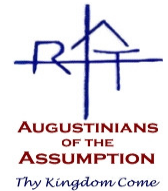




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1562

18th – 25th January 2014 Second Sunday of the 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
Fr Michael Lambert

Fr Christopher Burgess
Fr Jean-Marie Paluku jeanmariepaluku@rcdow.org.uk

Pastoral Assistants Tel: 01462 455577
Jane Gonzalez E-mail: janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk
Trish Bonnett E-mail: trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator Tel: 01462 459126
Carol Cooper E-mail: carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office Tel: 01462 459 126
Mobile: 07958 575 442
Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
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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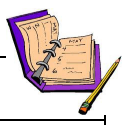


If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.



Diary

Sunday 19th	Coffee Morning One World Group
Monday 20th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 - 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12– 1.30pm
Tuesday 21st	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30pm
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 22nd	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am
	Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	Liturgy Committee LCR 7.30pm
Thursday 23rd	No mass at 10.00am
	Rosary
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Funeral mass at 2.00pm
Friday 24th	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Sunday 26th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Coffee Morning Confirmation Group



Readings: Is 49:3.5-6, Cor 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

Entrance antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Psalm: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.

Intercessions: Lord, hear us, we pray.....

Response: May your Kingdom come!

Next week: Is 8:23-9:3, Cor 1:10-13.17, Mat 4:12-23

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.

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.

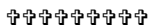
This Weekend:

is the Sunday which falls in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** and to mark this day, we are invited to share in a "Communion under One Roof" –

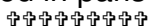


similar to those that we have held in previous years. This year, the main celebration is an Anglican Eucharist, being held at St Mary's at 6.30pm, but when we come to the Communion, Catholics present should go to the Chapel of St Andrew, where they may receive from our Reserved Sacrament, offered by Fr Michael. In this way we respect each other's Traditions and respect the guidelines which our Church has set up for similar events. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather and pray together for this most important aspect of our Christian Mission. Anyone who would like to hold our CTH Banner in the procession of entry, please make yourself known so that you could attend the "walk through" which is foreseen for 5.30pm.

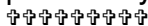
We, at Our Lady's Church, are receiving **Pastor Nigel Williams**, from the New Testament Church of God, in Hampden Road, at the 10.30am Mass. He will be in the porch after Mass and in the Hall, so share coffee and chats with Parishioners. Fr Jean-Marie is preaching at the Wymondley Baptist Church, a new Member of CTH.



Next Sunday: our Confirmation Candidates will be making a Report on their projects that they have undertaken in the Parish to render service and become more involved in parish life.



Fr Michael writes: "First of all my grateful thanks to you all for your love and prayers over the past few days whilst I have been confined to my room, to avoid passing on chicken pox! I saw the doctor on Friday and I have to slow down and reduce my workload somewhat, so I am making a start by getting up a bit later and I will be taking two days a week out of the parish, to see if that helps me manage to do what I can as I am now in my 75th year! I am still awaiting the results of the CT scan, I had on Christmas Eve. During this time, I shall need to review the range of my activities to see if I can still fulfill them to the best of my ability and what I might need to surrender. The spirit is willing but the body is weak. Please keep me in your prayers in this important time of reappraisal. Many thanks, my love and peace to you all"



KISS Coffee morning - thank you all for supporting last week's KISS coffee morning which raised £138.00 for the charity and its work in Uganda.

Family Chats - Parents with children preparing for First Reconciliation need to sign up for a Family Chat in March. There are sign-up sheets available in the porch. (Link) If you have any queries contact Jane in the Pastoral Office.



Installation of the new sound system in the Church will begin at 9am on Monday 10th February until Wednesday 12th. On these days there will no admittance to the Church at any time. Morning Masses will be held in the Church Hall.



Pulpit Exchange: last week, Fr Michael went to St Mark's where he had a most warm welcome and made to feel at home, joining in the celebration of the Eucharist, through preaching and sharing the peace and meeting people after the Service. A great experience and hopefully one which will enrich our joint journey of faith and life.



Six candidates were welcomed onto the Journey of discovery of our Catholic Faith, two from other Faith Traditions and the rest from other Christian traditions, last Sunday evening at the 5.00pm Mass. We saw the revival of an old Tradition of knocking on the door of the Church and asking to be admitted and welcomed and this was followed immediately by the Sign of Peace.



The new cleaning rota is in the Link for people who have not received it by email. We need new people to help with cleaning the church on a monthly basis on a Saturday or Monday. (Times can vary according to availability of the people helping) If you can give 1½ hrs to serve our church community by keeping our church clean please speak to Trish.



