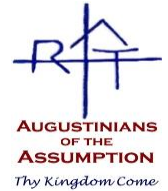




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1573

5th April – 12th April 2014 Fifth 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.



Diary

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| Sunday 6th | Coffee Morning OLSSG |
| Monday 7th | Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am |
| | Meditation Group LCR 12– 1.30pm |
| | Parish council meeting LCR 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 8th | Morning Prayer Church 9.30am |
| | Bethany Club Hall 10.30pm |
| | Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm |
| | Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8 – 10pm |
| Wednesday 9th | Choir Church 8pm |
| | Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am |
| | Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm |
| | Reconciliation service Church 7.30pm |
| Thursday 10th | Saint Pio Prayer Group Church and Hall after Mass |
| | Italian Club Hall 1pm |
| | Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm |
| Friday 11th | Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am |
| Saturday 12th | Marriage Preparation Hall |
| Sunday 13th | Coffee Morning Friends of Gainsford House |



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

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: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

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

Response: **Strengthen our belief!**

Next week: Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Matt 26:14-27:66

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 Sunday: Third Scrutiny of the Elect, we celebrate the third and last of the Scrutinies. The Gospel today, the raising of Lazarus, focuses on Christ, the resurrection and the life. We pray that they may be given the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life and that they may be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit as they prepare themselves for their birth to new life

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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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Sunday 5.00pm Mass: we celebrate the Third and final Scrutiny for our Candidates for Baptism and Reception into the Church: the hope of the Resurrection of us all at the end of time, the fulfilment of our Journey of Faith and Life!

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Good News": Our Lady's School Easter play, was indeed a missionary response, very much in line with what Bishop Francis, our Pope, has asked us all to be become. Several of the scenes were deeply moving and the children blessed us with their love and child-like enthusiasm to live our Faith more fully! Our grateful thanks goes to all who have worked so hard to bring this play to such a high standard and with such commitment!

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Saturday saw the Second Group of Families and children celebrating First Reconciliation. Parishioners were welcome to join in and be models of faith to them too. The celebration was at 11.00am. It was indeed a very prayerful and peaceful time and the children were very respectful and involved. It was also good to see quite a few of our parents also showed an example to their children by celebrating the Sacrament too

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Next Sunday: sees the start of Holy Week with the Blessing of Palms at all Masses

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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 jane.gonzalez@rcdow.org.uk

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

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Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 7th June 2014 at 3pm for couples living in the Diocese, celebrating 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th or 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversaries this year. If you would like an

invitation, please give Carol Cooper, the parish Administrator, the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Invitations are handled by the Office for Marriage and Family Life

cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk.

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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 7 April

There will be Stations of the Cross following 10am Mass.

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Our next Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is at 7.30pm in the Lower Committee Room. Please keep this important Meeting in your prayer, many thanks.

Tuesday 8 April

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

Wednesday 9 April

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service is being held at 7.30pm, all are welcome to share in this important time of assessment and review of our life and faith and how we are living them as disciples of Jesus Christ. There will be a visiting Priest joining us for the Celebration



Thursday 10 April

Thursday 10th: 10am The Saint Pio Prayer Meeting will include Holy Mass for the members followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the Hall and meditations on the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome.

Saturday 12 April

We are holding our Second Marriage Preparation Day in the Hall, gathering for coffee and registration from 9.30am onwards, for a start at 10.00am with the Day ending with a Service of Blessing for the Engagement Rings of the Brides to be. The Prayer of the Parish will be with these 20 or so couples as they journey towards their Commitment and Covenant of Marriage.

Future Dates

April 6 **Mass in Blue by Will Todd:** All are welcome to the liturgical setting of this jazz mass for choir and jazz ensemble to be held at St Mary's on Sunday 6 April at 5.00pm, which will include many singers and musicians from our local area. The Celebrant will be Rev Michael Roden; Soloists - Anne-Marie Hetherington and Gina Abbatt; Musical Director - Alan Childs.

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April 12 **10am-1pm Study day on Human and Faith Development: From Childhood to Adulthood** VENUE: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. This will be an interactive teaching and learning day for all interested in their personal faith development and those who teach adults and children. Facilitators: Mgr Malachy Keegan and A. Karaliute S.T.L. Please always book in advance to attend a session by email: livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or at <http://www.rcdow.org.uk/events> or tel: 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £ 7.00. Tea & coffee will be provided.

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April 14 **7.30pm Passover Meal** in the Church Hall. A family occasion – of particular importance to the Families who will be entering into the Eucharist Programme – but also to Parishioners in general, the chance to savour something of the atmosphere of the evening and what it meant to the Jewish People and now to us with prayer, song, food and laughter. It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up on the board in the porch and for details of what to bring.



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April 18 **Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service:** Churches Together in Hitchin is arranging its annual Walk of Witness and Service on 18 April. We gather in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30 am then walk along Bancroft and High Street for a united service in Market Place at 11.00. The service will be led by Jane Litchmore-Grant, Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin and ministers of member churches, with music provided by St Mark's. All are welcome to take part in this important act of Christian witness in our town.

