

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 1612

3rd – 10th January, 2015 The Epiphany of the Lord

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
Fr Tom O'Brien	frtomaa@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistants Jane Gonzalez E-mail:	Tel: 01462 455577 janegonzalez@rcdow.org.uk
Trish Bonnett E-mail	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator Carol Cooper E-mail:	Tel: 01462 459126 carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk
Sacramental Administrator Eve Krol Email:	Tel: 01462 455577 hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07958 575 442
Website:	parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
E-mail:	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative
Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)



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.



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.

Sunday 4th	Coffee Morning – Confirmation Group
Monday 5th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 6th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 7th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	RCIA Pastoral Office 7.30pm
Thursday 8th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 9th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 11th	Coffee Morning - KISS
	Confirmation Hall 6pm

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3.5-6, Matt 2:1-12

Entrance antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Psalm: **All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

Intercessions: Lord hear us...

Response: **Lead us to Christ**

Next week: Isaiah 55:1-11, 1 John 5:1-9, Mark 1:7-11

This Weekend: We celebrate the **Epiphany of the Lord**: commemorating the visit of the Magi and the showing of Jesus to the world through this event; we also hold in memory His being shown to the People at His Baptism and His first Miracle at the Marriage Feast of Cana.

Our School reopens on January 6th. There is a School Council meeting at 11.30am which Fr Michael will attend, as we finalise our views on the Friendship Policy, a more positive name than Anti-bullying Policy.

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

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



In case you were away last week, please find the details of the survey that our Bishops are asking us to make on our understanding of married and family life, by reflecting on various texts and responding to a series of questions, which can then be send directly to the Family and Life Agency at the Diocese. This can be found on the parish website

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/events/>

We are considering having a series of meetings to discuss the questions and our responses to them so we can send a parish response to the Cardinal. If you would be interested in taking part in this please let Trish know.

The Cardinal invites us to send our responses to the questions to Mr Edmund Adamus our Director for Marriage and Family Life by Pentecost Sunday, 24th May at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN or on line to edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk Copies of the Pastoral Letter from the Cardinal are available on the parish website

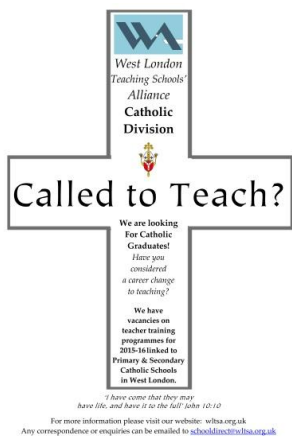
<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2014/12/PASTORAL-LETTER-HOLY-FAMILY-2014.pdf> for you for prayer and reflection and background for any responses you wish to make.



CALLED TO TEACH?

The West London Teaching Schools' Alliance (WLTSA) has a Catholic Division which is seeking to encourage recent Catholic graduates (or career changers) into the teaching profession for both primary and secondary schools.

In partnership with several universities, the WLTSA is currently recruiting for PGCE (and QTS) teacher training programmes for 26 schools in West London (79 vacancies). 17 of the programmes are hosted in Catholic Schools. Some of the programmes are salaried and offer up to £25k with training costs paid for by the schools. Further information: wltsa.org.uk We encourage you to apply!



Mrs Gwenda Sampson RIP: Fr Michael was informed of Gwenda's death on Sunday last, by her step-daughter. Apparently after her arrival in New Zealand she was taken ill and spent the rest of her days in hospital, where she died on December 21st, her Funeral was held on December 26th. It is hoped that her Ashes will be brought back to Hitchin for a Mass and Burial, but we are not sure when. Grwenda has been a very long term Parishioner, living in Holwell and in later life married John as her second husband. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! Our love and sympathy go to her and her families.



