

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 1595

6th – 13th September, 2014 Twenty-third Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass Times

Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am

Contacts

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

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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)



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.



Diary

Sunday 7th	Coffee Morning Bethany Club
	New Confirmation catechist training Hall 6-8pm
Monday 8th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
	Parish Council Meeting LCR 7.30pm
Tuesday 9th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm
Wednesday 10th	Choir Church 8pm
	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 11th	Praise Group LCR after Mass
	St Pio Group Church & Hall after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
Friday 12th	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral office 2pm
Sunday 14th	Coffee Morning KISS



Readings: Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20

Entrance antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm: **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Intercessions: Father, hear us.....

Response: **We are your children!**

Next week: Num 21:4-9, Phil 2:6-11, Joh 3:13-17

This weekend: Sunday 3pm: Healing and Wholeness Service All are welcome, we shall offer the possibility of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing, for those who wish to avail themselves of the Lord's love for us in these ways.



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

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.

This week: as we start our New Parish Year, it is good to look back at what has been done in the course of the holiday month – the Church Gardens continue to receive care and attention from our devoted team of gardeners and we are grateful for the love they share for our Church and its surrounds. We must also include a small Team of workers who are engaged in repainting the railings which surround a lot of our property, it is a very painstaking and time consuming effort and your help is needed. See below for details. We are grateful too, for those whose work is unseen and who carry out their tasks quietly and regularly – may the Lord love and hold you ever close to His Heart!

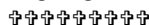
Next Sunday: we also welcome Jack Cox to the completion of his Baptism Rites, at 3.00pm, and so enter more fully into our Community, our prayer and love go with him and his family at this continuation of his Journey of Faith.



Offertory Appeal Results Update – September 2014

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.

In April we reported that the results were better than forecast with a 19% increase on the figures for the previous year and, whilst there has since been a fall-off in the Loose Collection, which is back to pre-Appeal levels, the returns through to the end of June 2014 continue to show better than expected results – an 18% uplift on the same period for last year – still not as much as we needed but much better than expected. So, a further big “thank you” to all who have responded so positively to the Offertory Appeal and, if you are able to, please keep it up. A further update will be provided later in the year. Meanwhile a detailed analysis of the results so far is posted on the Pastoral Council Notice Board. If you have any questions, please speak to David on 01462-627784.



All applications for Confirmation programme need to be returned by **8th September** to the Parish office.



Early Notification: for Parents who will be seeking admission to John Henry Newman School in 2015: please see the “Sign Up” Sheet on the noticeboard for meetings with Fr Michael, to complete the parish formalities for the applications to go forward



Parents must attend the **Open Evening of Thursday 25th September**, to collect the pack you will need to complete this process.



Children's Liturgy

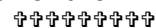
begins again at the 10.30 Mass on 7th September. Children aged 4-10 years are called out at the start of Mass and go out for their own liturgy. They are divided into 4 – 7yrs and 8-10yrs



with a catechist and helper in each group and go into the lower and upper committee rooms. They hear the readings and partake in a Liturgy of the Word prepared specially for them.

Babies – 4yrs remain in the church until after the gospel when they are invited into the hall with their parents. There is a liturgy prepared focusing on the gospel, often illustrated with pictures and there may be simple activities for the children. We always finish with a song and often the older children join in and we all go back in together just before the offertory procession. The older children then take up the offertory.

On the 4th Sunday of the month there is a children's Mass where the liturgy is focused on them and it is in the church. The children do the readings and the homily is directed at the children who sit at the front of the church on the floor in front of the altar. At all Masses in the porch we offer colouring packs with sheets for the younger children and Worship Bulletins with puzzles all planned around the Gospel for the Sunday. There is also a children's library behind the organ. We do hope that all children feel welcome in our church.



Church Cleaning Thanks to all those who have responded but we still need lots more people to help



keep our church clean Monday or Tuesday and on Saturdays.

Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves.

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



Diary date Correction; The funeral Mass of Angela Grounds is on 16th September at 2pm not the 9th as stated in last week's newsletter. Apologies for the error.

Diary

Monday 8 September

Our Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm in the Lower Committee Meeting.

Tuesday 9 September

First meeting in the new parish year of the Priests and Ministers of CTH

Wednesday 10 September

4.00pm: our Trainee Servers resume their training in the Church, any person who wishes to come forward for this Ministry, is also welcome, so that arrangements can be made to take up the offers made.

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7.30pm: Our Committee for Liturgy meets to look ahead for the new Parish Year of prayer and worship.

Thursday 9 September

10 am: The Saint Pio Prayer Meeting will include Holy Mass for the members followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the hall and meditations on the Triumph of the Cross and Our Lady of Consolation

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8pm UCM lower committee room 8pm rosary and business.

Saturday 13 september

3.00pm: we welcome into the our Community Arthur McDonagh through the completion of the Baptism rites. We pray for him and his relations as they take a new step together on his Journey of Faith.

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10am – 3pm Christians in the Workplace—a day of reflection: With Sister Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver. Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE. Tea/coffee provided; please bring packed lunch. No need to book. Information on 020 8950 4000 or bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk

Future Dates

Sept 15 8pm in the hall:

Sacramental preparation begins for all Parents who are putting forward their children for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. We will be praying for all the Families who are looking to celebrate the Sacraments with their children in the course of the coming year, as we start the series of Formation Sessions on handing on the Faith and insights into the Sacraments of Initiation.



8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council and at 7.30pm (PHASE AGM) in Holy Saviour Church Hall, Radcliffe Road.

Sept 27

We have an opportunity to make our Church look as if we really care about it. The iron railings around the church grounds are in need of re-painting. The plan is to arrange a grand fence-painting event.

