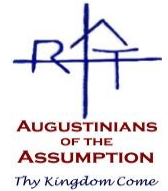




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1617

7th – 14th February 2015 Fifth Sunday of the 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
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.

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If you have a need for prayer, please contact Trish on 07801752141 and let her know your prayer intentions.



Diary

Sunday 8th	Coffee Morning - KISS
	Confirmation Hall 6pm
Monday 9th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 10th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 11th	Liturgy Committee LCR 8pm
	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Praise Group LCR after Mass
Thursday 12th	RCIA Pastoral Office 7.30pm
	St Pio Prayer Group Church and Hall after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
Friday 13th	Meditation Group Pastoral office 6.30pm
	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 15th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

Readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7, Cor 9:16-19,22-23, Mark 1:29-39

Entrance antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is he Lord, our God.

Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted

Intercessions: Hear us, O Lord.....

Response: Heal us we pray!

Next week: Lev 13:1-2,44-46, Cor 10:31-11.1, Mark 1:40-45

Front Page news – The King is back!!! Well actually our missing king from the nativity never left. He was discovered in the high cupboard in the Priest's sacristy looking a bit forlorn. Trish will stop kicking herself soon. Our borrowed king has been returned to Stagenhoe!

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.

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: we welcome Adam Spratley, into our Family of Hichin, through the completion of the Baptismal ceremony in the course of the 10.30am Mass. We pray for him, his parents, god-parents and family as they deepen their faith commitment to Adam as he joins our Community.



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The Bishops of our country have publicised reflections on the Government's proposals concerning the creation of human embryos, using three people:

Many people are rightly concerned about the profound implications of Parliament passing regulations under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act to licence the creation of human embryos using the DNA of three people. These are regulations for the transfer of 'nuclear DNA' into an egg or an embryo to modify its genetic identity. No other country has allowed this procedure and the international scientific community is not convinced that the procedure is safe and effective. It seems extraordinary that a licence should be sought for a radical new technique affecting future generations without first conducting a clinical trial. There are also serious ethical objections to this procedure which involves the destruction of human embryos as part of the process. The human embryo is a new human life, and it should be respected and protected from the moment of conception. This is a very serious step which Parliament should not rush into taking.

For more details please go to the parish website to the news page and click on the Human Fertilisation Document <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/>

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Fr Michael's visit to Walsworth Road Baptist Church, "I had a very warm reception when I arrived and everything had been put in place for me to share with the congregation my message, I spoke to the children before they were sent out for their own Liturgy and then divided by talk into five parts with reflection and quiet music inbetween and with a few personal anecdotes, I feel the message was put across, as confirmed by comments afterwards. The children presented me with a peg figure of how I was dressed, in my order habit and white stole, I even had a smile!" **Rev Jeni McQuaid's** presentation was very well received and celebrated with a round of applause!

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The Lost Property box is due to be emptied at the end of the week. Please check through it this week to reclaim any items you may have lost. All unclaimed items will be recycled appropriately

Covenant of Marriage Preparation Day: Saturday 18th April from about 9.30am (to meet and greet and begin to get to know the other couples) and lasting till 3.30/4.00pm, Participants should bring food to share with others and there is a fee of £30 per couple. Engaged Couples looking to celebrate their Wedding need to give at least six months notice for the necessary preparation to take place and everything organised as is needed for each couple. Please contact Eve Krol, who is Sacramental Administrator, via the Parish Website, to supply details of names, addresses and phone numbers, to register for the day, which is limited to 20 couples on a first come basis.

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CAFOD
just one world

BOX COLLECTION will take place after all masses next weekend (14/15th) Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors.

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Lent Groups

Churches Together in Hitchin Lent Groups have been arranged starting Monday 23 February through the five weeks leading up to Easter. A list is in the porch for you to choose a time and day that suits you. Those who have joined one in previous years have made friends with people from other churches and seen familiar Bible passages in different ways. This year we are discussing a York course entitled **Praise Him: Songs of Praise from the New Testament** written by Paula Gooder

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Faith Matters talks: Lent 2015.

This is a joint project of the Agency for Evangelisation and the Dominican Priory. 24th February Fr. Richard Ounsworth OP on Jesus.

3rd March Fr. John Farrell OP on The Church and the Christian Life.

10th March Fr. Aidan Nichols OP on How to write theology.

17th March Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP on Tolerant and Free despite being Catholic?

When: 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis St , SW1P 1QN

Booking is required as places are limited.

Register at rcdow.org.uk/events/

or livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call at 020 7931 6078 to leave your details. Suggested donation is £3 per talk.

Counting Rota The Sunday Counting Rota for the year starting 8 March 2015 is available for collection from the Link. Copies will be emailed to those Counters who have signed-up for emails

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From Fr Jean-Marie The hydroelectric project is still not yet finished, the reason being that there is still a lot of insecurity in the area where the dam is located. Recently, in December 2014, the rebels killed more than 250 people in that area. Rebels were attacking people in their houses during the night and slaughtered many of them with machetes and knives. It was a real genocide committed by these Ugandan and Rwandan rebels. There are a lot of Congolese soldiers in these days and we don't want the machines to be looted by them. The machines have reached Butembo and are kept secure at the provincial house of the Assumptionists in Butembo. We are only waiting for calm in the area to install the turbine. Meanwhile any donation for this project is welcome. Contact Deolinda Eltringham to make a donation.

