



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 1610



20th December, 2014 – 3rd January, 2015 Fourth 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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Pastoral Assistants Jane Gonzalez	Tel: 01462 455577 E-mail: janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk
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Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 21st	Coffee Morning – One World Group Carols by candlelight 6.15pm
Tuesday 23rd	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 24th	See Special Sheet
Thursday 25th	See Special Sheet
Friday 26th	See Special Sheet
Saturday 27th	NO Mass at 10am
Sunday 28th	Coffee Morning – EDAID
Sunday 4th	Coffee Morning – Confirmation Group

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

Entrance antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour
Psalm: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.
Intercessions: Lord, in your mercy.....
Response: Hear our prayer!
Next week: Gen 15:1-6.21:1-3, Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19, Lk 2:22-40

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 !
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Please ensure that you take our Newsletter and its attachment, with all the times of Masses and other Services: *please note that there will not be a 5.00pm Mass next Sunday.* The Special Sheet timings are now in operation.
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ONE WORLD GROUP coffee morning on Sunday will be to support Father Jean-Marie's projects in the Congo.

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 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.



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 Weekend: sees us entering the final time of Advent, rejoicing in Mary's role in the work of our salvation and her "yes" which allowed God to become Man for us. We are holding our Carol Service at 6.15pm on Sunday; it will be led by our Junior Ministers of the Word and should be a peaceful and reflective time to allow our Saviour to come into our hearts and lives more fully.

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This Week: if you have any poinsettias for the Crib and the Church, they will be most welcome in the coming days as we prepare the Church for the Birth of our Saviour. Many thanks!

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Warm thanks and appreciation are owed to so many people who have worked behind the scenes and more visibly to ensure that our Christmas Celebrations are a joy for us in our Parish. All the various ministries that have responded so well: the Welcoming, Proclamation of the Word and Sharing the Eucharist, the varieties of Music Ministry, Sanctuary Ministers, the Cleaning and Beautifying Ministries and to all of you who shared in the Prayer and Life of our Parish. We must not forget those who enabled our Parish to run, through the Collection and Counting Ministries. Thanks also to all those who helped to assemble the Crib in record time this year – it looks truly magnificent. We are all so grateful to you for your commitment and dedication, may the Lord fill your hearts with love and joy at this holy time!

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Next Sunday, Dec 27th / 28th: there will be a pastoral letter from our Archbishop on the Celebration of the Holy Family, in it he will be giving details of a questionnaire to be able to assess where we are in our living and understanding of family and married life.

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

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Sunday 3rd / 4th Jan: we keep the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, when He is shown to the world, represented by the Wise Men with their gifts.

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CAFOD box collection will be taken after all masses this weekend and will be used to support Cafod's emergency Ebola appeal. Gift aid envelopes are available in the porch or from the collectors.

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EDAID coffee morning on 28th December. As usual we welcome contributions of pencils, pens, paper, material wool etc to be sent to our schools in Gambia. If you would like goods collected please contact Pam Brannigan. (01462 632587)

Meditation Groups: The Thursday evening meditation group and Friday afternoon Lectio Divina group will close for two weeks resuming again w/c 5th January 2015. Both groups now meet in the parish Pastoral Office and are open to all. For info contact Eileen by email on eduttobl@christianmeditation.org.uk or mobile 07721574757.

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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.

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Our love and sympathy: go out to the families of Mary Doherty and Anna-Maria del Basso, Mary has been a long standing member of our parish and even when she went to Shefford, still came back to mass here on a regular basis during the week; Anna-Maria, has been ill for many years, but lovingly cared for by her family and friends. We pray also for Ann Foster, and send our sympathy to her family too. The Funeral of Anna-Maria is on Tuesday at noon and that of Ann is on Monday at St John's Chapel at 10.30am. The Funeral of Mary has yet to be confirmed.

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Christmas Day at Christchurch 12-4pm they are offering a free Christmas dinner in the company of friends who would be on their own otherwise. If you would like to join them please contact Dave Whittaker on 07788680108 by Monday 22nd December.

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Watch Night Service: Joint watch night service at Walsworth Road Baptist Church on 31 December, 2014. The service is organised by Pastor Nigel - New Testament Church, Pastor Grant - Church of God of Prophecy and Minister Andrew, Walsworth Road Baptist Church. Service time 10:00 pm to midnight and perhaps a little after. All are invited.

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Pray and Fast for the Climate: Wed 31st Dec-Thurs 1st Jan. Films, Mass, New Year celebration, All night vigil for the Climate. See www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk and www.ourvoices.net at St John Vianney Church and Parish Centre: Films 10pm. Mass 11pm. Celebration 12.00-1am. Vigil 1-7am.

Diary

Tuesday 23 December



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