Mary Doherty RIP: Fr Michael celebrates the Mass of Welcome of Mary into the Church of St Francis in Shefford, on Wednesday 7th at 6.45pm, as she had been a long-standing Member of our Parish, before moving to Shefford for her last few years, although continuing to share in our Mass on a Wednesday. Her Funeral is on Thursday 8th at 11am. Our love and sympathy go to the many members of her family who live in Hitchin. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!



Meditation Groups: The Monday lunchtime and Thursday evening meditation groups and Friday afternoon Lectio Divina group all resume this week on 5th January 2015.



An invitation to see a new documentary film Paul (Gismondi) of Welwyn Garden City J&P extends an open invitation to everyone to attend any of the three showings of "Open Bethlehem" documentary at the WGC Cinema, the Campus. The new documentary film is on the current situation in Bethlehem, where Christians are struggling to survive. It has been made by a *Palestinian Catholic woman* whose campaign to try to save Bethlehem has been supported by Pope Benedict, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter etc. She has also been invited to speak to our Parliament about it. For more information see the poster in the porch or the web-site link: www.gardencitycinema.co.uk The three showings – with apologies for the lateness in receiving details - are:

Friday 2 January	20.15	Screen 1 (40 seats)
Monday 5 January	17.10	Screen 1 (40 seats)
Tuesday 6 January	20.35	Screen 2 (140 seats)

It is possible the director, *Leila Sansour*, might be there on 6th January for a Q & A session after the screening but this has yet to be confirmed.

Diary

Tuesday 6th January



7.15pm Eucharistic Service in church. Reflect on the word of God and pray for your needs and those of others. We remember the Epiphany of the Lord.

Sunday 11th January

Confirmation session 6 pm on the Stations of the Cross – History of the Church Session. This is a change from published programme as Jane Gonzalez is unable to lead the session on the Liturgical Year. That will now be transferred to a later date. There will also be a review of the Parable of the Talents project. Candidates will be asked to give an account of their actions to date.

Future Dates

Jan 24 11am to 4.30pm *Housing and Energy – Fairness for all?* at St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA (nr Euston station)

Free – but donations on the day welcome. Booking is essential as space is limited. Deadline 17 January. To book a place e-mail tony@christian-ecology.org.uk Or book through Eventbrite. <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/housing-energy-fairness-for-all-tickets-13897974215?aff=es2&rank=4>

Jan 18 Pax Christi - Peace Sunday 2015- "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters" (Pope Francis). The work of Pax Christi (The Peace of Christ) is based on the gospels and inspired by faith and rooted in Catholic Christianity. Its vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms, working with all who share the aims to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. In our parish prayer cards will be distributed and the One World Group will be raising funds for their work from the sale of teas and cakes after mass, and envelopes for donations will become available. For information on Pax Christi and related materials see the website <http://paxchristi.org.uk>

Jan 18-25 . **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** The theme this year, chosen by the churches of Brazil, is *The well is deep* based on John chapter 4. Here in Hitchin, we will mark it in various ways:

Sundays 18 & 25 January - morning pulpit exchanges

Sunday 18 January - 6.30pm: United service at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, including the induction of the Rev John Hardaker of Christchurch as Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin

Tuesday 20 January - 7.45pm: Ladies' united service at St Faith's

Sunday 25 January - 6.30 pm: Taizé service at St Mark's

All are welcome at any of the above.

Jan 29 10am–1pm ***Walking the Way of the Kingdom***

Sister Regina McGarry OP and Monika Cleaver. Refreshments from 9.30 am. Please feel free to bring a packed lunch to enjoy afterwards. Suggested donation £6

Jan 31 ***KEEP WATCH!*** – As part of the Year of Consecrated Life, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP (Archbishop of Liverpool) reflects on the significance of Religious in today's Church. This event is open to all Religious, Lay People and Clergy. ***Advance Booking event is required. Please arrive early on the day to register your presence.***

Please choose EITHER the Morning or Afternoon Session

Morning 10.30 am – 12.30 pm (refreshments available from 10.00 am)

Afternoon 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm (followed by refreshments)

To register for any event please contact the Office on 020 8950 4000 or book online at www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/program-me-of-events/

See poster on noticeboard for further details.

