

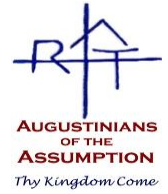


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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

Newsletter No 1560

4th -11th Jan 2014 Epiphany of the Lord 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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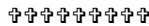
Parish Safeguarding Representative

Carol Mascarenhas Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)



Hospital

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 5th	Coffee Morning Catholic Children's Society
Monday 6th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 - 11am
	Meditation Group Hall 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 7th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30 am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 8th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
Thursday 9th	Rosary Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 10th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am

Readings: Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3.5-6, Matt 2:1-12

Entrance antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Psalm: **All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

Intercessions: Lord hear us

Response: **Lead us to Christ!**

Next week: Is 42:1-4.6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matt 3:13-17

New Look Website



Our webpages have changed. We are still in the process of updating but it is worth having a look to see what is there now. Go to www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin Sign up for alerts to changes at bottom of front page. Comments and suggestions welcome.

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 celebrate the climax of Christmas, the Epiphany, Lord welcoming all nations into the Kingdom and as it is the first Sunday of the New Year, we would like to wish you all the Blessings and Peace of the Saviour, "God with us" now and for the rest of the year. The Assumptionist Family is most grateful for the many kind gifts, cards and other signs of appreciation which we have received over the Christmas Season as also for the very generous Christmas Offering made to us.

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Fr Michael is back from his holiday but is suffering from shingles at present and so will keep himself isolated so that he does not present a risk of chicken pox to anyone. He will maintain communication via phone and email. He is not in any pain at present which is good news. Can you please keep him in your prayers.

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Our Christmas Celebrations: were given a most wonderful launching with the Carol Service, which was animated by our Confirmation Candidates and all our Young Ministers of the Word – they were truly outstanding in clarity and understanding of the texts to help the Congregation enter the Spirit of Christmas more fully. We are most grateful to the Leaders of the Confirmation programme and also the Trainers of our Ministers for doing such a splendid work for our Parish. The children told the Christmas Story in a very pleasant and original way, conveying the joy of the event very well: an excellent performance by the youngest of our children in the School! At our own Crib Service, the Gospel passages and other Readings were carried out again by our young Ministers of the Word and were truly spectacular and a real credit to Parents and Trish and Bridie who trained them into the Ministry. The whole event ran so smoothly, thanks to the Mums, who had prepared and rehearsed with the Children in the previous weeks. A most beautiful and inspirational event – our thanks and gratitude are but a poor tribute to their skills, but they are none the less sincere!

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Next Sunday: we are holding the first of the annual Pulpit swaps for Unity Week; Fr Michael is going to St Mark's Church to preach at their Eucharist at 10.00am.

Diary Dates

Monday 6th January

Fr Michael is sharing in the Funeral of a close friend, who died after a very rapid battle with cancer and so will be out of the Parish for most of the day.

Tuesday 7th January

Bethany Club resumes its Lunches on Tuesday; the following week will be the Christmas Party, which starts at 2.00pm, so there is no lunch on that day.

Wednesday 8th January

Our Bethnal Green Community is joining us for our regular Meeting from 11.00am onwards.

Future Dates

18-25th January; Jan 19th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. United service at St Mary's including the induction of Jane Litchmore-Grant as Chair of CTH; Tuesday 21 January – Ladies' united service at the New Testament Church of God.

Other items of interest

New Sound System The second stage of the new sound system, the choir platform extension, has now been completed apart from the varnishing which will be take place during this coming week. Thanks are due to the team who completed this new structure upon which the console cabinet will be sited, together with one of the two benches which have temporarily been removed. **It is very important that no one walks on it for at least 4 days after the final coat is applied, so please keep off the surface for next two weeks.** Delivery of the new cabinet is expected around the middle of January. Installation of all the equipment to be housed within the cabinet and above the altar is scheduled for the week starting on February 17th, and the full system should be operational for the start of Lent in early March. Further updates will follow.

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Help turn a child's life around There are more than 1100 children in care in Hertfordshire who need carers or adopters to help them reach their full potential. Each year we need more than 80 new foster carers and the same number of adopters to provide loving and caring homes, either in the short term or on a more permanent basis, for children who been through tough times. Hertfordshire is looking for committed people with at least one spare bedroom in their home who could do the ordinary and every day things that would make a huge difference to the lives of children. Both our foster and adoption services provide full training and ongoing support. If you would like to know more about how you could help a child in Hertfordshire, visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering or www.hertsdirect.org/adoption or call us today on 0800 917 0925.