If weather does not permit - either of the following 2 Saturdays 4th or 11th of October.

The old paint is flaky - loose paint and underlying rust need to be removed. The work involved is unskilled and dirty - but not heavy. All materials and equipment required can be provided.

Preliminary Tests show that preparing a 20ft section is 2 to 3 hours work. painting 20ft section is about 20mins work. There are 380 feet of railings. 20 volunteers could each adopt a 20 foot section. If you can bring with you a double-handled electric drill and/or a long electrical extension lead - so much the better, but don't let lack of those stop you coming.

Please let Trish know if you are able to give any time on the day. This event will prove to be full of satisfaction and fun.

Oct 4

9.30am to 3.45pm Divine Mercy Day of Prayer of Intercession for the Peace of Syria, Iraq, The Holy Land, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey & all the Middle East at Westminster Cathedral. Led by Mgr. Keith Barltrop, Fr. Shafiq Abouzayd, & Fr. Charbel El-Azzi LMO in the welcome and generous presence of Archbishop Samir Nassar, the Maronite Archbishop of Damascus

Pope Francis has warned that the millions of people affected by the Syrian crisis risk being forgotten because of a "globalisation of indifference" towards the conflict in their country. Pope

Francis speaks of the "unspeakable suffering" of millions... Let us join the Archbishop and through him all the suffering peoples of Syria & Iraq and of all the Middle East to show our love & solidarity through our presence and prayer

Other items of interest

Thank you to all who helped raise £115 for Angels support group at last Sunday's coffee morning. This support group helps carers (parents/grandparents etc) of children with Asperges Syndrome, Autism Spectrum etc. Thank you again and may God bless you. Irma and Derek.

**Praying Scripture In A Group –
Lectio Divina Fridays 2pm in
the Pastoral Office** led by
Eileen Dutt. Please come along
or contact Eileen at
eduttobl@christianmeditation.org.uk
07721574767



or Mobile:

And so we go along, listening to the Lord, who is the Way; listening to one another, who share the way; listening to the way itself. The habit of meeting in a group to rest a while, listening to the Word of God who is the Way, engenders in us this listening attitude, this sensitivity that hears what each person, each event, each thing has to say to us. Life is rich, very rich, with communication. Let us listen together. Let us share what we hear. Let us walk together in the way, more sure of our being together and hearing together.

*(paraphrased from Listening God's Word for Today
by M. Basil Pennington O.C.S.O.)*

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**Evangelii Gaudium: A Challenging Vision for
Effective Pastoral Ministry with Bishop Kieran
Conry.** Workshops led by Mgr Malachy Keegan, Dr
Birute Briute and the ALPHA Relationship team
(TBC).

A day conference for parish pastoral leaders and
volunteers: adult faith formation & small
communities leaders and members, parish pastoral
council and financial committee members,
catechetical coordinators and catechists, parish
readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy
Communion, & all interested to make their ministry
more effective. When: 25th October 2014, 10.00-
16.00pm. Where: St Aloysius parish Church,
Somers Town, 20 Phoenix Rd, NW1 1TA. Sessions
will be presented in lecture style with some
elements of discussion, Q&A and some optional
activities during the day. All sessions will be video
recorded and available on line at a later date. A
delicious lunch will be provided! Places are limited.
Please register to attend at rcdow.org.uk/events or
at livingfaith@rdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6078.
Suggested donation £15. This conference is a joint
project of the Agency for Evangelisation and Office
for Marriage and Family Life.

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**Pastoral Boundaries and Conflict
management.** A study day for Catechists, Parish
Adult Faith Formation & Small Communities
Leaders and Members, Parish Pastoral Council &
Finance Committee Members, Readers,
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,
Volunteers and anyone who would like to learn
more about healthy pastoral boundaries
. Facilitator: Mgr Malachy Keegan. When: Sat 4th

Oct 2014 10.00am - 1.00pm. Where: Vaughan
House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Places
are limited and booking is required. Register at
rcdow.org.uk/events/ or livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk
or call at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation
is £7. Tea/coffee will be provided.

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**A study evening on 'Seeing Salvation: Art in
Religious Formation'** for Catechists, Parish
Adult Faith Formation & Small Communities
Leaders and Members, Readers, Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy Communion, Volunteers and
anyone who would like to learn more about art,
their own spirituality and how art can be used in
religious formation. Facilitator: Gemma
Simmonds CJ. When: Tue 7th Oct 2014 7.00-
8.30pm. Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis
Street, SW1P 1QN. Places are limited and
booking is required. Register at
rcdow.org.uk/events/
or livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call at 020 7931
6078. Suggested donation is £3. Tea/coffee will
be provided.

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**SCRIPTURE FROM SCRATCH: A Journey
through the Bible.** A basic bible study
programme for everyone interested: Parish
Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion, Adult Faith Formation & Small
Communities Leaders & Members, Catechists,
Volunteers & all parishioners
Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis St , SW1P
1QN. When: 7pm-8.30pm
Facilitators: Brian Purfield and Ausra Karaliute.
Well known Bible scholars are invited to talk on
particular themes. No prior knowledge is
required to attend the programme. Sessions
are presented in lecture style with some
elements of discussion, Q&A and some
optional activities during the sessions, on-line
and at home.

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Beginning Experience helps separated,
divorced or widowed Catholics to make a fresh
start in life, with hope and trust in God. Next
programme 3 – 5 October, contact Freda 01322
401243 or Sandra 01293 783965 to explore
whether this programme is for you.

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SmartLoving is for couples who want to take
their marriage to new heights and deepen their
love for each other with God's grace and
insights from St JP II's Theology of the Body.
Next seminar 18 & 19 October, contact
Catherine 020 7931 6064
or family@rcdow.org.uk for more information.