 covering morning Mass time. Parishioners are welcome to use the Church whilst this work is going on of course, but it would be appreciated if any specific activity could be carried out in the hall or one of the committee rooms. If there are any problems in this respect, please contact the office. Your patience during this time will be appreciated.

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The recent KISS Coffee Morning raised £123.00 for the Charity. Over the last year the Hitchin Parish has raised £800. The Trustees thank you for your continued generosity and support. 8 students from John Henry Newman School will be spending Christmas in Uganda with KISS, visiting and supporting families and children.

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Odd job men/women needed. If you are good at doing odd jobs at home would you be willing to be part of a team in the parish to do the same.

These jobs could be finding out information about local services, or could be wielding a screwdriver. It would mean that no one person would be overburdened and the parish would be maintained. If you are willing to be part of such a team please let Trish know.

Other Dates

Dec 24 Revd Jane Hatton, Chaplain at Lister Hospital invites you to sing carols round the wards on Christmas Eve, starting in chapel with a blessing of the crib at **6.30pm**. Coffee and mince pies provided afterwards!

Jan 8 Our regular Meeting of the English Assumption, here in Hitchin from 11.00am onwards, please keep us in your prayers as we seek to fulfil our Mission of extending the Kingdom of God here on earth and in our country in particular.