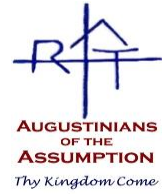




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1558

14th – 21st December 2013 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 Office Tel: 01462 459 126
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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 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.

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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 15th	Coffee Morning One World Group
Monday 16th	Mother & Toddler Group Christmas party Hall 9.45 – 11.30am
	Meditation Group Hall 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 17th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir - Church 8pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers Hall 8pm
Wednesday 18th	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 19th	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 20th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 22nd	Coffee Morning Catholic Children's Society

Readings: Is 35:1-6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11

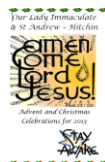
Entrance antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Psalm: **Come, Lord, and save us.**

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

Response: In whose Coming we rejoice!

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



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

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.



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 are celebrating the Baptism of Thomas Hill, grand-son of Peter and Linda Hill, who were long term parishioners before moving to Sussex. We pray for him and his Family in this long-term period of formation into the Faith.

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Help needed to put up our crib. On **Friday 20th December** the crib will be assembled. On **Saturday 21st at 11am** we need people to help decorate the crib with the foliage and the statues.

① We need foliage for the crib –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 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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The Collection for flowers will not take place this weekend. It has been moved to Easter. Apologies for the error.

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

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Our deepest sympathy, prayers and love go to the family of Sean Doherty, who was killed in a car accident in the early hours of Sunday morning, together with his best friend, John James McErlean, to whose family too we convey our love and concern. Maureen, Sean's Mum, was bereaved of her husband in February. The Joint Funeral will be on Friday of this week (**20th**) at **11.30am** in our Church, with John James being buried at St John's Cemetery and Sean's Cremation will be at **4.15pm** at Harwood Park. (there will be no Mass at 10am)

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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 please let Trish know and she can give you more details.

Foodbank collection next weekend will be for **carrier bags only** as through your generosity the warehouse has good supplies of food at present. Please bring them to every Mass.

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To all Ministers of the Word: Please find printed copies of the next rota in the Link

Fr Michael writes: "I had a follow up appointment about the colonoscopy that I had and the surgeon wants me to have a CT scan, just to verify what he thinks, he is not overly concerned, vague symptoms need further investigation. Please keep me in your prayers during this time of waiting, hopefully not too long. Many thanks! Love and peace to you all, Michael aa"

Diary Dates

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.

Tuesday 17 December



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

Wednesday 18 December

7.30pm: our Advent Penitential Service is being held, an opportunity to reflect the Advent message of preparing for the coming of Our Saviour evermore fully into our lives and hearts as we rejoice in our gifts and talents and seeking the Lord's healing strength and rejoice in the Lord's healing love through forgiveness.

Friday 20 December

No Mass at 10am. Funeral Mass 11.30am

Parish Pastoral Council Nomination Forms, should be returned to the Parish Office by today.

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7.30pm: Walsworth Road Baptist Church presents "The Christmas Story and Beyond" - a celebration in word and song, with vocal quartet Cheryl Thomas, Hazel Thompson, Chris Hughes and Andrew Surry. Entry is free with a retiring collection in aid of Herts Young Homeless. All welcome!

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! She'd love you to join her for this special time.