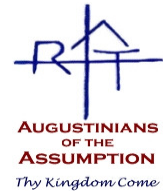


# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1568

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time 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**  
Fr Michael Lambert E-mail: [michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk)

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

**Pastoral Assistants**  
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)

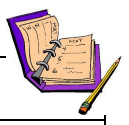
**Parish Administrator**  
Carol Cooper E-mail: [carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk)

**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)

### Diary

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Coffee Morning Union of Catholic Mothers Healing Service Church 3pm
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Parent & 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>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Confirmation Session Hall 10 – 12.30am
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning KISS



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.

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



**Readings: Is 49:14-15, Cor 4:1-5, Matt 6:24-34**

*Entrance antiphon:* The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

*Psalm: In God alone is my soul at rest.*

*Intercessions:* Let us pray to the Lord.....

*Response: Lord, hear our prayer!*

**Next week: Gen 2:7-9.3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11**

**This Weekend** is the Feast of St David Patron Saint of Wales, (March 1<sup>st</sup>).

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We are holding our Quarterly **Service of Healing and Wholeness** for those of you who wish to avail yourselves of those Ministries: the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing are also available for those who wish to celebrate either or both.

**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.

**Appeal last weekend:** Sister Sue was quite overwhelmed by our welcome to her and she is most grateful to you for responding to her helpful and interesting perspectives on her missionary work, through her message to us

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**Fr Christopher:** continues his stay in hospital, where various conditions are being monitored. There was a concern about his mental capacity, but the neurologist examined him and all is well. He is finishing his antibiotics and they will now be concentrating on his physiotherapy and are talking about a period of time in a Rehabilitation Centre, to maximise the use of his legs. So please continue your prayer for him. If you are visiting, please keep your visit very short, as he does find a lot of visits quite tiring and also please follow the suggestions made in last week's Newsletter about what to take in. Many thanks! It is good to hear of so many people popping in and he is well pleased, bless your hearts!

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**Looking Ahead:** preparations are in hand for meeting the candidates for the European Elections in May: do please read the letter which is on the Notice Board, about a meeting planned for May 8<sup>th</sup> at Christchurch.

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**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, good fellowship and a Traidcraft stall - all are welcome. The church is in the centre of Little Wymondley in Stevenage Road, postcode SG4 7JA. Please note there is very limited car parking at the church – a few spaces for Blue Badges – and visitors will need to park on Stevenage Road or nearby streets, all of which are fairly narrow. Alternatively, the 80 bus service from Hitchin to Stevenage goes through the village. The church has a website with a map and further contact details - <http://www.wymondleybaptist.org.uk/> or contact Helen Richardson on 01462 435595 to know more.

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**Walk with Me:** Lenten prayer and preparation booklets are available from the porch priced £1. Children's Calendars are free.

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**Easter, Confirmation and Holy Communion** cards will be for sale in the Hall after Masses on Sunday.

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**Sign Up for Lent:** A number of people have kindly offered to host and lead house groups and church groups for 4 weeks of Lent. A sign-up sheet is now

in your church for you to join one. They cover the weeks from Monday 17 March to Friday 11 April. This is a good opportunity to meet people from other churches and talk about our Christian faith. The booklet being used this year is *Encounters with Jesus*, based on Luke's gospel. Do ensure you note the address and phone of who you have signed up to visit and please put your contact phone number next to your name. Further information from Helen Richardson 01462 435595 or [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com)

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**Each Monday of Lent: Stations of the Cross:** will be prayed in the Church, following on from the 10.00am Mass, for those of you who would like to join in.

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**Lent Meeting:** You are invited on Thursday 13 March 7.30pm at St Mark's for a presentation of the authors of the Lent Booklet *Encounters with Jesus*. Barbara Wood and Claudine McCreadie will tell us about the booklet and how they used it in Churches Together in Kew. Refreshments will be served from 7pm by St Mark's children's club *Group with No Name!!* Further information from Helen Richardson 01462 435595 or [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com)

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**Faith Matters series of talks: WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR? 50 YEARS AFTER VATICAN II In the light of Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium***

13th March "The Church is missionary: principles and practices since the Second Vatican Council" by Fr Philip Knights, Marychurch, Hatfield

20th March "The Church is Feminine" by Dr Gemma Simonds CJ, Heythrop College

27th March 'The Church of the Poor'? by Dr Helen Costigane SHCJ, Heythrop College

3rd April 'The Church in the midst of a secular culture' by Bishop John Sherrington, Westminster

Location: Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN, Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Suggested donation is £3. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please register at

<http://rcdow.org.uk/events> or [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or call 02079316078

## Diary Dates

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** We start the first series of Family Chats with the children and families on the Sacramental Journey. The Meetings are held in the Doris Harris Room and the list of times and dates is in the Link.

### Monday 3 March

**7.30pm:** Our Parish Pastoral Council is continuing its Session of preparation for creating links which will be a more visible way of linking with parishioners, who have questions or concerns, so that they can be dealt with more swiftly by the appropriate person or Group. Various items have been raised for discussion. The first item is regarding COMMUNICATION. As a parish we have had problems with various group and individuals and we do not have a clear procedure for resolving matters. With immediate effect the PPC have asked Jocelyn Darley to be our Public Relations person. Her details are email: [josddarley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:josddarley@yahoo.co.uk) her telephone number is: 01462 442791. If you have a problem or just require information please contact Jocelyn, your PPC will be happy to help.

The other important item discussed at length was Archbishop Vincent's vision for the future of the Diocese, called GROWING IN FAITH, which presents his aims of better supporting the sick and retired Clergy; the training of future Priests; the life and development of each parish and finally, supporting the work of charities, uniquely based in the area of the Diocese, under the aegis of Caritas. The parish is called to share in this project and we have been asked to start after Easter 2014.