May 23 3pm **Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral** The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish administrators, Carol or Antoinette, the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Other Items of Interest



From all of us here at CAFOD
Westminster, we wish you a
happy and peaceful

Christmas, and a wonderful start to a new year full
of promise.

Your support this year has helped us to make a
real difference in the lives of others overseas. If
you'd like to see more of what we got up to this
year(2014), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R23-mAnH7aI> We hope to see you soon at a CAFOD
event, such as Understanding CAFOD Day on
Saturday, 24 January 2015. Learn more and sign
up at understandingcafod.eventbrite.co.uk

Here is the link to the latest edition of CAFOD
Westminster's Newsletter! <https://cafodwestminster.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/cafod-westminster-e-newsletter-new-year-2015.pdf>

You can read the most recent news about how
CAFOD supporters in the Westminster diocese
have been working to help fight poverty and
injustice around the world throughout 2014, as well
as information on our plans and hopes for the year
to come. Over the next few weekends the new
CAFOD campaign "**One Climate, One
WORLD**" will be brought to the parish, with petition
cards available for signing. It is easy to think of
Climate Change/ Climate Chaos as a future
problem, but for millions of people and animals and
many ecosystems around the world it is already
having a devastating effect. And for many
organisations like CAFOD it is already see and felt
as the biggest threat to reducing poverty
nowadays. To find out more about this campaign
aiming to encourage political parties and
candidates to put Climate Change solving
measures at the heart of their manifestos ahead of
the coming elections in May 2015 and the World
Summit in December 2015.

See: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/Email-party-leaders> and sign the
petition on-line.

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The chaplaincy at the Lister Hospital would love
to hear from anyone willing to be a volunteer
wheelchair pusher on a Sunday morning. You
would be required to be on duty from 9.00am to go
round the wards to see whether there are any
patients who would like to be at the service in the
hospital chapel. You would then collect them for
the service and take them back to the ward
afterwards. This is a much valued ministry. Full
training given. Also coffee and biscuits. If you are
interested, please contact Melanie Crowley
melanie.crowley@btinternet.com in the first
instance.

Charity Giving The Church is now registered
as a "good cause" on the easyfundraising web
site (www.easyfundraising.org.uk).

When making a purchase from an on-line
retailer, or making travel and holiday
reservations or arranging insurance or other
services, please consider doing so by going to
your choice of provider through the
easyfundraising web site and selecting "Our
Lady's RC Church Hitchin" as the good cause.
In return, and at no cost to yourself, the Church
will receive a donation from the provider. The
amount of the donation varies from provider to
provider but averages out at about 2.5% of the
value of your transaction.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for
this fundraising initiative and, if you have any
questions, please speak to David on 01462-
627784.

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Need a buggy? A baby/toddler buggy which
also includes a buggy board for siblings to big
for the pushchair, but too little to walk at length.
Happy to give away, but a donation to the
parish would be welcome. If required a pram for
a newborn baby can also be provided. Please
contact Nicola Sylvester on 07958 795662 if
you are interested.

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**Christians in Politics is launching a major
campaign in the New Year for the General
Election**, with the support of around 30 other
Christian organisations. With partners like:
Bible Society, Christians in Parliament,
Evangelical Alliance, etc. Their web-site
is: <http://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk/> -
recent articles
are: <http://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk/latest/>

1) **Can religion and politics mix?** - As the
famous saying goes, you don't talk about
religion or politics at a dinner party. What about
the two combined?

2) **4 Reasons to Act** - How does the messy
business of politics relate to the kind of life that
Jesus commands his followers to live?

3) **Reflections of a future vicar** - A vicar in
training from St Mellitus reflects on a talk from
Christians in Politics.

They could become for each of us a valuable
resource in preparation for the General Election
in early May 2015.