



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 1586

5th – 12th July, 2014 Fourteenth Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass Times

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

Contacts

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

Readings: Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9.11-13, Matt 11:25-30

Entrance antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Psalm: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King

Intercessions: Lord, hear our prayer.....
Response: You are our Father!

Next week: Is 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Matt 13:1-23

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.

This Weekend; 2.00pm Sunday: Mass of Thanksgiving and Mission for the Children concluding the Early Eucharist Programme: the climax of the Journey is reached today as the children give thanks to the Lord for His Journey with them so far in their lives and they now have a chance to give back something of themselves in service to our Parish, through the various Ministries which they can now join.



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.

Next Sunday: 3.00pm: A Service of Commemoration for all those who were killed in the Great War from Hitchin, together with prayer for peace and harmony in our world, as these tragic moments are recalled by the proclamation of all the names of the military personnel who fell during it. All are welcome to come along and join in. The Service is being held in St Mary's Church.

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Masses during August: as in past years, there will **NOT** be a 5.00pm Mass on Sunday and there will not be a 10.00am Mass on Saturdays during the month either. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at that time.

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Assisted Dying Bill - Please write to a member of the House of Lords The Bill to legalise "assisted dying" - meaning assisted suicide - will be debated in the House of Lords on 18th July 2014. There will be a free vote because it is not government legislation. If passed, this Bill would place vulnerable people at serious risk. Especially if you have direct experience of caring for a dying person, either as a family member or as a health or social care professional, please write before 18th July to a Peer to tell them your views. For more information, including details of how to write to a Peer, please visit www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO WRITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CERTAINLY BEFORE 18TH JULY.**

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Part of our Parish Project, for which money will be available from next January concerns enriching and strengthening married and family life across our Parish: we will be working with a Group of people called "Chemin Neuf" (New Way), of which two of our former Parishioners, Tom and Rita O'Neill are active members and would work with us too on it. We would be on the look out for couples of ages who might be interested in finding out more about it and seeing if they might want to become involved, we would be looking to meet up with people in the Autumn term of our new parish year to give more insight into what it involves and meeting with people who are living it in their own families (children can accompany parents in the later stages of the formation) In the meantime, please feel free to look at the website: www.chemin-neuf.org/cana-couples-families. Or to find out more about Cana weeks, which form part of the process: cana.uk@chemin-neuf-org If you are interested please mention it to Fr Michael or Trish and we can keep you informed of where we are.

"Growing in Faith": first of all, our renewed thanks and deep appreciation for the generosity that you have shown to ensuring we are now well on our way to achieving our basic target. It is also important for us to give thanks and appreciation to the Volunteers who have supported the programme for many weeks now and in particular to Roger and Tony who have been co-ordinating the responses and ensuring the Diocese is being kept up to speed on what is happening. We have so far in the region of £205,000, being pledged over the the next 5 years, from around 160 Parishioners as a result of last week's Pledge Sunday, a truly wonderful response, over 31% of those who have been contacted have responded so far. Would those of you who have taken the white and green Pledge Forms, from previous weeks, please complete and return them, if you are able to do so. For those of you who have made pledges, you will be contacted by the Diocese in the coming days with how to arrange your contributions. Many thanks again for your generosity!

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Remembering World War 1



Churches Together is arranging two events to mark the Centenary of the beginning of the First World War:-

1) A Town Service in St Mary's, 3.00 pm on Sunday 13 July. At the heart of the service will be recognition and thanksgiving for the 454 Hitchin men who died - all their names will be read out as we honour their memory and dedicate ourselves to promoting the peace for which they longed. The service is open to all.

2) A Day of Reflection in Christchurch, 9.00 to 6.00 pm on Monday 4 August, the actual day on which the War began. The emphasis will be on quiet thoughtfulness and prayer, with words or music led by members of the different churches in Hitchin on the hour, every hour. All are welcome to drop in at any time during the day and stay as short or as long a time as feels right.

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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.**

Permanent post will have a special focus on working with volunteers to increase CAFOD's profile and activities in Schools and Youth groups across the Diocese.

② Fixed term post to cover position of Diocesan Manager who is on secondment until May 2015. The Diocesan Manager role is responsible for development & delivery of CAFOD's work in the arch diocese working in partnership with volunteers in parish and school communities; building successful partnerships with key individuals and groups; raising awareness of CAFOD's work. Both roles will be based in the Westminster office in Oakwood, North London. Further details and application form <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us/UK-Jobs>

Closing date and interviews will take place this July.

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New Campaign Launch event - Thursday, 10 July 2014* Tackling Poverty in the Face of Climate Change - CAFOD invites you to an evening reception to learn about our new Climate Campaign in Lambeth. Guest speaker Antony Mbandi, Director of Caritas Kitui. A CAFOD partner in Kenya, will be sharing his experiences of how climate change is affecting peoples' ability to grow food in his diocese, Antony will give a first-hand account of our work in Kenya in response to Climate Change. **Amigo Hall, (next to St Georges Cathedral Southwark) London SE1 6HR from 6-8.30 pm** book online at cafod.org.uk/campaignsummerevents,

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Diary Dates

Monday 7 July

11.30am Mass of the Resurrection for Bill Clarke, a long standing member of our Parish, whose commitment and dedication to it was truly inspiring for those of us who knew him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!



