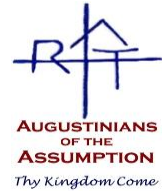


# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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

Newsletter No 1577

3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 Third Sunday of Easter Year A



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**Mass Times**  
**Saturday** anticipating **6pm**  
**Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.00pm**  
**Monday – Saturday 10am**  
**Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am** following Mass

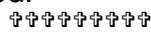
**Contacts**  
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Fr Jean-Marie Paluku [jeanmariepaluku@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jeanmariepaluku@rcdow.org.uk)  
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Website: [www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin)  
E-mail: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Parish Safeguarding Representative**  
Carol Mascarenhas Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)

## Diary

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning Diapalante
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Scripture Group
	Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Saint Pio Prayer Group Church and Hall after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Confirmation Group Retreat Hall 10am – 4pm
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning Church Flower Group



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.*

**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.

**Readings: Acts:2:14.22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35**

*Entrance antiphon:* Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

*Psalm:* **Show us, Lord, the path of life.**

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

*Response:* **Make us your witnesses!**

**Next week: Acts:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10**

**This weekend;** we celebrate the Wedding of Andrew and Alicija here in our Church. We pray for them and the other couples who are exchanging the Marriage Covenant over the course of this month; may their lives be filled with happiness, blessings and much love and be a shining light in this world of ours that it is possible to say “Yes” to each and show that it can be achieved!

**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.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** is a Bank Holiday: Mass at 10.00am as usual.

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**Our Sessions of Meetings** with parishioners to share with them the vision of the Cardinal for his Diocese continue in the course of the week. Please ensure that you return the envelopes to the Parish House, as soon as possible, many thanks!

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**Next Weekend:** we are holding our Baptism Preparation Course, for parents seeking the Sacrament for their child or children. There is a "Sign Up" Sheet in the Link for parents to join the Programme, which starts at 3.00pm.



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**5.00pm Mass:** our Candidates for Confirmation make their public affirmation of readiness to receiving the Sacrament.

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### Offertory Appeal Results Update

The Offertory Appeal took place in October and you will recall that the results were a bit disappointing – we had been looking for a 25% increase in Offertory income but the pledges

received suggested only about a 14% increase.

The actual returns for November 2013, January and February 2014 show better than expected results – a 19% uplift on the same period for last year. NB: December was left out of the analysis as the Christmas offerings skew the results.

There will inevitably be some fall-off as the year goes by but if the uplift were sustained money-wise it would mean an annual increase in Offertory income to £125,000 against the forecast of £120,000 – not as much as we needed but much better than expected. So, a big "thank you" to all who have responded so positively in one form or another to the Appeal. Further updates will be provided during the course of the year. Meanwhile a detailed analysis of the results so far is posted on the Pastoral Council Notice Board and, if you have any questions, please speak to David on 01462-627784.

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A stalwart of our community, **David Smith**, died recently. David had worked quietly for our parish in an unassuming way for many years. He was a man of strong faith and steadfast service. He leaves his sister Anne with a very small income which

barely covers the funeral expenses. I am appealing to the generosity of our parishioners to make a contribution towards the funeral bill of over

£3000 to enable his sister to maintain some income. At this time of year we remember the first Christian community, who pooled their resources and shared it among those in the community in need. This is what we would be doing. If you are able to help please put your contribution in an envelope marked – David Smith- and leave at the parish office or give it to Trish when you next see her. Thank you for your help. A message from Ann Smith *"Thank you more than words can say, for all your kindness following the loss of my dear brother David. Thank you for the prayers, Masses and cards and for the lovely tributes paid to David which were such a comfort. Many thanks to everyone who made his funeral such a beautiful occasion. May God bless you all and a Mass will be said for your intentions."*

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### Christian Aid Week 11-19 May.

The house to house collection is the biggest ecumenical event in Britain! To find out more each church has been supplied with a DVD of the work that Christian Aid do with partners in countries where there is much need. If you have the technology it would be good to show one of the 5 minute stories to congregations/ Sunday schools/ weekday clubs and meetings of all ages. A box with Christian Aid envelopes is in each church for you to donate if your street didn't get a collection or you were missed. Helen Richardson, CTH Hitchin & Villages Christian Aid Organiser.

### Diary Dates

#### Monday 5 May

The annual Migrants Mass in honour of St. Joseph the Worker - at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria, London SW1, Starting at 10.30 am with a Banner Procession and mass at 11.00 am Mass, the main celebrant: Bishop Patrick Lynch. For more information visit: [www.rcdow.org.uk/massformigrants](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/massformigrants) (please see poster on J&P noticeboard)

#### Tuesday 6 May

**11.00am** Deanery Meeting for Priests at Hatfield. Please continue your prayer for the Deanery and its work for the Church in this part of the Diocese.

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**3.00pm:** Meeting of the Administrative and Pastoral Staff.

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**7.15pm Steps to Pentecost Eucharistic service**  
a series of readings from Easter to Pentecost, reflection, prayer and communion.

**Wednesday 7 May**

**Fr Michael** is with Mrs Davis, our Inclusion Teacher at the School, for his work as Governor at 8.30am.

**Thursday 8 May**

**10am: The Saint Pio Prayer Group Meeting** will include Holy Mass for the members followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the hall and meditations on the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Please make a note that there will be a special Saint Pio Prayer Meeting evening on **Monday, 2nd June**, held at the home of Ann and Michael Hill in Pirton. The evening will start with the Holy Rosary at 7pm followed by Holy Mass in the grounds in front of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. This will be celebrated by Father Jean-Marie. Please pray for fine weather! After Mass we will be treated to a warm supper in Ann and Michael's home and garden so please come and support their hospitality.

