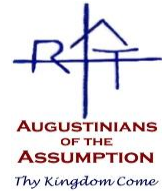




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1609

13th – 20th December, 2014 Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

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

Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Michael Lambert	E-mail: michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
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Sacramental Administrator Eve Krol Email:	Tel: 01462 455577 hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel:	01462 459 126
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Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 14th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 15th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 16th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers Hall 8pm
Wednesday 17th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	RCIA Pastoral Office 7.30pm
Thursday 18th	Rosary Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 19th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 21st	Coffee Morning – One World Group



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain 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.

Readings: Is 61:1-2.10-11, Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8.19-28

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
Psalms: My soul rejoices in my God.
Intercessions: Lord, hear us.....
Response: Give us your peace!

Next week: Sam 7:1-5.8-12.14.16, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

This weekend: Please take home with you the Special Sheet with Mass and Service Times for the coming weeks. Please note that there is **no 5pm Mass** on Sunday 28th December, as well as on Christmas Day.

Sunday at 4pm: do please make an effort to join in the Carol singing in the Market Place, as a visible witness to the real meaning of Christmas and all the celebrations which are taking place shortly.

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.

Next Sunday at 6.15pm: we have our Carols and Readings for preparing for the great day of our Saviour's birth, this Service is being led by our Young Ministers of the Word.

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The latest edition of the is in the porch priced 20p.

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THANKS to all who supported last Sunday's coffee morning. £115 was raised for amenities at Gainsford House.

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CAFOD collection next weekend 20/21st will go to support Cafod's Ebola emergency appeal. Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collection baskets.

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FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS As we prepare for Christmas it would be good to ensure our Crib is well stocked with Poinsettias. We would be delighted to receive them in the coming days. Many thanks!



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Ministers of the Word, please note that the next rota has been emailed out now and that there are a few printed copies available in the Readers' slot in the Link.

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There is a box on the table in the porch for you to put your Christmas cards to parishioners, please do check to see if there are cards in the box for you.

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EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS needed

If you are Baptised and Confirmed, please consider coming forward for three training sessions for Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in our Parish.



Training for this very special Ministry will be on Saturday 10th January 2015 - 4.30pm till 5.30pm
Saturday 17th January 2015 - 4.30pm till 5.30pm
Saturday 24th January 2015 - 4.30pm till 5.30pm
Fr Michael or Fr Tom will be happy to discuss with you any concerns you may have with making a decision.

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Christmas Collections The offerings at the Christmas Masses go to our Priests. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collections are made out to the Parish, and not to the Order. These offerings can also be gift aided, envelopes are available in the porch for this. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !

Nominations are invited for 4 vacancies to the **Parish Pastoral Council**. Application forms are available from the link; please complete and return to the Parish Office by the first week of January.



Diary

Monday 15 December



7.30pm: our parish Celebration for Advent of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** the forgiving love of the Lord is mediated to us through the time of prayer and the meeting with Christ in this personal and ecclesial sense.

Tuesday 16 December

2pm Mass at Milford Lodge behind the Three Moorhens. Parishioners welcome (the space is limited).

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7.15pm Advent Eucharistic Meal in church. Reflect on the word of God and pray for your needs and those of others.

Thursday 19 December

11am Construction of crib we need as many people as possible to help with this. We need to be finished by 1.15pm as the school will be coming in after that and we will finish on Friday morning after 10am Mass. Please let Trish know if you are able to help even for a short while. Please bring **evergreen** fir, holly and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Wednesday 17th Dec.



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1.45pm: Our Lady's School Christmas Celebration, to which parents and relations and friends are invited, as well as members of our Parish: it is heartwarming to see the message of Christmas presented to us through the eyes and voices of our children. The Celebration is being held in our Church. The whole School community has been working hard over several weeks to ensure this message is given to us in all its glory! It is the first time we have done this, so let us make the most of it, to ensure it becomes a treasured time for us all here at Our Lady's and St Andrew's Parish.

Friday 19 December

Our School closes for the Christmas holidays and restarts again on January 6th 2015.