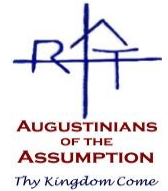


CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1590

2nd – 9th August, 2014 Eighteenth Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass Times

Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am
Monday – Friday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am

Contacts

Parish Priest E-mail: michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Michael Lambert

Fr Tom O'Brien

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.

If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.

Diary

Sunday 3rd	Coffee Morning Bereavement Group
Monday 4th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 5th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 6th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 7th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 8th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 10th	Coffee Morning Friends of Gainsford House

Readings: Is 55:1-3, Rom 8:35.37-39, Matt 14:13-21

Entrance antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm: **You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.**

Intercessions: Father, hear us, through Your Son..
Response: He is our food, drink and life!

Next week: Kgs 19:9.11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Matt 14:22-33

This Weekend: we welcome Fr Tom, our future Parish Priest, to our Parish. He has a vast amount of knowledge and awareness of who we are, with many gifts and talents to offer and share with us over the two years or so before he takes over the parish. Do make yourselves known to him and make him feel at home with us, as he begins the first steps of discovering the richness and life that is so palpable in Hitchin!

Fr Michael is in need of a complete rest after what has been a very stressful year for him and so will not be responding to emails in his absence. Please get in touch with him on his return, if there is something particularly involving him, otherwise please turn to Fr Tom who will offer what help and support he can. Do please keep him in your prayers, many thanks!

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.

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.



Parents with Children entering Year 3 in September: please ensure that if you are wanting them to be entered onto the Journey for Reconciliation and First Eucharist, then you need to complete the Application Form, given out at the Meeting in July, or which can be obtained from the Parish Office or from the parish website. Forms need to be returned by the end of August.

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COUNTING DURING AUGUST please note: During this month when there are no Sunday evening Masses, Counting Teams may - by arrangement with Fr Tom - count at any time on a Sunday after the 10.30am Mass. If no alternative arrangements are made, Fr Tom will assume that counting will start as usual at about 5.00pm.

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A Message from Fr Jean-Marie:



Dear Parishioners,
Leaving Hitchin on Wednesday 11th June 2014, the flight landed at Entebbe airport in Kampala-Uganda on Thursday 12th June 2014 at 1pm with Ethiopian airline. In Uganda I visited the new Assumptionist parish of Kyabakadde under construction. I stayed 4 days in the parish with my Assumptionist brothers. Finally, on Monday 17th I reached my home town of Butembo in the D.R. Congo. Thank God, the political situation is changing in the country and it is now time to rebuild a country completely destroyed. The conditions in which I am living did not allow me to communicate with you. Since July 15th, after installing a solar panel, I am able to use my computer and connect via a modem to the internet of Orange, a telecommunication company based in my home town of Butembo. The solar panel will give some light to my mother and her grandchildren will be able to study their lessons in the evening and spare them some money for buying kerosene for their lamps. I would like to express my heartfelt thanksgiving to all of you for the gift that I have well received from Fr Michael. Looking forward to hearing from you, I wish you all the best. Fr Jean-Marie, aa.

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All Day Mass at Our Lady's School: was a wonderful opportunity for our children to see the Mass and its main elements, separately. We started with the Entry Rites up to the Opening Prayer at 9.30am. The Readings were then given to Year 6 to produce their thoughts about it and what sort of Mission they need to fulfil to ensure that they play a full and active part in our Parish Life and eventually that of our local Society. They came back and shared their thoughts and insights in action and in word and we spent time praying

about what they said as they were addressed to those who will still be in the School in September. We affirmed our Faith by singing the Creed and concluded with the Bidding Prayers, before lunch. The presentation of gifts and Eucharist formed the third part at 2.00pm, when the badges of office of the School Leaders were brought up as well as work which had been done to underline the message of the Gospel as interpreted through Paul's letter to the Corinthians. After Communion and thanksgiving, Mrs Brown called forward the School Leaders currently in post and then announced the names of the Captains who would take over from after the Inter-House Assembly, she then welcomed the new Head Boy and Girl to their positions. All then pledged their time to serving the School as best they could for the coming year. The Assembly then prayed a blessing over Year 6, who then did the same over the gathered Assembly. The rest of the School then came in and there was a prayer of blessing over them. The Mass concluded with a Mission to outreach to the Secondary Schools to which our children were going and a final Hymn. A wonderful day and well organised and very focussed, our thanks and appreciation go to the organisers of the Day.

