



# 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

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2013 Second 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

**Parish Priest** E-mail: [michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk)  
Fr Michael Lambert

Fr Christopher Burgess  
Fr Jean-Marie Paluku [jeanmariepaluku@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jeanmariepaluku@rcdow.org.uk)

**Pastoral Assistants** Tel: 01462 455577  
Jane Gonzalez E-mail: [janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk)  
Trish Bonnett E-mail: [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator** Tel: 01462 459126  
Carol Cooper E-mail: [carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Office** Tel: 01462 459 126  
Mobile: 07958 575 442  
Website: [www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin)  
E-mail: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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.

*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

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning KISS
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 - 11am
	Meditation Group Hall 12 – 1.30pm
	Sacramental Preparation Hall 8pm
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer - Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club - Hall 10.30 am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir - Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am
	Praise Group LCR after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
	RCIA – Pastoral Office 8pm
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	St Pio Prayer Meeting Church and LCR after Mass
	Meditation Group - UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group

## Readings: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Matt 3:1-12

*Entrance antiphon:* O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

*Psalm:* **In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

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

*Response:* **Thy Kingdom come!**

## Next week: Is 35:1-6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11

**This Sunday 5.00pm Mass:** we welcome into the Ministry of Serving, the final two candidates, who have been training for the past few months. It is good to see so many young people coming forward to serve our parish in this way. We are very grateful to William, for giving up so much time, to ensure that this is done

## Faith Development Helpline

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



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 have the Nomination Forms available for candidates to stand to be elected to our Parish Pastoral Council. Nominations for the four vacancies should be returned to the Parish Office by Friday 20th December. Many thanks! Do please pray about this important part of our parish life and whether or not you would be able to stand for it. We are very grateful to those who stood down from their positions for their love and service to the Parish. As a tribute to their commitment, it would be good to see some fresh life coming forward to ensure that we move forward together. Some of those whose term has ended are in a position to stand again, but anyone is eligible to stand as long as they are regular members of our Community: all ages, backgrounds are more than welcome!

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**Carols in the Market Place:** the climax of the Hitchin Festival is the Gathering for Carols, led by the Chair and Chair Elect of Churches Together in Hitchin. The Service starts at 4.00pm and ends at 4.30pm: all are welcome to come along and prepare for the coming of our Saviour. It is very much in line with Bishop Francis of Rome's call to the new Evangelisation, so let us respond to his joyous Message of sharing the Good News of Jesus!

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**Help needed to put up our crib.** On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Royal Mail unveils their 2013 Christmas stamp collection featuring a Coptic Nativity icon by Hertfordshire-based iconographer Fadi Mikhail.** The stamp, entitled 'Theotokos, Mother of God' depicts the Virgin Saint Mary embracing the Infant Christ. It is an example of the beauty and deeply rooted Faith and culture of the Coptic Orthodox Church, the largest Christian denomination in the Middle East which traces its roots back to the Apostle Mark in the first Century.



## FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

As we prepare for Christmas it would be good to ensure our Crib is well stocked with Poinsettias. We would be delighted to receive them in the coming days. Many thanks!

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**Next Weekend:** there will be a small collection for Church flowers, for the coming year. We are very grateful to the teams of parishioners who fulfil this important Ministry so generously and beautifully.

### Diary Dates

#### Monday 9 December

**CELEBRATION OF OUR PRINCIPAL PATRON, OUR LADY IMMACULATE.** A Day of Prayer for our Parish and its Mission. Our Mass is at **10.00am**.

**3.00pm:** there is a Farewell Party for John-Paul, as he completes his work as Chaplain at the Lister. He has brought many blessings to many of our Parishioners over the two year period he has been with us and we are very grateful to him for all his commitment and dedication.

**8.00pm:** Final Session of Oversight of the Sacramental Process for parents with children for Sacraments in the coming year. The Meeting is in the Hall, as usual.

