



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 1556

30th November – 7th December 2013 1st 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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E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Carol Mascarenhas Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)



If you are going into hospital please notify the RC Chaplains, Jacqueline Humphreys and John-Paul Lyttle 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.

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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.

Diary

Sunday 1st December	Coffee Morning Operation Smile
Monday 2nd	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 - 11am Meditation Group Hall 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 3rd	Morning Prayer - Church 9.30am Bethany Club - Hall 10.30 am Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir - Church 8pm
Wednesday 4th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am Italian Club Hall 1pm Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm RCIA – Pastoral Office 8pm
Thursday 5th	Rosary - Church after Mass Meditation Group - UCR 6.30pm Scouts Carol Service Church 6.00pm
Friday 6th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 8th	Coffee Morning - KISS

Readings: Is 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Matt 24:37-44

Entrance antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalms: I rejoiced when I heard them say: **'Let us go to God's house.'**

Intercessions: **Prepare us, O Lord.....**

Response: Make us ready for Christ's Coming!

Next week: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Matt 3:1-12



This Sunday at 3.00pm: We are holding our Quarterly Service of Anointing and Healing: for all who feel the need, we can also come and pray with and for these people during this time – so please come along and join in.

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



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.

This Weekend: We celebrate and rejoice in our Secondary Patron, St Andrew and pray for our Parish and its Mission of service to the Lord and His People. We remember also Fr Andrew on this his patronal Feast and thank the Lord for his time with us as Parish Priest for 5 years.

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Our Trainee Eucharistic Ministers will be commissioned at the Masses in which they normally share, so that the Community is aware of who they are.

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6.30pm Advent Carol Service St Mary's will be holding their annual candle-lit Advent Carol Service. A service of hymns, readings and anthems (similar to the style of a Nine Lessons and Carols service) to which all are most welcome.

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Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec **Nativity Crib**

Festival at St Ippolyts Church Hitchin, Hertfordshire Start: 11am-5pm £2 - Children Free – a brilliant event for you and your family. Refreshments available.



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Copies of Advent Extra are available in the porch £1 (money in pamphlets box in between church doors). Advent calendars available for children are free

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The Jesse Tree in our porch

Like last year our Advent celebration involves setting up a Jesse Tree. In the Old Testament, Jesse was the father of King David, one of the ancestors of Jesus. So when we look at the Jesse Tree, we are thinking about the Family Tree of Jesus. We are putting up the traditional symbols of Jesus' family on the tree, please take a selection (different symbols will be added every day) and colour them in and if you want add a prayer on the other side and hang it on our tree.



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Help needed to put up our crib. On Saturday 21st December at 11am we need as much help as you can offer to put up our crib. Help is needed in two forms:



① Foliage for the crib – we need evergreen fir, holly and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Friday 20th Dec.

② Help assembling crib on the day. If enough people turn up it can be done within a couple of hours.

Please let Trish or William Warren know if you are able to help in this way.



FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The weekend the 14th/15th December there will be our annual collection after all Masses to help cover the cost of the Christmas Flowers and hopefully for the year 2014. We would once again welcome donations of Poinsettias to enhance the Crib during the week commencing 15th December 2013

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Our Diocesan Year Book for 2014: has now arrived in two formats: ring-bound £5.00 and Ordinary at £4.50. Please place money in the "Pamphlets" Section of the Wall Boxes, between the two sets of doors, many thanks!

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Fr Michael writes: "I am most grateful to you for your kind wishes and prayers for my minor surgery procedure last Saturday, which was carried out very successfully, and the past few days have seen me trying to respond to how I was with the reality of parish life. I am now more normal, if that is the word! I now await the results of the tests on the specimens and biopsy that took place." It was good to see such a wide range of young people and their involvement in the life of the parish, last Sunday, on the Day of Prayer for them: ranging from Baptism through to active involvement in the life of the Parish. We are grateful to all those parishioners and other generous minded people for what they offer and share with them.

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Next Sunday: (by the date) the Solemnity of Our Lady Immaculate, our Principal Patron: a day of prayer for our Parish, its members and its Mission in the service of the Lord and His People. The actual Mass will be celebrated on the Monday at the usual time of 10.00am.

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We will also be publishing the details of the Offertory Campaign which we ran in October, next weekend. Many thanks also to those of you who have sent in forms since it closed, it all makes a difference!

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Deanery Bereavement Training: For well over a year this idea remained at the embryonic stage but that changed recently when representatives from parishes across the deanery attended the 'Initial Training Course' led by Blts (Bereavement Training Loss & Support) dedicated trainers. The next stage is to offer the full course, which covers four weekly sessions, and we hope this will take place, somewhere in the deanery, early 2014.

Assistant Scout Leaders: we need volunteers, ladies and gents, to help our experienced scout leader to run and develop the scout unit in the parish. The group is for children aged 10½-14, and meets on a Tuesday evening from 7.15pm to 8.45pm, during term time. Training is given through the training programme run by the District Scout Group. If you benefited from scouting yourself this is a great opportunity to give something back. Please contact Karen Kennedy on kd.kennedy@ntlworld.com to find out more information.



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Our Lady's School Council has been working hard to update the Anti-bullying Policy

of the School, from their point of view and also the Behaviour Policy, with a view to ensuring we fulfill our work as a Rights Respecting School, Level 2. We have also seen in the "Sunday Times" that we are 72nd in the whole of Britain, in the top 0.3% of the Schools (25,000 or so) Congratulations and blessings to the whole School Community working so well together to achieve this wonderful position: up from 137th last year!

