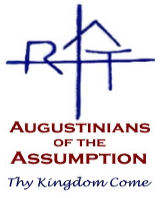


# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1564

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 Presentation of the Lord

### 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 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

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Coffee Morning Our Lady School PTA
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 - 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12– 1.30pm
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30pm
	Choir Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am
	Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	NO MASS - Rosary after Liturgy
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning KISS



**Readings: Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40**

*Entrance antiphon:* Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

*Psalm:* **The good man is light in the darkness for the upright.**

*Intercessions:* Lord, hear us.....

*Response:* **Shine on us, we pray!**

**Next week: Is 58:7-10, Cor 2:1-5, Matt 5:13-16**

**This Weekend:** we celebrate the ending of the Christmas Season with the Mass for the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, with the blessing and lighting of Candles at the Masses. The Light of Christ is given to us to carry and share in our daily lives.

**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.

We are also celebrating Education Sunday, with a Mass led by our School, our Pupils and Members of Staff and Governors. There will be a display in the Hall of our Children's Work, in each of the Classes, what is produced is of a very high standard and makes us very proud of our Children and appreciative of the Staff and Governors who work so hard to ensure that this is the case. We pray for our Schools and Staffs, that the Spirit may guide them in the beautiful Ministry of Education. There are various Meetings within our Schools during the week, which we will hold in our prayers, as Governors and Staff, continue their important collaboration.

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**Fr Michael writes:** "This weekend, I celebrate 14 years of serving as parish Priest at Our Lady's: a time of thanksgiving, of reflecting on what has been done over that time and looking ahead. I would just like to say that I have indeed been much blessed by my living and working with you and I am most grateful for that. Things have been stressful for me over the past year and with my need to rest and slow down, I have to consider how best I can continue to serve you, as I would like to celebrate my 50th Anniversary of Ordination in 2016 with you and at the end of that parish year, step down from being Parish Priest. At the moment, to manage my lack of energy, I am having to reduce the number of meetings I attend, to allow my immune system to rebuild itself, so I would ask your forbearance and patience, if I cannot respond with my accustomed speed to requests or getting involved in too much for the time being! As I learnt from my time in Africa, 'I have to hasten slowly!' My love and best wishes to you all as ever, with renewed thanks and appreciation for your prayers, love and support to me, with the kind offers of help – I have been deeply touched by them and it does my heart good to feel that warmth you share with me. My CT scan has proved negative, thank God, but I am seeing the surgeon shortly to investigate further symptoms which are still present. I have been discharged from the minor surgery I had before Christmas, as all was negative and the scars are healing well."

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**Help needed with sound system** at 10.30 Mass. The installation of the new sound system in our parish in the second week of February presents us with an exciting opportunity. To get the most use and benefit from this great improvement to our worship facilities and to extend the benefit to a third 10:30 am Sunday mass each month and other liturgy services, we very much need to enlarge the Sound Support Team in our parish. We are looking to train extra



volunteers on the new equipment to ensure that it will deliver the very best sound support ministry to our liturgies for many years to come. It involves setting up the microphones before the 10.30 Mass, operating the system and tidying up afterwards. Both women and men, as well as older teenagers (who will be supervised) will be given full training in its use. If you are interested in being part of this special ministry of liturgical service and gaining a new set of skills do contact Michael Eltringham at [rmdmelt@bopenworld.com](mailto:rmdmelt@bopenworld.com)

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**First Reconciliation 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. If you have any queries contact Jane in the Pastoral Office.

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We have a vacancy in our group of parishioners who help care for Fr Chris on a Tuesday morning (every other week). The helper makes his bed, puts his pills into a separate container for his use for lunch, makes him a cup of tea and encourages him to do his exercises. Normally they come from about 11am. Often people stay to have a chat as they enjoy spending time with this very special man. If you are able to fill this slot could you please Trish know as soon as possible



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Taking the collection at Mass. Help needed. There are a group of people who serve the parish quietly by getting up at the offertory and taking the collection at the Mass, no formal rota, they just help at whatever Mass they are at. You pass the bag along the pews and at the same time using the counter, click to count the number of people in the area you are collecting in so we know the attendance numbers. We need 3 people to do this and occasionally there are not enough people to do this. Could you please keep an eye on the number of collectors getting up at whatever Mass you are at and get up if there are less than three people. If you want to be shown how to use the counter just speak to Trish when you are next at Mass. Thank you in anticipation of your help with a simple but vital service in our church.



**Choir members needed** If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord and you 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. We have a particular need for male bass voices. 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](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

### Diary Dates

#### Monday 3 February

**After 10am Mass a Team of volunteers** will be working to dismantle and put away the **Crib**. If you are able to help please turn up at 10.30am

#### Tuesday 4 February

**11.00am** Priests' Deanery meeting is being held here in our Lower Committee Room. Again an important meeting to form part of our prayer life, please

#### Wednesday 5 February

**7.15pm Eucharistic service** in the church where we reflect on the word of God and pray for our needs and the needs of others. All welcome.



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**6.30-7.30pm: What is Money?...and Why Does it Matter?** A St. Paul's Institute Lecture by author Felix Martin. In the Wren Suite, St Paul's Cathedral, Free entry but spaces are limited so registration is required. To register email Hannah Elias [helias@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:helias@stpaulscathedral.org.uk) or call [020 7489 1011](tel:02074891011).

#### Thursday 6 February

**10.00am:** There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Communion, led by Year 6 of our School. It gives us a chance to savour the Word of God and spend time with our Eucharistic Lord, in thanksgiving and rejoicing for His great love for us which is shown in this beautiful way.