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6.00pm: Fr Michael is celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Governors of John Henry Newman School, before their final Meeting of the term.

Tuesday 8 July

3.30pm: Fr Michael meets up with the Senior Leadership Team to complete any outstanding issues which may be covered by Safeguarding procedures

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7.30pm: Ministers' and Priests' Meeting for CTH, is being held at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church.

8pm: Union of Catholic Mothers - Father Justin will join us for the evening in the lower committee room.

Wednesday 9 July

4.00pm: The first Session of Training for those wishing to become Altar Servers in the Church. Please remember to bring your Application Form with you for it.

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7.30pm at Holy Saviour Church Concert by Florida's Singing Sons Boy Choir. This international award-winning youth choir will perform a varied programme of sacred and secular choral classics, with selections from opera, operetta, folk music and musical theatre. Admission £9 : concessions £7. Tickets available from Hitchin Festival Box Office, or on the door. Tel: 01462 675496 for further information

Thursday 10 July

10am: The Saint Pio Prayer Meeting will include Holy Mass for the members in honour of the agonizing suffering of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the hall and meditations on the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Future Dates

July 14

7.30pm: Meeting for Parents with children in Year 2, who would be considering the Sacraments for their children next year. This is a very important meeting, which ALL families should attend. The program for preparation will be outlined, together with a list of dates and the application form issued. The application form will need to be completed and returned to the Pastoral Office before 31st July. Please address any queries to Jane: janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk or on 07885 027 955

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London Pax Christi Seminar: First World War: what peace-making message can Christians contribute to remembrance and commemorations? Two great contributors, Fr Rob Esdaile, theologian and Pax Christi member and Rev Richard Carter from St Martin-in-the-Fields and author of "In search of the Lost: The Modern Martyrs of Melanesia". If you are planning events for later in the year, thinking of how to approach Remembrance events in your church or school... this is for you! Details here. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2Remembrance-revised.pdf>

Aug 4

A call for silent vigils in city/town centres between **12.00 - 14.00** with the message **'War no More-War Never Again'** to mark the anniversary of start of First World War. There will be a silent vigil at this time at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square WC2.

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/first-world-war-peace-plans/>

Aug 9

Franz Jägerstätter annual memorial service at 6.00pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel of Ease, Horseferry Avenue, Victoria, London SW1P 2EF (walking distance from Westminster Cathedral). Followed by annual Nagasaki Day interfaith peace walk to Battersea Peace Pagoda, London.

Other Items of Interest



Fund-raising up-date from the LiveSimply team: A big thank you to all parishioners and Our Lady's Primary School that have over the last year

been collecting and bringing to the parish items for recycling and fund-raising. This June the parish receive from Terracycle a payment of **£ 213.56** in total, made up of:

Parish Funds (mobile phones and laptops) = **£50.00**

Parish Hardship Fund (Biscuit Wrappers) = **£45.26**

North Herts Sanctuary (Writing Instruments) = **£37.58**

Fr. Jean-Marie's Congo village project (Coffee and Tassimo packaging) = **£80.72**

To all that have contributed so far, a very **BIG THANK YOU!**, and to those that may now be inspired to join in the recycling fun, welcome on board for the more contributions the better! There are information sheets available to take home from the recycling area.

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Brownies

Our parish Brownie pack have been having great fun celebrating the Brownies'

100th Birthday , with cook-outs, circus workshops a WW2 evening and a trip to London amongst other things. If another adult helper can be found, more places can be offered from the waiting list. If you can spare just over an hour a week and would like to be part of this happy and lively group please contact

Clare

Fletcher

on cmcfletcher1@aol.com or on 07969 098070

Support an orphan in Sri Lanka The



Lampighter International Trust Our Parishioners Tony and Charmaine Ball are appealing for your help with this wonderful charity which supports an orphanage in Sri Lanka. Sponsors are needed for 8 children. Details of the work and how to get involved are on the noticeboard.

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Read all about it! to be informed and amazed - the prayer cards and rosaries stall in our parish hall, has now available many copies of a timely booklet produced by CTS, *"Benedict XV & World War I" – Courageous Prophet of Peace* obtained at a discount price and available for an optional donation of £1. Our history as we have never had it taught...! Or contact Deolinda Eltringham on 01462 451359.

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A request for help from Hitchin Counselling Service (HCS)

HCS was set up 20 years ago by a few Quakers who wished to provide a free professional counselling service to the people of Hitchin. We have had two Administrators during the 20 years, and the second one is leaving us soon. We would very much like to find someone who could carry on the work of being first point of contact and administrator for HCS.

The post requires someone with sensitivity as well as good communication and organisational skills. This is an entirely voluntary position which would take up approximately 7 hours a week, but can be done at home and at times to suit the person, but they need to be able to get to Bedford Road Health Clinic once a week. Contact Chris Kell (Chair) for further information: chriskell37@gmail.com

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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