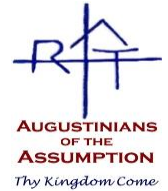




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1582

7th – 14th June 2014 Pentecost Sunday Year A

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

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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 8th	Coffee Morning Scout Group Party in the Square Hitchin Market Square 12-4pm
Monday 9th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 10th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 11th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am Praise Group LCR after Mass Scripture Group Peter Deuchar home 1.30pm
Thursday 12th	St Pio Prayer Group Church and Hall after Mass Italian Club Hall 1pm Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 13th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 15th	Coffee Morning One World Group

Readings: Acts: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7,12-13, John 20:19-23

Entrance antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

Psalm: **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

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

Response: Renew us in your Spirit!

Next week: Ex 34:4-6,8-9, Cor 13:11-13, John 3:16-18

This Weekend: is the celebration of the climax of Eastertide: the great Solemnity of Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit on the nascent Church, we pray for the gift of the Spirit to our Parish as we continue our Journey of Faith and Life together.



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.



Today we launch to the wider Parish the programme that the Cardinal has asked to share with you, to support the Church of Westminster of which we are Member.

Fr Michael writes: "I am committed to *Growing in Faith*, the Order has pledged its support too. May I invite you share in my commitment to this historic effort and join me in making it a great success. As Catholics in the Diocese, we are called to embrace the challenge of meeting these needs; we are challenged to respond to the Lord's call to prepare the Church of Westminster for the coming decades – to support this special endeavour.

While the Diocese's current financial situation is good, as we look to the future needs of the community, our collective finances will require continued growth of our resources throughout the Diocese.

To date, we have had a wonderful response. Our total now stands at over **£63,720** from **44** gifts. This generous response is comes from your love for our parish, and been brought about with the great help of our volunteer team. The target goal for our parish is **£280,000** as our needs here in the parish are great.

The volunteer team will be contacting you to respectfully ask you to consider supporting *Growing in Faith*. When a member of the parish family calls on you on my behalf, please welcome them and respond as generously you can. For those of you I have already met, bless you for taking such an interest in what I had to share with you, I would gently urge you to return your pledge forms this week please. Many thanks!

In the meantime, our *Growing in Faith* volunteer team and I are available to answer any questions you may have. Please call the Presbytery on 01462 459126, extension 3

Please continue to pray for the success of *Growing in Faith* here in our parish. I am deeply appreciative of your support to date and grateful for your consideration of my request.

With my love and peace to you and yours as ever,
Fr Michael aa"

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Our Children on the Early Communion Programme, celebrate their Personal Communion, with their families at the Masses over the weekend, as they affirm their belief in Jesus, truly present under the form of Bread and Wine in the Mass. **The two following weekends will see our Parish Welcome** to these children, at the Masses of their choice.

The Cardinal has also produced a **Pastoral Letter on Marriage**, which is attached to the Newsletter for your prayer and reflection at home. One of the key elements in our Parish Project for the "Growing in Faith" programme is the promotion of married life across our Parish, through encouraging couples and families to train and bring back new insights and means to enrich and further develop the life that most of you are living in the Marriage Covenant.

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Party in the Square – Sunday 8 June 12-4pm

Don't forget to come along and bring your friends. The aim is to have an exciting, fun filled day to demonstrate to the people of Hitchin that the Church is alive, vibrant and relevant. Starting with worship from 12-12.45pm to include four testimonies, it will be followed by a host of different activities including craft stalls, games, music, prayer tent . . . and much more, not forgetting free barbecue and free cakes. All churches are asked to bake small cakes to give away to the public. You can bring your cakes to our church on Sunday morning. **Our choir will be singing at this event.**

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Wednesday 11th of June is the day when we finally say "au revoir and good bye" to Fr Jean-Marie. Our Bethnal Green Community is coming to share lunch with him and do the same from the Assumptionist Family here. He leaves for the airport in the late afternoon for an overnight flight to Entebbe and hence to his home to see his family for a few days, before flying to Nairobi to take charge of our Study House there.

We shall miss very much his gentle presence with us, and his care and attention to those whom he visited across the Parish. We are particularly grateful to him for his love and care for Fr Christopher in his final months of life, he was assiduous in his attention. May the Spirit go with him, as he undertakes his new mission in Africa.

We shall welcome for a period of weeks, Fr Justin from the Bethnal Green Community, who will be with us to the end of July, when Fr Tom comes for August.

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The Bethany Club is in need of some help in the Kitchen either to help with the cooking or helping the ladies who serve at the tables this need only be from 11.30am till 1.30pm if you are interested in helping please contact Jeannie Sherriffs on 01462 451535.



Counters needed To fulfil Diocese financial requirements we have a need for counters of money from sources other than the parish offertory. We need two counters at each session and it would be ideal to have a team of 10 so that we have a rota for 1st -5th week of the month. Ideally counting should take place on a **Monday morning** about **9.30am** in the parish office. This is not likely to take longer than 30 minutes on most Mondays. If you are able to help once a month in this way can you let Trish know asap.

