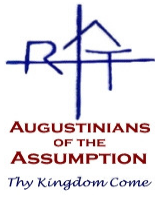


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1569

8th – 15th March 2014 First Sunday Lent 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 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.

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 9th	Coffee Morning KISS
Monday 10th 	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 - 11am
	Stations of the Cross after Mass
	Meditation Group LCR 12– 1.30pm
Tuesday 11th 	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm
Wednesday 12th	Choir Church 8pm
	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) LCR 9.30am
	Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
Thursday 13th	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	St Pio Prayer Meeting Church and Hall after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
Friday 14th	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Saturday 15th	Confirmation Session Hall 10-12.30pm
Sunday 16th	Coffee Morning One World Group
	Fr Christopher received into church Church 4.40pm into 5pm Mass

Readings: Gen 2:7-9.3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11

Entrance antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Psalm: **Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Intercessions: Father, hear our prayer.....

Response: **Forgive us our trespasses!**

Next week: Gen 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-19, Matt 17:1-9

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.



Fr Christopher: “We have all been deeply saddened by the rather sudden, but not totally unexpected way that the Lord called him to Himself. From quietly praying, he stopped breathing and surrendered himself to

the call! In many ways, though we miss him so much, it was a blessing that he went in the way that he did, as his future held 24 hour care, something that he would not welcome as it would mean so many changes to his way of life and his presence with us. We have received so many calls, cards and messages of sympathy from people who have been touched by him over the 46 years he lived with us here in Hitchin – thank you so much, they are such a comfort to us and to the family. When I spoke to one of his brothers, he said: “Our loss is also very much your loss, as you too were part of our family!” A wonderful statement of the closeness that we enjoyed with them through Fr Christopher. Fr Christopher’s Family will be with us for all the celebrations for his Funeral.

We are celebrating Fr Christopher’s Funeral over 3 days: **Sunday 16th March 4.40pm** We receive Fr Christopher into the church. **5pm Mass** Bishop John, our Area Bishop is coming to preside our Parish Mass, which will be the Second Sunday of Lent at which we commemorate the Transfiguration of Jesus, a wonderful message of our Journey of life and Faith. This was the Mass for my Ordination 48 years ago, so I will break open the word at that Mass. This will be followed by a reception in the hall hosted by the Union of Catholic Mothers whose Chaplain for 46 years was Fr Christopher; we are most grateful to them for taking on this task of love.

Fr Christopher will remain in Church overnight and his Funeral Mass on the 17th March at 11.30am, the Feast day of St Patrick, reflects his background and understanding of life. This will be followed by a reception in the hall hosted by his family.

Tuesday 18th March 10am Mass will be for Fr Christopher RIP and **11am The burial** will be in a new grave in **St John’s Cemetery**, where he buried so many of our Parishioners over the years and so enjoys their company as he awaits the Glorious Resurrection from the Dead!

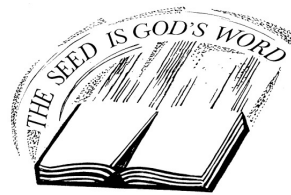
Fr Christopher’s family have asked that any donations be made to his favourite charity **Aid to The Church in Need**. 12-14 Benhill Ave, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA Tel 02086428668, email: acn@acn.uk.org

This Weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent, and explore the richness of the new life the Lord offers us in our Journey of Faith and Life and His invitation to us to move forward more positively into a deeper and more personal way of living our Faith and so be of service to those around us in who we are and what we do. The lovely example of Fr Christopher is there to encourage us, with his quiet, gentle and caring ways he lived his life and reached out to so many people in so many wonderful ways. May our Journey in Lent, enable us to live the same way and so rise already more fully into the Lord’s Risen life, we share through Baptism!



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LENT 2014 Praying Scripture In A Group



And so we go along, listening to the Lord, who is the Way; listening to one another, who share the way; listening to the way itself. The habit of meeting in a group to rest

a while, listening to the Word of God who is the Way, engenders in us this listening attitude, this sensitivity that hears what each person, each event, each thing has to say to us. Life is rich, very rich, with communication. Let us listen together. Let us share what we hear. Let us walk together in the way, more sure of our being together and hearing together.

(paraphrased from Listening God’s Word for Today by M. Basil Pennington O.C.S.O.)

Lectio Divina

Both groups are open to parents and parishioners.

Each group will be restricted to maximum of 10 persons.

Early registering of interest highly recommended.

WHEN & WHERE.

SCHOOL: Wednesdays at 9am

March: 5th; 12; 19th; 26th; & 2nd April
(Good access for all – parking in Old Hale Way)

PARISH: Fridays at 2pm

March: 7th; 14th; 21st; 28th; April 4th & 11th

LEADER: Eileen Dutt

Foundation Governor & Benedictine Oblate

Email: eduttobl@christianmeditation.org.uk


Mobile: 07721574767

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A quiet prayer area is available from this weekend on the stage between the organ console and pipes with a light and picture for contemplative prayer.

We remember in prayer our Candidates for Baptism and Reception into the Church, as they were welcomed onto their final stages of preparation for celebrating those rites at the Easter Vigil, yesterday at our Cathedral, by the Cardinal and his Bishops.

