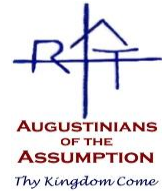




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1611

28<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 – 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Michael Lambert	E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Tom O'Brien	<a href="mailto:frtomaa@gmail.com">frtomaa@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Jane Gonzalez E-mail:	Tel: 01462 455577 <a href="mailto:janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk">janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Trish Bonnett E-mail	<a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Carol Cooper E-mail:	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk">carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Sacramental Administrator</b> Eve Krol Email:	Tel: 01462 455577 <a href="mailto:hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk">hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel:	01462 459 126 07958 575 442 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	



<b>Diary</b>	
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – EDAID Carols by candlelight 6.15pm
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	See Special Sheet
<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	See Special Sheet
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	See Special Sheet
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	NO Mass at 10am
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Confirmation 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.

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

**Readings: Gen 15:1-6,21:1-3, Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19, Lk 2:22-40**

*Entrance antiphon:* The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

*Psalm:* **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

*Intercessions:* Lord, hear our prayer.....

*Response:* Through our Brother, Jesus Christ!

**Next week: Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Matt 2:1-12**

**EDAID** coffee morning this Sunday. 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)

**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.

**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.

**Today:** we rejoice in the gift of family life and marriage. May all of you who are living the Marriage Covenant daily, preparing for it or who are in the ministry of widowhood, be blessed and be a blessing to us all. We are also holding tenderly before the Lord all those families which are fracturing or have fractured and for those who living in the single state, your Ministry to us is very important and we are grateful to you all for the witness and commitment you give to whatever Ministry you exercise, as families or individuals..

††††††††††

**The Diocese** has also prepared a plan of action to prepare for a Diocesan wide day of prayer and reflection on the work that Bishop Francis has asked the Universal Church to undertake in the course of this year. The Congress will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 and will be made up from representatives of all of the Parishes in the Diocese and various other experts and inspirational speakers to enable us to come up with a possible Plan of Action to be implemented across the Diocese.

††††††††††

**It has been so good** to see so much generosity being shown in the way our Parish celebrated the Christmas celebrations: our Carol Service, last Sunday, was excellent and it was so encouraging and inspirational to hear our Junior Ministers of the Word proclaim the glorious message of the coming of our Saviour into this world and the Good News that God made flesh is alive and living with us and in us in all that we do in our daily lives. The Assumptionist Family are deeply grateful to you all for the very generous offering that you have made to us in the Christmas Offerings. We are also grateful for how you show us your love and appreciation of what we try to share with you of ourselves, in the many cards, gifts of all sorts and above all the kind words and thoughts you have shared with us quietly in various ways.

††††††††††

**Attached** is 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. Copies of the pamphlet referred to are in the porch or you can download a coloured copy from the parish website <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/events/>

††††††††††

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

††††††††††

**Please retrieve your Christmas cards** from the box on the table in the porch. They will be removed after the new year.

††††††††††

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

††††††††††

**Our School reopens:** on January 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a School Council meeting at 11.30am which Fr Michael will attend, as we finalise our views and comments on the Friendship Policy, to give it a more positive name than Anti-bullying Policy.

††††††††††

**Our Parish Pastoral Council** will meet on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, for its first Meeting of the New Year, to look at the Questionnaire from the Bishops and also the Plan for the New Evangelisation programme which Bishop Francis is encouraging us to join.

††††††††††

**Further to the message last week about the Meditation groups.** All groups - Monday, Thursday and Friday Lectio Divina resume the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Diary**

### **Tuesday 30 December**



**7.15pm** Eucharistic Service in church. Reflect on the word of God and pray for your needs and those of others. We say goodbye to 2014 and pray for a joyful and peaceful new year. You are most welcome to join us.

††††††††††

**A Letter from our Archbishop** on the closing of the "Growing in Faith" Campaign: "*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, After three years' effort across the parishes of the diocese, our Growing in Faith campaign is coming to a close. I want very much indeed to express my thanks to you for the attention and support you have given to its three key themes: strengthening parish life; supporting priests, in formation and old age; and Caritas, our work with the poor. I thank you for your prayers, the work done by the volunteers and I thank all who have made financial contributions. In total, with gifts and pledges, a sum of £37 million has been given. This great achievement will do so much to enable us to meet our needs and look forward confidently. This is a marvellous measure of your great generosity and love for the Lord and His Church. Thank you so much.*" The letter concludes by wishing you all a peaceful and renewing time of Celebration of Christmas and the New Year.