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To all Ministers of the Word - the new rota for the remainder of the year has been emailed out and there are a limited number of printed copies available in the Link

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Tickets are still available for the Barn Dance on Saturday 14th June in aid of the Kanyike Support Group. Tickets £10 each from Roger Lawrence-Hyde 07704275661

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Thank you! to all who helped with our recent coffee morning in aid of the Garden House Hospice. We raised £112.19, thank you and God bless you all! Irma & Derek Shipman

Diary Dates

Monday 9 June

11am Mass at Sue Ryder, Stagenhoe, if you need a lift please be in the church car park at 10.35. Trish can take 3 people.

Tuesday 10 June

Priests' Deanery Meeting at Baldock parish, to plan ahead for our work in the Deanery.

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8pm The Union of Catholic Mothers will meet in the Lower Committee Room for their final farewell to Fr Jean-Marie.

Wednesday 11 June

7.30pm: Meeting in the Church, for the launch of "Growing in Faith" to the wider parish. Everyone is most welcome and cordially invited.

Fr John Gray is coming to the parish, on behalf of Bishop John, who is unable to attend, to share more fully the vision the Cardinal has with those of you who would like to come and hear him in the Church (as the Hall is in use). There will be opportunities for questions and clarifications, so that you can gain as clear an insight as is possible, to help you reflect and consider how you might like to respond to the Cardinal's request to us here in Hitchin.

Saturday 14 June

We are delighted to pray for Nikki and Dan, who exchange the Marriage Covenant at 1.00pm.

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Quiet Day at St Mary's Church, Pirton 10 am to 3pm. Come and spend some time with God in a beautiful 12th century building. Opportunities to explore prayer creatively, including a prayer walk in idyllic church grounds. Come for as long as you like! – a quiet hour, morning, afternoon, or the day

Future Dates

June 21 12 - 3pm **Our Lady School PTA Summer Fun Day.** Please come along to enjoy a family, fun-filled day with lots of games and stalls.

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Covenant Praise Church are hosting a **Saturday Sing** from 12noon to 3pm, Strathmore School, Hitchin, cost £10. Book your ticket now online bit.do/saturdaysing2014or call CPC 01462 452658. See poster in porch.

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June 22 3pm: **APF-Mill Hill Annual Mission Mass** at Holy Apostles Church, 47 Cumberland Street, London, SW1V 4LY. Mass at 3pm followed by refreshments and short talk on the work of APF and Mill Hill. All welcome. Sign up sheet in the porch, for catering purposes.

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June 27 7.30pm **in the Church: Annual Service for the Bereaved.** Refreshments and social time in the hall after. All are welcome.

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July 5 2pm **As part of the Hitchin Festival in 2014, North Herts Inter Faith Forum** offers an open invitation to take part in a "Walk of Faith in Hitchin" visiting: Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church (RC), Guru Nanak Gurdwara, and Singh Sabha Gurdwara. For more details please refer to the advertising poster or contact Rev. Austin Smith (01462) 437433.

Other Items of Interest

A Message for anyone looking to enter Hospital Chaplaincy work: St Mary's University, Twickenham, is recruiting students to begin its successful Foundation Degree in Healthcare Chaplaincy.

This part-time two year course provides Priests, Religious and lay people with a recognised NHS qualification to be appointed as a Roman Catholic Hospital Chaplain. Supported by the Diocese of Westminster and the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales, the Foundation Degree combines pastoral experience with Theological learning to equip chaplains and volunteers to work on behalf of the Church serving patients and staff within the NHS.

For more details or to enrol for October, please email the Cardinal's Advisor for Healthcare Chaplains: Fr Peter Scott at peterscott@rcdow.org.uk or call 0208 969 2660

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BISCUIT WRAPPERS APPEAL - The current appeal for ALL

BRANDS OF SWEET BISCUIT WRAPPERS to raise funds for charity, is organised through the Terracycle company, but funded by McVitties who like others that undertake such schemes to raise their environmental credibility and reduce products waste impact, set the conditions and limits for what they are prepared to support and fund. We are grateful to the many parishioners who helped us to collect and successfully send them 1432 acceptable wrappers that raised £45.26, but we would like to explain to everyone contributing and those that wish to start helping with this easy fund-raising, that we cannot send to Terracycle / McVitties a lot of other items we have been finding in the recycling bin provided, as they would condemn the shipment and we get no reward for any of it. It would also help us reduce the amount of time currently spent sorting through the mixed rubbish left for us.

So please may I ask that we are not left any more: boiled sweets bags, marshmallow bags, nuts and/or dried fruit bags, chocolate sweets bags or wrappers, pastry or pie wrappers, pizza wrapping plastics, cheese or savoury biscuit wrappers. Nor plastic bags for: bread, apples, cauliflower, potatoes, etc, these can be recycled at your local supermarket with the carrier bags. To clarify, chocolate biscuits and biscuits with chocolate on is fine, but not chocolates with no biscuits.

In short, what can go into the McVitie's Biscuit Wrapper Brigade accepted waste:

1. Any brand of Non- Savoury Biscuit Wrappers – for example Digestives/Hobnobs, etc
2. Any brand of Multi-pack Biscuit Wrappers

Thank you for your understanding and support, and I look forward to be able to send them many more parcels from our parish!

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.



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Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests: For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Revd Jane Hatton 01438 285138... or jane.hatton@nhs.net

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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

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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