

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 1621

7th – 14th March 2015 Third Sunday of Lent (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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Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 8th	Coffee Morning KISS
Monday 9th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
	One World Group Lent Meditation LCR 7.30pm
	Lent Meditation by Ann Milner Church 7.30pm
Tuesday 10th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Lent Meditation by Ann Milner Church 1.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 11th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Praise Group LCR after Mass
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	Liturgy Committee LCR 7.30pm
	RCIA Church 8pm
Thursday 12th	St Pio Group Church and hall after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group Pastoral office 6.30pm
Friday 13th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 15th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	Confirmation rehearsal Church 6pm



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 Trish on 07801752141 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.

Readings: Ex 20:1-17, Cor 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

Entrance antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Psalm: **You Lord have the message of eternal life.**

Intercessions: Deliver us, Lord.....

Response: By your Cross and Resurrection!

Next week: Chron 36:14-16.19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21

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.



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: The first of the Scrutinies takes place, for our candidates for Baptism and Reception into the Church.- this will take place at the 5.00pm Mass on Sunday. This service goes back to the very earliest days of the Church and is the community praying with and for all those receiving the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, for their growth in faith and fidelity in living it.

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The Traidcraft stall will be open this Sunday (8th). There's a new catalogue for those interested to browse through.

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Blessing of the Grave and Stone for Fr Christopher and eventually two other Assumptionists, last Monday: it was good to see so many of you coming to share in the Mass for Fr Christopher, the hymns were sung with gusto and it was a great celebration of someone we loved so much and who gave so much in his 48 years in the Parish. We are grateful to Trish for producing a beautiful Order of Service for us to use and keep as a souvenir. The Service sheet is on the website, if you wish to download it for yourselves. There was a large group of Parishioners who gathered at the graveside and joined in the time of prayer and blessing, it was very cold but we lived a time of quiet reflection, sorrow and yet joy was also strongly present. Fr Christopher's family are very grateful for the beautiful setting and the love and care in maintaining the grave so well and send you all their love and gratitude for what has been done.

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It was great to see so many people with their families attend the bereavement support afternoon on Saturday. There was a sense of community and sharing with each other, on their difficult journey of bereavement. Our annual bereavement service will be held on Friday 26th June at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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An invitation from David Jarvis to his mother, **Doreen Jarvis's Funeral Mass** on Tuesday 17 March at 12noon followed by committal at Stopsley Crematorium at 2.30pm and afterwards at the Highlander Pub, Offley Road, Hitchin to celebrate her life. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

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General Election 2015: The Bishops have written a joint letter to all Catholics in England and Wales encouraging us to participate and vote in the election and offering some key issues and questions for reflection on where candidates stand. Please read the letter (attached) and encourage others to do the same. Further information can be found on the Bishops' Conference website www.catholicnews.org.uk

Baptism Preparation: The next course will be on Sundays 10th and 24th May. Please see the signup sheet to register and for details of the times. There will be a short ceremony of welcome after the session on 24th May at the 5pm Mass.



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The Call, the Journey and the Mission – The first meetings took place and the results will be sent out to the parish for consideration and will also be on the website. We ask that you consider them in light of the last four readings



given and the creed offered on the information sheet. Our next time of

deliberation will be **Thursday mornings 10.45-12pm on 26 March or Friday evening 7-8.15pm on 27 March.** If you are unable to attend please feel free to email your comments to Trish who can include them in the final submission

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The visit of our healing ministry team to the parish of St Anthony of Padua in Melksham, Wiltshire proved to be a powerful expression of the three elements of Lent-fasting, or giving up; prayer and charity. The purpose of the visit was to hold a healing service there as a ministry and as a demonstration of the format of the service so the parishioners there can start their own team. The team was welcomed by a group of 10 parishioners accompanied by Fr Richard with love, a shared meal and with songs and praise. Each team member then enjoyed the hospitality of a good bed and morning breakfast at the homes of parishioners.