Collection counters We are in need of new helpers. If you can give 1½ hours about every 6 weeks to help count the Sunday collections with a team please speak to Trish.



Diocesan Study and Faith Development Opportunities are offered over the coming year. Please see the special notice on the board and copies below it for details if you have not received the email about this. Some of these courses will be particularly useful for Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers and Catechists in the parish.



Music and our songs of praise have always been an important part of our Sunday liturgy and it would be wonderful to see it develop even more with a greater number of people involved. We are very grateful for the musicians that we have playing the organ or guitar/violin/flute etc but we really do need some more support. We have an urgent need for people who can play the organ or keyboard (as we do have an electronic keyboard which can feed into the sound system.) If we can get a few more volunteers it will mean that no-one has to make more than a monthly commitment. The organ is played at the 8.30 Mass every Sunday and the 10.30 Mass on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. Greg and the music group with guitars, violins and flutes, provide music for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month and this is also a great commitment for them. They are sometimes away and therefore we need more people to help support them and occasionally lead the music. All instruments welcome. If you are able to help could you please contact Trish and let her know what you are willing to offer.

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Choir members needed We have a particular need for **male bass voices**. If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord and are able to read music come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Tuesday evening for the practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



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Lent 2014 Churches Together in Hitchin is organising Lent Groups using a successful study guide produced by Churches Together in Kew entitled *Encounters with Jesus*.

These will begin with a presentation of the guide by the authors, Barbara Wood and Claudine McCreadie, on Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm at St Mark's Church. The Lent Groups will then be for the next four weeks beginning Sunday 16 March, up to Friday 11 April, leaving Holy Week for individual church services. We will soon be inviting hosts and leaders for groups. You may like to get the dates into personal diaries now.



FRIENDS OF GAINSFORD HOUSE would like to thank all those who supported the recent coffee morning when £115 was raised for residents' social activities. PAX CHRISTI, the Catholic peace charity will receive the proceeds from this Sunday's One World Group coffee morning.

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Scripture Group meets at Peter Deuchar's house from 1.30 – 3.00pm on Wednesdays. We have room for a couple more people if anyone would like to join us to reflect on the Word. Contact Jane for details. 455577

Diary Dates

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 'Is Christ divided?'

Tuesday 21 January

7.30pm: Our Lady's Governing Body gathers for the first meeting of the new term. We keep our School and all who work and live therein, in our prayers for the wonderful work they do for our children.

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7.45pm A united Ladies service, at The New Testament Church of God (William Road/Hampton Road).

Wednesday 22 January

7.30pm LCR Liturgy Committee meet to review Christmas and prepare for Holy Week and Easter

Saturday 25 January

2:30pm "Churches Together in Baldock have arranged the talk **NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** by Rev Callan Slipper (Author of "Living Christian Unity") at United Reform Church, Whitehorse Street, Baldock. Followed by discussion and tea. All Welcome.

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3.00pm: On the closing day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we welcome James William Eayrs into the Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray for him, his parents and god-parents as they undertake the important role of formation for James to grow into the Faith in the coming years.



Feb 28- Mar 2 **Choose Life, Choose Love** – A weekend conference on “Beauty, Freedom & the Family” at St Patrick’s church, 21a Soho Square W1D 4NR. Full Conference £50 / One Day £30. Advance booking essential, contact Edmund Adamus, Director for Marriage and Family Life edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk 020 7798 9363.

June 7 3pm Archbishop’s Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2014. If you qualify, please give Carol Cooper, Parish administrator, the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

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Other items of interest

The **Lister Hospital Chaplaincy** team will be running a 5 week training course for volunteer visitors for Lister hospital. The visitors spend 2 hours a week and visit all patients on a given ward. Course dates, 6th, 13th, 20th, 25th February and 6th March. 10.30-12.30. Further information contact Jacqueline 07884187463

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Hitchin Fairtrade Town Hitchin became a fairtrade town some years ago and is run by Hitchin Fairtrade Town Steering Group. This small enthusiastic group has run events to raise awareness of farmers and producers who grow

or make most of what we consume each day but don't get a fair wage for their work and encourages the town's retailers to stock fairtrade products. We have run an annual event in the Market Place, held fairtrade fashion shows and fairtrade lunches. The group is seeking more members. We meet about 3 times a year to discuss ideas and decide who will do what. If you are interested but would like to know more contact Helen Richardson, Chair, Hitchin Fairtrade Town Steering Group on helenwrich@btinternet.com or phone 01462 435595/07880 682681 for an informal chat - with a fairtrade tea or coffee!

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. If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com

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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church. **Please note re collection of old pens that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that EDAID collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or EDAID have a coffee morning.**

