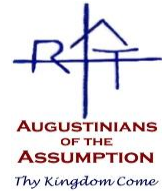


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1574

12th April – 19th April 2014 Palm Sunday of the Passion 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
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)

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.

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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 13th	Coffee Morning Friends of Gainsford House
Monday 14th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12– 1.30pm
	Passover meal Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 15th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 16th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
	Stations of the Cross rehearsal Church 6.30pm
	Rehearsal for Mass of Last Supper Church 8pm
Thursday 17th	Maundy Thursday <i>See Special service sheet</i>
Friday 18th	Good Friday <i>See Special service sheet</i>
Saturday 19th	Holy Saturday <i>See Special service sheet</i>
Sunday 20th	Easter Sunday Coffee Morning One World Group

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

Entrance antiphon: The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest.

Psalm: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

Response: Strengthen our belief!

Next week: Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

This Weekend: sees the start of Holy Week, our prayerful journey through the glorious events leading up to the Resurrection and the new life the Lord offers us, as we prepare for the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. Please see the Special Sheet which has been prepared for the week with service details and times.

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.



I am sorry to say that we heard this week that Fr Jean-Marie has been called by his Provincial to return to Africa to take up a post in Nairobi before the end of June 2014. Fr Jean-Marie has been with us permanently since February 2010 and his cheerful, calm ways have endeared him to us all. I am expecting a new priest to take up a post at Hitchin following his departure but I have no more details about this at present. We will take the opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Fr Jean-Marie with a **Mass of celebration** at **6pm on Saturday June 7th** followed by a party in the garden or hall dependent on weather. Please make a note in your diary as Trish will be asking for help nearer the time. I am sure you will join with me in saying how sorry we are to say goodbye to Fr Jean-Marie, in thanking him for his help in the parish and particularly his gentle care of Fr Christopher RIP. We wish him all the best in his new parish and assure him of our prayers always for his ministry.

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Our love and sympathy go to the Family of **Joe Waters** who died recently and whose Funeral service we celebrate on Monday 28th April. May he rest in peace to rise in glory!

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We pray for the Couples who shared in the Marriage Preparation Day held yesterday, for their future happiness and commitment to each other as they prepare for their Marriage Covenant Celebration.

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Baptism Preparation The next Baptism Course will take place on Sunday 11th (3– 4.30pm) and 25th May (3.30 – 4.45pm) The Rite of Anointing will take place after the session on 25th May at the 5pm Mass. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LINK.

Details: email Jane janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk

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Our Gardening Team, has again beautified the grounds of the Church, with several sorts of flowers and plants, kindly donated to us. We also had a team of volunteers, under the guidance of Tony, our Building Consultant, who have greatly improved the flow of water from the guttering into the ground. It is great to see the diversity of talents which are on hand for us – so a big “thank you” to you all. **The next gardening group** is Saturday 26th April from 10am. All help is welcome.

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Thank You!

to all who helped raise £125 at our recent coffee morning. We are going to Walsingham in June! Thank you again, Irma & Derek (for OLSSG).

Mass of the Last Supper Maundy Thursday



As part of the gospel re-enactment members of the parish act as the Apostles and go into the congregation to wash the feet of parishioners as Jesus told them to. We need three more volunteers to be in the congregation. There is no need to come to a practice. Trish will let you know where you need to sit. You just need to be willing to have your foot washed and ensure you wear suitable clothing to allow this to be done. If you are coming to the Mass anyway please help in this way. Speak to Trish if you are willing to help.

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There will be two training sessions for parishioners who would like to serve our community by being **Ministers of the Word** and reading the scripture at Masses and other occasions. If you would be interested in making a commitment to reading at your normal Mass once every six weeks or so please come along on **Thursdays 8th and 15th May at 7.30pm** in the church. If you are planning to come can you let Trish know so materials can be prepared accordingly. The training will be delivered by Christine Laubin and Peter Checketts.

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Your help needed. To ensure that we can deliver a reliable sound support ministry to our liturgies and services we need extra volunteers so we can enlarge the Sound Support Team in our parish . 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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Annual Financial Return 2013 A summary of the financial results for the Parish for the year ending 31 Dec 2013 is on the back page of the Newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of all concerned, particularly the staff and you the parishioners, the results are much better than anticipated. To keep you informed, we will provide regular updates on the results for 2014 as the year progresses. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please speak to Margaret or Pascal - their contact details are in the report.

Fr Michael writes: "I have had my last appointment with the surgeon and been signed off, as the severe erosive gastritis is being treated medically and will take some time to sort out – so I will need to continue with my lower level of service to you, particularly as regards evenings. Thanks again for your love and concern for me and I would ask you to continue now and again to hold me in your prayer – as I do you all. Love and peace, Michael aa"

Diary Dates

Monday 14 April

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

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7.30pm Passover Meal in the Church Hall for those who have signed up.

