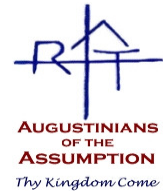




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1572

29th March – 5th April 2014 Fourth 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
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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)

H 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.

Diary

Sunday 30th	Coffee Morning OL School PTA
Monday 31st	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12– 1.30pm
	Lenten Meditation LCR 8pm
Tuesday 1st	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
Wednesday 2nd	Choir Church 8pm
	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
Thursday 3rd	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 4th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 6th	Coffee Morning OLSSG

Readings: Sam 16:1.6-7.10-13, Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Intercessions: Lord, hear our prayer.....

Response: You are our Resurrection and Life!

Next week: Ez 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, John 11:1-45

This weekend: We rejoice: with the Families whose children celebrated First Reconciliation on Saturday and continue our prayer for those who will do so this coming Saturday at 11.00am, again parishioners are cordially invited to share in this Sacrament fully with our children, if you so desire.

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

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.



This weekend: 8.30am Mass: we celebrate the Second Scrutiny of prayer over our Candidates for Baptism and Reception into the Church: the light of Christ is being shared with them directly in this way, as we celebrate in the Mass the Gospel of the restoration of sight to the man born blind.

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Our 10.30am Mass involves Our Lady's School, as it is the fifth Sunday of the month, and we pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Bolden, our Deputy Head, whose anniversary it is. We pray also for her family on this sad day. This week our School is also performing its play on the theme of Easter, as a further preparation of awareness of the divine life we life already and its rich empowerment of us in our rendering present the Great Events of our Salvation.

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Next Sunday: there is the Flower Collection for sustaining the beauty of our Church through nature. If anyone has talent in the arranging of flowers, our Teams of Ministers will be glad to offer you a place with them.

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Praying with Scripture during Lent 2014. Both sessions - OLS at 9am on Wednesday morning and Pastoral Office at 3pm Friday are offered at the same time each week throughout Lent and both are open to parishioners. For further information contact Eileen Dutt on 07721574767 or eduttobl@christianmeditation.org.uk

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Planned Giving Envelopes will be available for collection in the Hall after each of the Masses this weekend. Parishioners who make their offering by Standing Order and would like a supply of Envelopes for use at Christmas or Easter can also collect Envelopes at this time.

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Baptism Preparation The next Baptism Course will take place on Sunday 11th (3.00 – 4.30pm) and 25th May (3.30 – 4.45pm) The Rite of Anointing will take place after the session on 25th May at the 5.00pm Mass. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LINK. Details: email Jane janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk

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The next gardening group is Saturday 5th April from 10am and then on Saturday 26th April from 10am. If you are able to come on either of these dates you will be most welcome. We are extremely grateful to Growing Strong @ Hillcrest Nurseries on the Bedford Road in Holwell who have very kindly donated many pansies and bulbs for the church garden.

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The Passover Meal this year will be Monday 14th April. Please see sign up sheet in porch.

Carers for Fr Christopher, had a very pleasant social time together, last Sunday evening, to celebrate the time they had shared with him and to maintain contact with each other. Trish thanked everybody for what they had done on behalf of the wider parish. Fr Michael added his appreciation on behalf of the order for the care to their brother– with the hope that when he retired it would still be on offer!!!!

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Accommodation needed Parish mother with 3 year old daughter looking for self contained accommodation in Hitchin or surrounding areas. Preferably with access to a garden. Short or long term. Please contact Marion 0788 4274453 or email: macmarion@yahoo.com

Diary Dates

Monday 31 March

10am Funeral Mass for Lisa Bryan, for whom we pray and for her family who mourn her sudden death. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! There will be **no** Stations of the Cross following this Mass.

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8pm LENTEN MEDITATION in the Lower Committee Room will now be led by Philip Bell on the theme of 'A Change of Heart.' This will be followed by a simple Lenten supper.

Tuesday 1 April

7.15pm Lenten Eucharistic Service continuing with our reflections from **The Nail**. All welcome.

Other items of interest

Finance and Admin Assistant, St Joseph's Pastoral Centre £10.60 per hour 17.5 hours per week closing date 2nd April. Full details on notice board.

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THE RSC COMES TO PIRTON 1st - 5th April Pirton Players will stage an exciting production of Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare. Tickets for Julius Caesar are available on line at www.pirtonplayers.org or from the Village Shop. See Poster for further details.

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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. Call 0800 917 0925 or visit www.hertsdirect.org/fostering or www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/adoption See notice board for more details.