Diary Dates

Monday 2 December

1.30pm Funeral Service for Kathleen Radley, a fairly recent Parishioner's wife, in St John's Chapel. May she rest in peace and rise in glory, as we pray for her husband, Jerry and the family at this sad time.

Monday 2 December cont

7.30pm: Liturgy Committee Meeting in the Lower Committee Room to finalise the preparations for Advent and Christmas. It is good to know that our children are already involved in the Christmas Eve Celebration of the Gospel of St Luke and its beautiful and childlike presentation of the Saviour's Birth.

Tuesday 3 December



7.15pm Advent Eucharistic Service in church. Reflect on the word of God and pray for your needs and those of others.

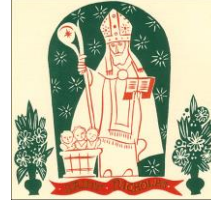
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10.30am a time of prayer and reflection for the Priests of the Deanery at the Focolare Centre in Welwyn Garden City.

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3.30pm: Fr Michael meets with the Senior Leadership of our School to review safeguarding concerns and their monitoring as necessary.

Friday 6 December



Feast of St Nicholas, Patron Saint of Children, from where we get the name Santa Claus, let us praise the Lord for our young people and pray for their future life and happiness in the parish and in society eventually.

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Christmas Fayre

6pm to 8:30pm Our Lady School will be holding an International Christmas Fayre at the school. Do please go along and support it and the wonderful work which is done with and for our wonderful children!

Other Dates

Dec 7 10-1pm A study day on **Effective Communication and Body Language: learning the 'invisible' and nonverbal language of communication** for all Catechists, Parish Adult Faith Formation Leaders, Parish Pastoral Council Members, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Volunteers and anyone who would like to learn how to communicate their own faith better. Facilitator: Ausra Karaliute S.T.L. Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please register at <http://rcdow.org.uk/events> or livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call 02079316078

Dec 7 7.30pm Gospel Outreach with Helen Shapiro at Christchurch Tickets £5 from Eddy Selby on 01462 619205 or e-mail eddy@edlights.co.uk giving full name, contact details and number of tickets required.

Dec 7/8 Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival 12-6pm Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Hitchin. Enjoy the spectacle of 50 decorated trees on display - vote for your favourite! Live music throughout the weekend; lunches and teas available. Entry £3 (accompanied children free) To anyone with mobility difficulties, who would appreciate the chance to see the Festival without the crowds, we extend an invitation to come along between 10.30 and 11.30am on the Saturday.

Dec 8 4pm **Carols in the Market Place**
Churches Together in Hitchin and Hitchin Band will be leading Carols in the Market Place Everyone is welcome at this event which has become an important part of the town's calendar.

Dec 9 7:30pm, Pax Christi Annual Advent Peace Service at St. Aloysius Church, Phoenix Road, Euston. Music will be lead by Julie McCann. Followed by alternative Christmas Market with fair trade goods, stalls from Pallestine, Peru, and Africa, and lots more.

Dec 24 Invitation from Revd Jane Hatton, Chaplain at Lister Hospital
We shall be **carol singing** round the wards on Christmas Eve, starting in chapel with a blessing of the crib at 6.30pm. Coffee and mince pies provided afterwards! We'd love you to join us for this special time.

Dec 25/6 **Somewhere to go** As in previous years, Christchurch will be open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. This happens because volunteers from across the churches in Hitchin and beyond give of their time. If you would like to volunteer for this Christmas project, please contact Deacon Sheralee Devitt, 01462 621776, deacon@christchurchhitchin.org.uk and if you know of anyone who might benefit from this service, please do let them know.

Dec 31 **Watch Night Praise** – to be held at Walsworth Road Baptist Church on New Year's Eve from 10.00pm to 1.00am (or when everyone wants to go home!) led by ministers from the Church of God of Prophecy, New Testament Church of God and Walsworth Road Baptist Church. There will be gospel music, worship, light refreshments and good fellowship – a lovely way to welcome in the New Year.

Other Items of Interest

Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. I have been asked for bunk beds and a sewing machine. If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com

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Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests: For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be

occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Revd Jane Hatton 01438 285138... or jane.hatton@nhs.net

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Car for Sale. Selling well loved Renault Clio Sport 1.4 Year 2000. Sale due to company car so no longer needed. 1 previous loving owner Aprox 86,000 miles. MOT until May Tax until end of month. Some recent works done in May eg new catalitic convertor and

under guarantee with Kwik Fit Hitchin. Some minor scratches on body work. Car has never failed to start or let me down- got me to work and back reliably every day. Perfect first car for someone- Second family car or runaround. Sometimes odd noise and squeak but adds to charm. Grab a bargain and new addition to the family £300 only Contact parishioner Liz Prior on **01462 621397**

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Redevelopment of Bancroft Recreation Ground For those concerned about this issue there is a meeting next Tuesday, December 3rd, at 7.30pm in Bancroft Pavilion.

Marion Clark, the landscape architect for BDP has said - *BDP has been awarded the project and we are now undergoing the initial stages of design for the park. At this early phase of the project we would be delighted to meet with the local Hitchin Groups to gather information and discuss their opinions and thoughts regarding the development.*

We will give a short presentation with boards of images to indicate basic concepts and ideas we are considering as proposals. We will have a summary of who we are, what we are doing, our understanding of what the local community needs and the brief we have been given. This is an opportunity for the groups to give their feedback and thoughts as it will help to inform the development of the masterplan for the park.

There is a summary of the Bancroft issues on - <http://www.hitchinforum.org.uk/bancroft-survey-and-update/> If you plan to attend could you please let Mike Clarke know at mike8clarke@gmail.com