#### Tuesday 10 December

Our School Council continues its work for the good of the School at its meeting today and we pray for them as they work to achieve their aims. The final Safeguarding Meeting for the term is held in the afternoon and we pray also for this important work.

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

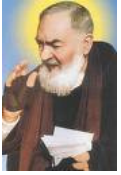
#### Wednesday 11 December

There is a Meeting between the Assumptionist Communities working in the Diocese, to continue our planning for the future and how it is progressing.

#### Saturday 14 December

**10.00am** Final Session of the Term for the Confirmation Candidates, we will keep these young people in our prayers at this important time of their Faith Journey.

**Thursday 12 December**



**Saint Pio Prayer** meeting will include Holy Mass at 10am for the members followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the hall and meditations on Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Monday 16 December**

**11am** Mass at Sue Ryder Home at Stagenhoe. Please let Trish know if you need a lift and be in the church car park by 10.40am.

**Other items of interest**

Our love and sympathy go to the Family of **Josie McNally**, who died last week and whose funeral is on Friday at 10am. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!



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The latest copy of the Westminster Record is in the porch priced 20p. Please place money in the Pamphlets box in between the two doors inside the church.

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**Progress on the new Sound System**

Following the recent item re our new sound system, we are pleased to say that the first of the three stages of work has been completed satisfactorily, and thanks are due to John Scott and Philippe James for carrying out this “messy” work, which entailed provision of access for cable routing between the sacristy and the Choir area. The next phase will commence on Dec 27 and will last into the next week. More details later.

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**CAFOD PHILIPPINES APPEAL** Many thanks to the very good response to the appeal. Over £757 was donated to the appeal last weekend, £250 of which was gift aided. A very good response.



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**Thank you** to all who helped in any way with last Sunday’s coffee morning. £130 was raised for Operation Smile. Thank you very much, Irma & Derek.

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Copies of an extract from Pope Francis **SYNTHESIS OF THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION “THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL”** are available in the porch. Please read the full text of the Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium”, or to download it in PDF

format, go to [http://www.vatican.va/phome\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm)

**Liturgy Committee Meeting:** held last week has ensured that all is in place for the Christmas and New Year Celebrations. We do find ourselves short of an Organist for 10.30am Mass on Christmas Day – is anyone available to give a hand – otherwise we will have to rely on our own skills in singing and supporting the music. It could be quite interesting.

**Weekend of December 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup>:** there will **NOT be an Evening Mass on the Sunday – FOR THAT WEEK ONLY: PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE: THE OTHER MASSES ARE AT THE USUAL TIMES.**

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**Christmas Collections** The offerings at the Christmas Masses go to our Priests. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter and 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 !

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The Traidcraft stall will be open next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks for continued support, which raised £90 last month.

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A Parishioner has a dining table and 6 chairs going free for anyone who can collect. Contact Trish if you are interested.

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Peter Canham is a parishioner who offers



Psychodynamic counselling, incorporating spirituality, in a quiet, peaceful setting in Langley Village. His specific training and experience is working with adolescents and not only benefits

adolescents themselves, but the unresolved issues in later life from our own youth and childhood. For further details please pick up a leaflet from the noticeboard or contact Peter on 07913 276532 or Email:

[hillmanwoods@btinternet.com](mailto:hillmanwoods@btinternet.com)

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The Rev Ian Stears-Handscorn is the Chaplain at Luton Airport ecumenical chaplaincy which has been active among travellers and staff in many different ways for over 20 years. There is a need for more lay chaplains (particularly Catholic) If you would like to find out what is involved please contact Ian on 01462 624923 or [ianhandscomb@hotmail.com](mailto:ianhandscomb@hotmail.com)

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





**Our Lady's Parish**

# **Faith Development Helpline**

Problems or doubts  
about your faith?  
Are you feeling a  
bit lost?

**Try ringing  
07582 648433**

**Tues, Weds,  
Thurs  
8pm – 10pm**