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 **Monday – Wednesday, from 4pm** onwards we have the second week of Family Chats for Parents and children on the Sacramental preparation journey, in the Doris Harris Room.


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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 our 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

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The Kanyike Support Group sends thanks to all who supported their recent coffee morning, which raised over £200.

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 **collection** will be taken after all masses except Sunday evening next weekend, 15/16th March. Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch.

The Pastoral Parish Council, on behalf of the parish of Our Lady & St Andrew would like to recognise and thank Mary and Eric Gill for carrying out the unsung task of generating the Parish Counting Rotas. We wish them well.

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The new sound system is up and running. The Pastoral Parish Council thank the generous donators for funding the system and the team that built the control console and stand that looks so grand in our Church – Graham Felton, John Scott, Michael Eltringham and Philippe James.

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Fr Michael writes: "After several investigations, it is now clear that I have severe erosive gastritis, cause by too much acid being produced in the stomach, so I am now focussing on the necessary treatment to eradicate it. I am not sure how long this will take until I see the consultant again. Many thanks for your prayer and concern for me over the past months, hopefully now with light at the end of the tunnel, I can get back to a more involved life

with you as we seek to serve the Lord and His People.

Diary Dates

Monday 10 March

Each Monday of Lent: Stations of the Cross: will be prayed in the Church, **after 10am Mass**, for those of you who would like to join in.

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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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2pm Fr Michael is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with year 4 of Our Lady's School

Wednesday 12 March

11.30am: Funeral Mass for David Smith, a long-standing and involved member of our Parish. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!



Thursday 13 March

10am The Saint Pio Prayer Meeting on will include Holy Mass for the members followed the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the hall and meditations of the month on Saint Joseph.

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7.30pm: Lent Meeting, You are invited to 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

Friday 14 March

7pm: Taize Service on the theme of Reconciliation, particularly for those involved on the Sacramental Journey, but everyone is also welcome to share in it.–This will last about 30 minutes. *Please bring a cushion to sit on*

Saturday 15 March

2pm-8pm: PDS-UK will host another ecumenical healing seminar and workshop in our Hall. 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 to register.

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Diocese of Westminster Permanent Diaconate: The Deacon is one who cooperates with the bishop and priest in directing the

Church's service to those in need. Interested in finding out more about serving the Church and the world as a Permanent Deacon?

Men between 35 and 60 are invited to a 'Come and See' Meeting, two hours on a Saturday morning starting 10am. Wives very welcome. In the parish hall on 15th March at St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green, NW11 7NE or 26th April at Ealing Abbey W5 2DY or 24th May at Sacred Heart, Ware, SG12 7EF. Further info from anthonyclark@rcdow.org.uk or adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk

Future Dates

March 17 7.30pm Foodbank evening in our hall, there will be an opportunity to learn more about the Foodbank. Present volunteers, anyone thinking about being a volunteer, anyone just wanting to know more - in fact, anybody! - will be welcome so just come along.



Fund-Raising Dance Workshops

ReBuild
In July 2014, 10 young people & 4 leaders are going back to South Africa to be part of a group of 80 who will build 2 houses in Botleng Township in July. Please support this life-changing experience.

Maurice Kachuk & Jo Summerfield
at JS Dance Academy, Hitchin

Saturday 22nd March

10-11.15am – Harder Tap
11.30am-12.45pm – Ballet
Please bring your own lunch
1.45-3pm – Modern
3.15-4.30pm – Easier Tap

Each class is £8 - Book all 4 classes for £30

To book contact Jo by email, phone or text:-
info@jsdanceacademy.co.uk
01462 625259 07957 145715

Participants must be aged 16 or over
The 2 non-tap classes are suitable for those who have no previous ballet or modern dance experience as well as those who have

Cake Stall - cakes will be available to purchase on the day. We will be very grateful for any contributions of cakes to sell

Faith Matters series of talks: WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR? 50 YEARS AFTER VATICAN II In the light of Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*
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: 7pm – 8.30pm Suggested donation is £3. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please register at <http://rcdow.org.uk/events>

March 22 11am - Romero Trust Memorial Service at St Martin in the Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ (for a map: <http://goo.gl/maps/UQNui>). The theme of this year's service is 'A Poor Church for the Poor – Romero & the Joy of the Gospel.' Fr Martin Maier SJ, a member of the German Province of the Society of Jesus and editor-in-chief of the monthly journal *Simmen der Zeit*, will be giving this year's lecture. For more information on the service, visit romerotrust.org.uk.

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/>

April 12 Lent Day of Reflection at the Church of Christ the King, Cockfosters, N14 4HE. Fr Augusto Zampini-Davies, of CAFOD's theology team, will be the guest speaker and will also celebrate Mass during the day. Times and further details to be confirmed. For more information or to book a place, visit <http://cafodayofreflection.eventbrite.co.uk> or contact CAFOD Westminster: 0208 449 6970 or westminster@cafod.org.uk

The ethics of nuclear weapons:
is it



We are delighted to welcome well-known peace activist Bruce Kent who visits Hitchin to talk about the campaign to "Scrap Trident"

- Spending on health, education, pensions and disability benefits are being slashed.
- The government is replacing Trident at a cost of £100 Billion.



