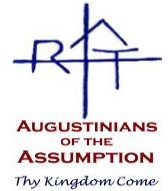


# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1613

## 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Baptism of the Lord (Year B)

<b>Mass Times</b>	
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
Mobile:	07958 575 442
Website:	<a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

### Diary

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – KISS Confirmation Hall 6pm
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm Pastoral Parish Council LCR 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Party Hall 10.30am Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am Praise Group LCR after Mass RCIA Pastoral Office 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	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.



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



### Readings: Isaiah 55:1-11, 1 John 5:1-9, Mark 1:7-11

*Entrance antiphon:* After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

*Psalm:* With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation

*Intercessions:* Lord, send your Spirit among us...

*Response:* He will renew the face of the earth!

**Next week Sam 3:3-10.19, Cor 6:13-15.17-20, John 1:35-42**

**This Weekend:** we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord: the final event of our Christmas Season. We revert to the Ordinary Time of the Year B from next Sunday.

**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.

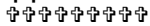
Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself



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.



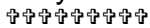
box collection will be taken after all masses next weekend (17th/18th January). Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors. In 2013/2014 £2,125 was raised for Cafod and a further £549 repaid through Gift aid. Many thanks to all supporters.



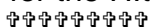
**Next Sunday:** sees the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Fr Tom will be preaching at Holy Saviour Church at 9.30am. The following Sunday Fr Michael will be preaching at Walsworth Road Baptist Church at 10.30am.

It is also Peace Sunday, so a very appropriate time of prayer for peace around our world too as well as between all the Christian Churches and Congregations.

**6.30pm: Unity Service:** our Joint Service is being held at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, all are welcome to share in this time of prayer for promoting Christian Unity in our country.



**Crib Service Gifts:** The amazing number of Gifts brought to the Crib have now been taken to North Herts Homestart, who have written to thank the Parish for their generosity and support in the vital work they undertake supporting families in the Hitchin area. Also thank you for the Crib donations of food and toiletries for the Hitchin Food Bank.



**Offertory Appeal Results Update – “One Year On”**



It is now over a year since our Offertory Appeal, which was held in October 2013, and we would like to update you on the results.

The good news is that, overall, we have seen a 16% increase in Offertory income – up from just over £108,000 in the year ending October 2013 to nearly £125,000 in the year ending October 2014.

The not so good news is that we have seen the level of the increase fall away quite dramatically over the course of the year from about +20% at the start to just +5% at the end with the most significant hit being in the Loose Plate income, which is now well below 2013 levels.

So, a further big “thank you” to all of you who have responded so positively to the Offertory Appeal and have kept up your donations. If, for whatever reason, you have not been able to keep up your donations, we understand that and would just ask that you bear in mind your support for the Parish when you are next in a position to do so.

**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.**

**Diary**

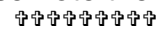
**Monday 12 January**

7.30pm in Lower committee room. First meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council**, with the welcome to any new Councillors who case forward for election. We will be looking at the Questionnaire sent out by our Bishops and also see how we can respond to Bishop Francis’ call for a new evangelisation, with a plan which has been put forward by our Diocese to that end, with a Congress being held in July, as the climax of the planning phase of this Journey.



**Tuesday 13 January**

**12.30pm** Our Bethany club opens its doors to a new work of outreach and welcome, with a late Christmas and New Year Party, starting at 12.30pm, so please note the time of starting.



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

**Wednesday 14 January**

**2pm** Mass at Foxholes. Parishioners welcome.

**Thursday 15 January**

In Our Lady’s School, Year 4 children will be leading a Service of the Word and Holy Communion in the afternoon.

**Saturday 17 January**

Fr Michael is attending a Governor Training Course at John Henry Newman School



**4.30pm:** we are holding the second Session of Training for new Ministers of the Eucharist in the church.

**Monday 19 January**

**8.00pm in the hall** First Session of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for parents.

**Future Dates**

**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 **10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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).