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Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life

We are arranging three meetings to enable us to reflect on the different stages of marriage and family life: falling in love, engagement, the celebration of marriage, the early years; children, joys and sorrows, teenage children, alone as a couple, the elderly years. Fr Tom invites you to come along to let him know what he's been missing all these years.

The meetings are offered during the day and in the evenings to allow as many people as possible to attend.

Thursday mornings 10.45-12pm 26 Feb, 26 March, 23 April

Friday evenings 7-8.15pm 27 Feb, 27 March, 24 April

We will take 3 pieces of scripture to reflect on at the first meeting and 4 pieces for the second meeting, answering the questions posed. Our reflections will be gathered and sent out for us to further ponder and add to at our final meeting. The materials will be available on the website and in the porch. Please let Trish or Fr Tom know which sessions you are planning to attend so we can set up the Upper Committee room to accommodate all who come

Diary

Monday 9 February

8pm in the Friends' Meeting House, we are holding the latest quarterly meeting of the Churches Together in Hitchin Council. Apart from delegates from the Churches, the meeting is also open to members of the Churches to come along and share in the Meeting. We will be looking at seeing how we can improve the Walk of Witness and Service we have on Good Friday, as well as hearing the progress that is being made in the various projects in which our Churches are engaged. Arrangements for the Lenten Groups will be finalised too, as Lent starts next week. We will also be exploring how we are going to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the setting up of Churches Together in Hitchin

Tuesday 10 February

There is a meeting of priests of the Stevenage Deanery, to continue their deliberations on pastoral matters affecting our parishes and area. We are meeting at St Hugh's Church in Letchworth from 11.00am onwards.

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4.15pm: Fr Michael is meeting with the Senior Leadership Team of Our Lady's School, to review the safeguarding area of our School life and see what else needs to be done to improve the quality of life of our children.

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

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8pm Liturgy Committee meeting to review the Christmas celebrations and take an early view of Holy Week and Easter. The meeting is in the Lower Committee Room.

Wednesday 11 February:

Day of Prayer for our Sick in Hospital, at home or in care, as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

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7.30pm Finance Committee meeting to review our situation and look at various projects which are coming up in the coming months.

Thursday, 12 February

10am: The Saint Pio Prayer Meeting will include Holy Mass for the members followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the hall and meditations for the month of the Sacred Passion. All welcome.

Saturday 14 February

2.30pm: Mass for Altar Servers at Westminster Cathedral. Servers to be robed in cassock and cotta and be ready to process by 2pm. Further details from William on 07598 312269 or william_warren@hotmail.co.uk

Future Dates

Feb 18 ASH WEDNESDAY LUNCH 12.30-

1.30pm

Christchurch is hosting this year's lunch. £3-50 for choice of soup, one filled roll (ham or cheese) and a piece of fresh fruit (choice) - extra 50p for a hot drink. Fairtrade stall. All proceeds to Christian Aid. The car park has been reserved for the lunch but please don't arrive before 12-00 as our Mother & Toddler group will probably be occupying a lot of parking spaces until then.

Feb 28 2pm onwards there will be an afternoon for the bereaved in the parish Hall. Time for prayer and reflection. All are welcome.

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

Our grateful thanks: are again owed to the generous support of several parishioners to dismantle the Crib and pack it away. The team worked with great efficiency and did a splendid job in a very short time. Our thanks and gratitude go to you all – so here's to the next time, in December...!!!

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Help with Italian lessons for a parishioner if there is anyone who can help a parishioner learn conversational French in his home please can you contact Trish in the first instance.

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Theo Hawksley who was raised in this parish, and who has committed her life to the Lord is taking her first steps to becoming a Nun. She is just beginning her journey of postulancy in the Congregation of Jesus community. She is writing a blog to help us keep touch with her progress. It makes fascinating reading <https://happybegun.wordpress.com/>

Some Great Heroines of the Bible: Bible talks in Herts with Fr Peter Burrows

for everyone interested: Parish Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Adult Faith Formation & Small Communities Leaders & Members, Catechists, Volunteers & all parishioners **When: 7.30pm to 9.00pm**

3rd Mar 2015 Women of Extraordinary Faith and Love (as Sarah and Ruth)
10th Mar 2015 Women of Hope in the Face of Hopelessness

17th Mar 2015 Heroines of Humility

Where: Boxmoor, Sts Mary and Joseph, 186 St John's Rd, Boxmoor HP1 1NR. Register at rcdow.org.uk/events/

orlivingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation is £3 per session.

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Lent Fast Day for CAFOD - Friday, 27 February

The changing climate is making life harder for people across the world. As floods, droughts and storms become more severe, the poorest and most vulnerable people are hit the hardest. And once the storm is over, it is hard to start again. That's why our appeal this Lent Fast Day will focus on CAFOD's work helping communities in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) to recover from and prepare for climate-related natural disasters.

With your help and generosity, we can support our sisters and brothers to not only survive cyclones, floods and droughts, but to build back better and stronger and to be prepared for when the next one strikes.

Double the impact of your donations!

Lent fundraising will have double the impact this year because we have been awarded UK Aid match funding for our Lent appeal. This means the UK Government will match pound for pound every donation given to our Lent 2015 appeal, up to a total of £3.5 million. In light of this opportunity, each parish will be issued with new envelopes which must be used for collections this Lent Fast Day in order to take advantage of this chance for your generosity to go twice as far. Please look out for them.

Get ready to have your say in the General Election With the election fast approaching CAFOD is joining with CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network), the domestic social action agency of the Catholic Church, to ask questions of parliamentary candidates at a time when they want to hear about the issues that matter most to you. For ideas see: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/election-questions>