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April 20 **Easter Sunday morning** *Come and celebrate the rising of the Son with the rising of the sun!* All welcome to join members of Walsworth Road Baptist Church at 5.45am in Pinehill Field, off Benslow Rise. Breakfast available at the church afterwards.

Please ring 01462 420681 or e-mail minister@wrbchitchin.org.uk to book.

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April 25

In the Parish Hall, Our Lady

The ethics of nuclear weapons: is it



Immaculate & St Andrew Church, Nightingale Rd, Hitchin, SG5 1QS Doors open 19:00, please see posters in the porch.

Programme:

19:00-19:30: Refreshments

19:30 - 21:00: Bruce Kent talk "The Ethics of nuclear weapons: is it time to scrap Trident?" followed by Questions & Answers session

21:00 - 21:30: Showing of 2 DVDs - "Give Peace a Budget" (10 min) & "Conflict and Climate Change" (18 min)

21:30 - 22:00: Further discussion/ debate time if interested

Entry is free but booking is recommended. Please contact us on: oneworldgroup@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your place and help us with catering. All are welcome!

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May 8

8pm Advance Notice from Churches Together in Hitchin -

at Christchurch - Public meeting with candidates for the East of England Constituency of the European Parliament. Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrat and UKIP parties have agreed to provide candidates. To learn more, contact Revd Austin Smith at ajdsmith@waitrose.com More general info at 'europinfos - Christian perspectives on the EU' (<http://europe-infos.eu/>)

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May 10

7.30pm Quiz Night for Christian Aid -

To be held at Christchurch Fish/sausage and chip supper or vegetarian option. Tickets £9.00, no food £4.00. Teams of 6-8. For tickets contact Sue Covington (452985) suecov63@hotmail.co.uk or Pauline Edwards (435438)

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Oct 18

MICHAELMAS/AUTUMN FAIR

Those who attended the recent planning meeting would like to invite all parishioners to put the above date in their diaries. An extended range of stalls and exciting activities should ensure that this enjoyable event will be as successful as in previous years. If you can help in any way please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) or pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com

Other items of interest

Your help needed. The new sound equipment is an excellent improvement to our worship facilities.



To ensure that we can deliver a reliable sound support ministry to our liturgies and services and get the best use of the system, We need extra volunteers so we can enlarge the Sound Support Team in our parish. We have number of extra services to support over Holy Week and Easte. The work 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@btopenworld.com

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Gill and Colin Blake give thanks to Our Lord as they celebrate 25 years of marriage on 15th April. They would like to thank everyone for the continuing prayers of the Parish. God bless you all.

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Our Gardening Team: are gathering their forces once more and have made some wonderful progress in ensuring a more rich display of flowers around the Church and Houses and the lawans once more are being cared for now that spring is officially on its way! We are indeed grateful to these wonderful people for all their commitment and dedication, for the pleasure of us all.

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Pilgrimage to Holy Land 21st – 28th May. Few places remaining on pilgrimage organised by Portsmouth Diocese (flying out from Luton). Includes attendance at two Masses said by Pope Francis. Itinerary is on noticeboard or more details from Katherine Dempster at katherine.dempster@btinternet.com or phone 01425 611643

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PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: A big “thank you” to everyone who has already picked up their boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes for the coming year. If you have not yet picked up your Envelopes, they are available for collection in the Porch.

If you have not yet signed-up for Envelopes or for the Gift Aid Scheme and you wish to do so, please let Fr Michael or Trish know and they will arrange for a set of Envelopes and a Gift Aid Declaration to be issued.

Churches together in Hitchin are marking the centenary of the beginning of the First World War with two events, one of which I need to share with you now. The plan is for a Town Service at St Mary's, 3.00 pm on Sunday 13 July It will be open to all who wish to attend. As well as hymns, readings and prayers, and an address the service will include the reading out of the approximately 500 names on the town war memorial, something which no-one can recall having been done before and which seems especially right on this occasion. In this connection we are looking for relatives of those named in this list. If you have a relative from the town who is commemorated on the war memorial please let Trish know as CTH want to ensure you are invited to the service and also if you are willing to be involved with the reading of the names.

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Four Year 3 Mums from Our Lady School have teamed together to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Helen Bailey, Mary Cafferkey, Siobhan Jobe & Heather Walker will be walking from London, starting early on Saturday 24th May, on through the night, arriving in Brighton the next day. A full 100km! (62 miles). If you would like to sponsor them please see their Just giving page www.justgiving.com/teams/OLS and help raise funds for this very worthy cause. Please also keep them in your prayers for a safe & injury free journey.

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North Herts Sanctuary update: It has been a difficult time for the Charity over the last few months. Our partnership with St Mungo's didn't work out well, and everybody suffered, including the staff. In the end Mungo's decided to quit running the hostel which its future in doubt. However, the local councils have now given us their full backing and will issue a new contract. So we are looking for a new service provider to run the operation, and thee future for the Sanctuary is looking brighter. We accept that we still need to update everyone and are in the process of doing this. A draft document is being put together to be circulated amongst the local churches.

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Thank you to everyone who supported the Our Lady School PTA cake sale last Sunday, we raised £78.10 which will go towards buying Learning pads for the children.

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