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**8pm European Election meeting** at Christchurch.

**Saturday 10 May**

**Our Confirmation Candidates** share a time of Retreat to prepare for the Sacrament later this month, celebrated with Bishop John. We will keep them and their Catechists in our prayers on this very important day for their spiritual development.

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We are delighted to welcome **Eimear and John** for their Exchange of the Marriage Covenant at 1.30pm. We pray for their happiness and the wonderful gift of creative fidelity to each other all the days of their lives.

**Future Dates**

**Faith Matters:** Lumen Fidei, Light of Faith, Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter. 7.00 – 8.30pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN.

These are public lectures and all are welcome. Registration is required at [rcdow.org.uk/faith/faith-matters](http://rcdow.org.uk/faith/faith-matters), or email: [faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk) or phone 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £3.

**15 May 2014**, The Joy of Believing and Belonging by Fr John Farrell, OP

**29 May 2014**, Unless You Believe, You will not Understand by Fr John Hemer MHM, Formation Adviser, Allen Hall

**5 June 2014**, Lumen Fidei – Some Implications for Christian Living by Rev Dr Michael O'Boy, Vice-Rector, Allen Hall

**May 11**

**"William Butterfield and Hitchin's Hidden Gem"** An illustrated talk to be given by **Dr Ayla Lepine** at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Road, Hitchin, starting 2.30pm, on the Gothic Revival architect (better known for All Saints Margaret St and the Chapel of Keble College, Oxford) and Holy Saviour Church, Hitchin, built to his design in 1865. Tickets £8 (including Afternoon Tea) from the Friends of Holy Saviour Church 01462 646257 or Hitchin Initiative Office, Churchyard.

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**6.30pm Taizé Service at St Mark's** As part of its patronal celebrations, St Mark's is holding a Taizé-style service of prayer, singing and meditation. It will also be an occasion to remember Christian Aid Week which begins that day. The church has been glad to welcome members of other churches to this service in previous years and will be delighted to see anyone who would like to come along. Further details from Revd Jane Mainwaring, 01462 434686.

**May 14 7pm Interested in Albania?** On **Wednesday 14 May** at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, there will be a chance to talk with Orgert Vlashaj representing the Albanian Evangelical Churches from Good News Church, Lezhe. Please bring a dish! For more information contact [barbara.liberty@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.liberty@btinternet.com)

**May 21 Churches Together in Hitchin Council** The next meeting of CTH Council is on Wednesday 21 May, 8.00 pm at St Mark's in Lancaster Avenue - tea/coffee from 7.30pm. There will be some CTH business in the first part of the meeting then the second part, from 8.30/8.40 pm (depending on how much we talk!), will continue the conversation on Pentecostalism we started at our last Council. This time we shall think in practical terms about how the Pentecostalist churches in Hitchin work, worship and witness and then ask ourselves how these churches and churches of the other traditions in the town can work more effectively together.

**May 24 10am – 1pm An interactive study day on Effective Presentation Skills:** Tips for Success & Resources Facilitators: Mgr Malachy Keegan, Ausra Karaliute S.T.L., Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN.



This study day is for all Parish Adult Faith Formation & Small Communities Leaders and Members, Parish Pastoral Council Members, Volunteers and anyone who would like to learn more about their own faith and how to be effective in their evangelisation efforts and pastoral work. Registration is required at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/effective-lessonsessionpresentation-skills-workshop-tickets-7516719711> or email: [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or phone 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £7. Tea/coffee will be provided.

**May 31 10am – 2pm Mindfulness Retreat in Christian Tradition with Mgr Malachy Keegan.** The Niland Conference Centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey, WD23 4EE (Easily accessible by public transport). This diocesan retreat is for all Parish Adult Faith Formation/Small Communities Leaders and Members, Parish Pastoral Council Members, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Volunteers and anyone who would like to learn more about their own faith and themselves. Register at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/retreat-tickets-7516952407](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/retreat-tickets-7516952407) or email: [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or phone 020 7931 6078. Minimum donation £14. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.

**June 3 7pm – 8.30pm A study evening on Canon Law for Effective Parish Ministry** for Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Pastoral Team Members and everyone involved or/and interested in pastoral work. Facilitator: Sr Hellen Costigane SHCH. , Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN. Registration is required at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/canon-law-for-effectiveparish-ministry-tickets-11236529763> or email: [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or phone 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £5. Tea/coffee will be provided.

### **Other items of interest**

A former parishioner, Marie Sawfoot (nee Kirk) passed away in Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> April after a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



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**SVP St John Bosco Camp** offers children aged 8-13 a sports and activity based holiday on a campsite in the Essex countryside. Run with a Catholic ethos, the camp is especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. There are three weeks of the camp:

For boys: 26<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August or 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August

For girls: 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August

For many details and for application forms log onto [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk)

**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](http://www.smartloving.org/marriage) or contact [cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk) 020 7931 6064. NO GROUP SHARING!

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**Explore** is a charity bringing volunteer married couples into schools and parishes to allow 14 – 17 year olds to explore what marriage is all about, to learn in a dynamic way the importance of lasting relationships and to inspire them to aspire to lifelong marriage. The emotional and financial cost of family breakdown is incalculable but Explore works to change this. Volunteer couples find their own marriages enriched through this urgent apostolate. Please consider volunteering (only twice or three times a year) visit [www.theexploreexperience.co.uk](http://www.theexploreexperience.co.uk), talk it over with your spouse and for further info, contact Edmund Adamus at the Office for Marriage and Family Life [edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk) or 020 7798 9363.

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### **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.