More details will be available nearer the start time and also about a visit from our Area Bishop, John, will make to us, to help us enter more fully into the vision the Archbishop has for his Diocese..

### Wednesday 5 March

**Ash Wednesday**, marking the opening of the Season of Renewal of Lent. There are three Masses to celebrate this important day in our faith development: All Masses are in the Church: at 7.30am; 10.00am and 7.30pm. There is a Service of Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at the School, starting at 2.30pm, to which Parents and Parishioners are also invited. Today, is a Day of FASTING as well as Abstinence, for those who are asked to do those exercises of devotion. This time of reflection is an opportunity for us to look at our lives of faith and how they might move forward in new ways: reading and praying the Scriptures; the

Teachings of the Church; acts of charity for others whom we know to be in need. These can be strengthened by acts of self-denial, to allow us to grow and move forward – they are not simply things we have always “given up” – which can often be an excuse for losing weight!

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**On this day also**, Fr Michael celebrates 48 years in the Priesthood. So do please hold him in your prayer, as he overcomes the effects of shingles and the infection that marked the New Year. He is due to have a gastroscopy in the coming week or two.

### Friday 7 March

1.45pm **Women's World Day of Prayer** at St Mary's Church, Hitchin. This year the service has been written by women in Egypt and our speaker is from The Coptic Orthodox Church. This service is for men as well as women - ALL welcome! Refreshments follow.

### Saturday 8 March

**3.00pm**, our Candidates for Baptism and Reception into the Church, are going to the Cathedral to be welcomed by the Archbishop and Bishops of our Diocese, as they enter the final phase of their preparations to celebrate the Easter Sacraments with us. We pray for them and Jane and the other Parishioners who are walking with them.

## Future Dates

**March 10** 11am Mass at Sue Ryder Home at Stagenhoe. All parishioners welcome. Trish is unable to give a lift to this Mass.

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**PDS-UK** will host another ecumenical healing seminar and workshop in our **March 15** Hall from 2 pm until 8 pm. The day is organised by PDS-UK, based here in Hitchin. Cost to attend £10 (for those who can afford it). Tea & coffee are provided. Email [office@PullingDownStrongholds.org.uk](mailto:office@PullingDownStrongholds.org.uk) to register.

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**March 29** Taster/ training session in an imaginative style of children's ministry called Godly Play, to be hosted at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. Godly Play offers a fresh way to engage children in exploring faith and the scriptures, and we are fortunate to have Rev Nikki Jenkins (a Baptist minister from Kingsthorpe) as the facilitator for this occasion. For more on what be a new initiative to you, please see:

<http://www.godlyplay.org.uk/>

## Other items of interest

**Recycling good news!** TerraCycle and McVitie's® are excited to announce the launch of the Wrapper to Riches Collection Contest, with a combined 50,000 TerraCycle points (£500 worth of donations) to be won! The contest will run from **1st February 2014 to 30th April 2014** offering double points, so each wrapper is worth 4 points! Every Biscuit Wrapper Location is automatically entered into the contest, with the twenty top collectors at the end of the competition winning charity contributions of £125, £75, £25, or £10. If you are already collecting, please continue, and we could benefit from more collectors.

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**Parishioner and her young daughter** looking for self-contained accommodation to rent in the Hitchin area from early March. Preferably with access to a garden. Either one large or two smaller bedrooms. If you are able to help please contact Marion MacArthur at [macmarion@yahoo.com](mailto:macmarion@yahoo.com)

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**8th Hitchin (Oughton) Scout Group:** We have recently started a Beaver Colony and a Cub Pack which meet at Oughton School. We are looking for Wellies and Waterproofs for the Group so that we can take the Beavers and Cubs on outdoor adventures. If you have any old wellies or waterproofs that your children have grown out of that you could donate to the group, please contact Pippa (433575 or [dcs.hitchinouts@gmail.com](mailto:dcs.hitchinouts@gmail.com)) to arrange collection. Many thanks. Pippa Lally (District Commissioner Hitchin Scouts).

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Parishioner looking for tutor to help sixth former prepare for A level psychology exam. Willing to pay. please contact Pippa 07913 817046

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**'A Journey of Hope with Mary'** - series of reflections to help deepen our faith, following the footsteps of Mary and Pope Francis. Mary at the FOOT OF THE CROSS – 'Believe in the victory of love' (Pope Francis) Friday 14th March 8 p.m. at Notre Dame de France church, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX All welcome! Full program: [www.bit.ly/jhwm2014](http://www.bit.ly/jhwm2014) T: 020 7440 2663, E: [info@spiritinthecity.org](mailto:info@spiritinthecity.org)

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**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](mailto:stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com)

**Westminster Record:** The latest edition is available from the porch priced 20p.



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## HOW TO HAVE A NEW TEENAGER IN 5 DAYS?

An interactive study evening for catechists and parents on how to teach and lead sessions for teenagers in confirmation preparation programmes: specific approach and themes, skills for group and conflict management, faith developmental issues and parental responses to changes, understanding of different ways of thinking. This evening especially will be helpful for everyone involved in the Confirmation preparation and adult faith formation programmes: adult faith formation leaders, catechists, parents and everyone who work with adolescence and their parents. Facilitators: Mgr Malachy Keegan and Ausra Karaliute S.T.L. 11th Mar, 2014, 7.00pm – 8.30pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please register at <http://rcdow.org.uk/events> or [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or call 02079316078.

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**Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests:** For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Revd Jane Hatton 01438 285138... or [jane.hatton@nhs.net](mailto:jane.hatton@nhs.net)

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**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)