Tuesday 15 April

7.15pm Lenten Eucharistic Service continuing with the last of the reflections from **The Nail**. All welcome



Thursday 17 April Maundy Thursday

Please see Special service sheet

Friday 18 April Good Friday

Please see Special service sheet



We will gather as usual at the bandstand in Bancroft Gardens for prayer at 10.30am then join in the Walk of Witness behind the crosses along Bancroft and High Street for a service led by local ministers in the Market Square at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome to join in with this act of worship.

Saturday 19 April Holy Saturday

Please see Special service sheet

Sunday 20 April Easter Sunday

Please see Special service sheet

Future Dates

April 19 Easter Experience Journey through the Easter story at Christchurch, Hitchin, with multi-sensory activities, crafts, and take on the egg hunt challenge. Drop in between 10am and 12pm, refreshments and baby area available.

April 25

The ethics of nuclear weapons: is it



Bruce Kent talk In the Parish Hall 7pm

Please see posters in the porch. Please contact us on: oneworldgroup@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your place and help us with catering. All are welcome!

May 9 10:30am–3pm The English and Welsh branch of the Catholic Grandparents' Association

(www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) will be launched in Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P 1EP. Any grandparents wishing to represent their parish at the launch should please contact Edmund Adamus edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk 020 7798 9363 as soon as possible as space is limited.

Other items of interest



"Living Below the Line" Could you get by on just £1 a day for five days for ALL your food

& drink? You could then donate what you would have spent and join thousands across the UK "Living Below the Line" between Monday 28th April & Friday 2nd May and have anything you raise for Send a Cow **DOUBLED** by the UK government.

Your challenge is to buy all your food & drink for 5 days with just £5 and gain a first-hand insight into the lives of many thousands of Africans who live below the poverty line.

This could be a fun family challenge and the parish is registered to participate in this. Just let Trish know if you would like to participate and she will send you the resources (suggested shopping lists and menus and dinner party menu if you would like to have one of them.)

We are aiming to raise £500. Let's see if that is possible. It would only take 50 families to raise £10 each to meet that. We could smash it. Great idea that the government doubling what we raise too. See

<https://www.livebelowtheline.com/me/ourladys> to see how we will do.

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SmartLoving non-residential marriage enrichment weekends draw on the wisdom of authentic Catholic teaching and Theology of the Body, bringing a fresh perspective and renewed joy in your marriage. Don't be content to coast along – give each other the precious gift of just two days out of your busy lives on 21 & 22 June or October 18 & 19 and feel the difference. www.smartloving.org/marriage or contact cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk 020 7931 6064. NO GROUP SHARING!

Annual Financial Return 2013

The Annual Financial Return for the year ending 31 December 2013 has been completed, signed-off by Fr Michael and submitted to the Diocese.

The Return shows a surplus for the year of £28,266 but, when exceptional items such as specific donations and backdated interest are removed, there was a net surplus of £1,697.

The surplus was against a budgeted deficit of £23,000.

There are a number of reasons for the turnaround:

- Offertory Income was nearly £10K better than expected – partly as a result of the Appeal and partly as a result of Income holding up through the year better than had been expected – the mini-appeal in October 2012 may have helped.
- Significant cost savings of nearly £15K were achieved particularly in the areas of clergy expenses, non-clergy salaries and housekeeping.

A summary of the main figures from the Return is below.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please speak to either Margaret Wilson (01462-627784) or Pascal Kwo (01462-440711) from the Finance Committee.

Annual Financial Return 2013

Parish Income	192245	Parish Expenditure	163979
Surplus for 2013	28266		
<u>Less Exceptional Items:</u>			
Third Party Receipts	6175	Third Party Payments	5490
Interest (Zeta Rowe legacy)	9673		
Interest (RBS)	5999		
		Sound System Part	
Sound System Donations	12690	Payment	6100
Poor Box Donations	713		
Hall Refurbishment Donations	2520		
Flowers Donations	389		
		Christmas/Easter	
Christmas/Easter Offerings/Stipends	6421	Offerings/Stipends	6421
<u>Total Exceptional Items</u>	44580		18011
Net Parish Income	147665	Net Parish Expenditure	145968
Net Surplus for 2013	1697	Budgeted Loss for 2013	23000
<u>Differences Between Budget and Actual:</u>			
Offertory Income	9737	Clergy Expenses	2285
		Non Clergy Salaries	9481
		Housekeeping	1500
		Donations	1500
Total Additional Income	9737	Total Additional Savings	14665
Total Additional Income & Savings	24402		