Friday 25th April 2014, doors open 19:00
Entry is **free** but seating is limited. Please contact us on: oneworldgroup@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your place and help us with catering.

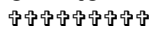
May 18 Pedal Against Poverty - CAFOD's annual 10/19 mile sponsored cycle ride in the Lee Valley Country Park, Hertfordshire.

More than just an annual fun day out with friends and family, this event helps CAFOD to make a huge difference in the fight against global poverty and injustice. Online registration available at <https://cafodpedalagainstopoverty.eventbrite.co.uk>. You can also register by contacting CAFOD Westminster: 0208 449 6970 or westminster@cafod.org.uk for a registration form.

Other items of interest

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 8th at Christchurch.

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) to arrange collection. Many thanks. Pippa Lally (District Commissioner Hitchin Scouts).



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



Garden help needed. You will have seen the appeals in the newsletter for helpers to meet up on a Saturday morning to keep the church gardens under control and they will continue but there is an ongoing need for people to just pop in and do an hour or so whenever they feel like it. We have a garden manual which shows the various areas of the church grounds and what needs to be done when. If you can give an hour or two even monthly then please let Helen Bailey know on **07771 552058** who will show you where the sheets and gardening equipment is kept. This is important work which makes our church grounds look lovely and also helps keep our costs down by not having to employ a gardener.

Can you help encourage people to think about fostering or adoption this Mother's Day?

This Mother's Day we are asking churches and other places of worship to highlight the needs of children and young people in Hertfordshire who need the love and care that many of us take for granted.

There are currently more than 1,100 children and teenagers in care in Hertfordshire who are unable to live with their families. They may have suffered, or be at risk of, abuse or neglect and need a caring home in which they can grow and thrive. Many wouldn't have had the opportunity to experience family life or have had carers to support and nurture them.

Our foster carers come from all walks of life – there is no 'typical foster family'. Carers can be single, married or living together, with young children, grown up children or no previous parenting experience. We do ask that carers have at least one spare room in their home and a commitment to make a difference in children's lives. Our carers receive up to £400 per child per week in fees and allowances, dedicated training and support and access to a support network of other local carers. We also need adopters who can give children a permanent and secure family in which they can thrive. Our adopters receive thorough initial training and support from our dedicated Adopter Support Team. If you would like to find out more about adoption or fostering in Hertfordshire, please call us on 0800 917 0925 or visit

www.hertsdirect.org/fostering or
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/adoption



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.



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

Letter from Roger Lawrence-Hyde, Chair of the Pastoral Parish Council

You are all now aware that our parish will be taking part in a fundraising initiative called **Growing in Faith** after Easter. It is aimed at supporting Cardinal Vincent's vision of the future of our diocese and parish.

All parishioners will be invited to **consider** playing their part, whether through prayer, volunteering or with financial support. Our Parish has been asked to raise £225,000 over the next five years. (This sum is twice the average value of three years offertory collections).

Every parishioner will be asked to **consider** pledging an amount either monthly, annually etc. for a period of up to five years. You can stop at any time if things are difficult. The pledging part will take place between Easter and the summer with Fr Michael and Fr John-Marie spending the first six weeks meeting parishioners and the next six being supported by volunteers helping them to share this important message.

The rewards to all parties for reaching our target up to 100% (or any part of it) are as follows:

Our Assumptionist Order, sick and retired Clergy	40%
Assumptionist's Priest Seminary training	9%
Diocese Priest Seminary training	9%
Diocese Caritas	20%
Diocese ongoing formation	2%
Most important of all our Parish Project	20%
This means £45,000	

Should we reach our target and indeed exceed it, the figures change in our favour:

Our Assumptionist Order, sick and retired Clergy	12%
Assumptionist's Priest Seminary training	3%
Diocese Priest Seminary training	3%
Diocese Caritas	6%
Diocese ongoing formation	1%
Most important of all our Parish Project	75%
This means 75% of all we pledge over our target.	

Once we have completed our pledging there is a wait of six months before we can draw on any sums of money actually realised.

The money pledged is managed by a Parish Administrator and passed to the **Growing in Faith** office. They will keep a check to ensure all monies are accounted for. Absolutely no other person in the parish will know whether or not you have made a pledge. Not even the Priests.

The Parish Project can come in three categories:

SPIRITUAL (supporting Sacramental prep & catechetical formation)

PASTORAL (supporting future pastoral work etc.)

FACILITIES (hall improvements building projects etc.)

The Pastoral Parish Council would ask all parishioners to consider a project that could be successfully undertaken within the three categories.

Would you please email or phone your thoughts to Jocelyn Darley on josudarley@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01462442791.

It goes without saying that we need ideas as quickly as we can get them as when they are firmed up they will go into our Parish Booklet showing our aims, hopes and aspirations.

The deadline is **March 28th**.

Thank you

Roger Lawrence-Hyde Chair PPC