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Church Cleaning



We have an urgent need for more people to help keep our church clean during the week and on Saturdays. Traditionally the cleaning times have been Monday morning before 10am Mass and Saturday Morning before 10am Mass. However this is really flexible and teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. We just need the following work done:

- Vacuuming the church
- Sweeping/mopping between the pews
- Cobwebs removed and surfaces dusted
- Porch floor washed
- Generally clean where needed

We need this done either on a Monday or Tuesday so that the church is clean after the Sunday Masses and then on Saturday morning or afternoon so the church is ready for Sunday Masses. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk.



The next Confirmation programme begins in September and this year we are opening it to those Catholics who are in years 9, 10 and above. The pressure of school and exams is slightly easier in year 9 which is why we want to bring the age down for the future.

If you have a young person at home who is the right age to join the programme please read on.

Full details and application forms for the programme to prepare young people for this Sacrament in our Parish are now available. The forms are on the board in the Link between the church porch and hall and you need to sign up on the sheet above it also. You can also download a form from the parish website www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin.

Applications need to be returned by 8th September to the Parish office. The programme starts with an induction session for candidates on 20th September.

Any young person in Year 9 who does not feel ready for the programme need not join this year if they do not wish to. There is always an opportunity in the future.

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 August

9am-6pm Remembering World War I The second event arranged by Churches Together to mark the Centenary of the beginning of the First World War is **A Day of Reflection** to be held at Christchurch, 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.

Future Dates

Aug 13 **2-6pm Coffee Afternoon** in aid of Garden House Hospice and Angels Support Group at Irma and Derek's 10 Freewaters Close Ickleford. All welcome. An event not to miss – the cakes are divine!

Oct 18

MICHAELMAS FAIR SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER. Many thanks for all the goods already donated for the fair. The boxes will be in the porch throughout August for gifts, bric a brac, toys and games and will be emptied every day. If you would like to have your goods collected please phone Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) or email

Other items of interest

Housing Justice: Shelter Project Coordinator

Housing Justice is looking for a new Shelter Project Coordinator to take forward their work with Night Shelters nationally. Amongst other things, the post holder will support the development of new Church and Community Night Shelters, and manage the roll out of the HJ Quality Mark (HJQM) to new and existing Night Shelters across England and Wales, including SWEP and year round shelters. The role may be divided as a job share.

For details and an application pack see <http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/pages/jobs-jobs-at-housing-justice-92.html>

Closing date: Tuesday 2nd Sept 5pm.

Interviews: Friday 5th Sept

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spec **SPEC**, the diocesan retreat centre for children and young people, has now relocated to

Pinner in Middlesex. Each year a number of young adults (aged 18-25) join the resident community for a year as volunteer missionaries. Perhaps this is the ideal opportunity for you – or someone you know – to combine a year of service with a year of formation in faith in a supportive Catholic community. More details are available at:

Web: www.spec.org.uk/missionyear

Email: spec@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 3757 2500 Facebook: [speccentre](https://www.facebook.com/speccentre)

Twitter: [@SPEC_Community](https://twitter.com/SPEC_Community)

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Can you please help? **THE BANCROFT PROJECT**

run by Gill Shinkins, provides Sunday lunches for local rough sleepers, and for the very vulnerable. Volunteers are needed to join a rota of helpers, with Gill to assist in cooking and serving meals at the Bancroft Hall in Bancroft Recreation Ground. Helpers are desperately needed between the hours of 1pm-4pm on Sundays. If you are interested, call Gill on 077 9211 3481. We are also in need of a Treasurer to the Bancroft Project Committee. There are approximately 3 meetings per year. For more information, call John Walker, on 01462 623632.

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North Herts Community Transport Scheme

needs more drivers. Please would you give this some consideration if you have some free time and are able. You will be paid for the journey. Please ring 01462 689402 (office hours Monday to Friday 9 til 1pm).



Our Lady's Parish

Faith Development Helpline



Problems or doubts about
your faith?

Are you feeling a bit lost?

Do you know someone who
might be feeling this way?

**Try ringing
07582 648433**

**Tues, Weds,
Thurs**

8pm – 10pm



This is a confidential service and follows Parish Safeguarding Policies