#### Friday 7 February

**6.00pm:** Our Finance Committee Meeting is taking place, to finalize the Budget for presentation to the PPC on the next Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup>, when we also meet the new Councilor's who came forward but as their number equaled the number of spaces vacant, there was no Election

#### Saturday 8 February

**3.00pm:** we are delighted to welcome Isaac Bull into membership of our parish Community through the Sacrament of Baptism: we pray for his parents and God-parents as they undertake his formation in the Faith

### Future Dates

**Feb 10 7.30pm** Churches Together in Hitchin Council meeting is on in our church hall: tea/coffee from 7.30pm. There will be a few items of business then the second part of the meeting will be a session on Pentecostal Churches. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the beliefs and practices of these churches and how they have become the fastest growing churches in the UK and throughout the world. It will also help to see how the churches in Hitchin belonging to this tradition can contribute to our wider fellowship. Members of all churches are welcome.

**Feb 10 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE** Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please join us in a day of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. See [www.goodcounselnet.co.uk](http://www.goodcounselnet.co.uk) for more information."

**Feb 10 Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and housebound.** Training for this ministry to people who are unable to attend Mass is at 7.30pm in the Pastoral office. This is open to existing Eucharistic Ministers who serve at Mass and to anyone who would be happy to take communion to someone who is housebound or ill but does not want to serve at Mass. Please contact Trish if you would like to be involved. This is a vital service to maintain the link between the parish and our parishioners who can no longer get to Mass but depend on the grace from the Eucharist.



**Feb 14 6.30-9pm Open microphone session** All Ministers of the word, younger readers and all musicians are invited to try out the new sound system in the church so that you can get a feel for the new system before you formally have to use it during the Mass. Please drop in at any time during this session.



**Feb 25 6.05 pm:** Prophets of Justice challenge Profits of Injustice: What can we learn for the 21st century city? A Justshare Lecture by The Revd Dr Jules Gomes. At St Mary-le-Bow Church Cheapside, EC2V 6AU. See [www.justshare.org.uk](http://www.justshare.org.uk) for more information.



**March 1 7.30pm, Church Hall** – Charity Quiz Night Remember the famous PTA quiz nights? Well, we hope to recreate this great night out with a quiz night in aid of The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Alison Boyle and Helen King are going to Peru in May with Charity Challenge to trek the Inca Trail in aid of this charity and are hosting the evening as part of our fund raising efforts to help raise as much money as we can. Tickets are £5 each (with food in the interval), tables of 8 people per team or come along and tag on to a team. There will a bar with wine, beer and soft drinks. For tickets please contact Helen King on 07765796741 or 642695. If you can't make the quiz night and would like to donate then please go to the 'Virgin Money Giving' website and you will find our fund raising page under either Alison Boyle or Helen King

**May 18 \* Pedal Against Poverty 2014\*** We hope you can also join us for Pedal Against Poverty 2014 on Sunday, 18 May 2014. Registration for the ride will open in the new year, so watch [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) for more information.

**Other items of interest**



**CTH Lent groups** will be run again this year starting with a meeting for anyone to attend, whether leading, hosting, attending a group or just interested. Using material written by Churches Together in Kew based on St Luke and entitled Encounters with Jesus the authors Barbara Wood and Claudine McCreddie will speak at the meeting on Thursday 13 March 7.30pm at St Mark's church. The following weeks will be for Lent groups. The booklets with questions for leaders are priced £1.50 and are available from Helen Richardson. If you would like to host, or lead a group, or use the materials in an existing group and invite people from other denominations to attend during Lent, please contact Helen Richardson, 01462 435595, [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com) 07880 682681



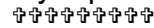
**Brownies**

There are currently spaces available in the parish Brownie Pack for girls aged 7-11. It's a very friendly little pack who aims to have as much fun as possible. For further details please contact Clare Fletcher on 07969098070 or via email to [cmcfletcher1@aol.com](mailto:cmcfletcher1@aol.com)



**Ash Wednesday lunch** The usual Churches Together in Hitchin Ash Wednesday lunch will be on 5 March, 12.30pm, and for the first time it will be at Wymondley Baptist Church. A modest lunch and good fellowship - all

are welcome. if you have never been to this church before, it is in the centre of Little Wymondley in Stevenage Road, postcode SG4 7JA. The church has a website with a map and further contact details - <http://www.wymondleybaptist.org.uk/>



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.



**Odd job men/women needed.** If you are good at doing odd jobs at home would you be willing to be part of a team in the parish to do the same. These jobs could be finding out information about local services, or could be wielding a screwdriver. It would mean that no one person would be overburdened and the parish would be maintained. If you are willing to be part of such a team please let Trish know.



**Chaplaincy Volunteers** – change of date for course 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. The course will now commence on 13<sup>th</sup> February and also, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March. 10.30-12.30. Further information contact Jacqueline 07884187463



**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](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin)

Sign up for alerts to changes at bottom of front page. Comments and suggestions welcome.



**Vacancy John Henry Newman School General Catering Assistant** Required for February 2014 30 hours per week, Term time + 5 Inset days Grade HB6 £12,614 per annum, £8,689.24 pro rata *Please contact Emma Taylor ([taylor@jhn.herts.sch.uk](mailto:taylor@jhn.herts.sch.uk) / tel 01438 314643) for an application pack. Closing date for applications is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014. It is planned interviews will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014*