The ministry itself was co-celebrated with some of their parishioners and was attended by some 30 people. A great sense of togetherness in prayer followed readings and a powerful and moving reflection which proved to be an emotional release for everyone present. In that strong prayerful and Spirit imbued atmosphere there was a tangible sense of spiritual cleansing and release from perhaps long held negativity and fears. Afterwards parishioners expressed their heart felt gratitude for the opportunity to share this ministry and a determination to continue the work started there. After more refreshment and fond farewells the team left their new friends to return to Hitchin. Please let us keep their parish in our prayers.

Diary

Monday 9th March

Fr Michael is talking to Year 4 at Our Lady's School about developing the Sacrament of Reconciliation in their lives.

The day will be spent by the Panel of Governors overseeing the interviewing process for the candidates who have applied for the position of Deputy Head at our School. We will keep our School in our prayers on this very important day in the life of the Community which lives there

Tuesday 10th

12.30pm there is a meeting of the Priests and Ministers in Churches Together in Hitchin, to continue preparations for Holy Week and Easter.

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9.30am and 2.00pm: children in two of the Houses of Our Lady's School will be celebrating the Stations of the Cross around the School Grounds, under the leadership of Fr Tom and various of the children involved in the preparations for this event. This is repeated on **Wednesday** for the two other Houses into which our children are divided, at the same times.

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7.30pm Notre Dame de France welcomes Saltmine Theatre's production of **AMAZING GRACE** - a play in two parts, Amazing Grace tells the inspiring story of John Newton: from slave ship captain to church leader and author of the famous hymn. A powerfully moving performance about slavery, freedom and the remarkable power of love and grace to transform a life. An evening not to be missed! Tickets: £10.00-£12.00* book online: www.bit.ly/agtickets or T: 020 7440 2663, email: info@spiritinthecity.org

Monday 9th

7.30pm LENTEN MEDITATION Father Tom will lead the One World Group Lenten Meditation in the Lower Committee Room. This will be followed by a light Lenten supper. All are welcome.

Wednesday 11th

7.30pm: Liturgy Committee Meeting at 7.30pm in the Lower Committee Room, to formalise the services and Masses for the Easter Triduum and Palm Sunday.

Thursday 12th

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 of the month on Saint Joseph. All welcome.

Future Dates

Mar 30 7.30pm

Passover Meal in the Church

Hall. To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a chance for us to understand more deeply our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome. We hope to welcome people from St. Mary's Church again this year. You need to bring: a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person. Roast lamb is provided. [You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.] It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up on the board in the porch as we need to know numbers by 23rd March so that Jane can order the meat.



Apr 18 Covenant of Marriage

Preparation Day: 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.

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:

Job Vacancy at Our Lady’s Church – Sacramental Co-ordinator We are seeking a part-time person to fulfil this role when Jane finishes finally in June. The hours average out at 10 hours/week but vary across the year according to need. Applicants should be practicing and involved Roman Catholics with a recognised qualification in Pastoral Ministry/Pastoral Theology/Catechetics plus experience in Formation and Training; already sharing in parish ministry and with catechetical experience (RCIA essential). Full details on notice board. Applications in by 18.00 Monday 16th March 2015 Interviews from 14.00 on Tuesday 24th March 2015. Application forms can be found on the Diocesan Website <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>

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Your help is needed. Helen Cooper (our administrator’s daughter) is a student and is looking for people to participate in research for her dissertation. If you are willing to answer a questionnaire on Brand Choices and Social Media, please contact Helen at i7267930@bournemouth.ac.uk or leave your contact details with Carol in the Office. It will take 10-15 mins. to complete. Many thanks.

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Church Cleaning We have an urgent need for two more people to help keep our church clean once a month on Saturdays. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

World Youth Day: there is a possibility of joining in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to go to Poland for the week of July 18 – 31st; or with Pax Travel for 10 / 11 days – both coming out at £750 per person. If anyone is interested in going, do let the Parish Office know, or speak to either Fr Michael or Fr Tom. More details will be available later. It is important to know the possible interest, as it might be possible to arrange things through the Deanery of Stevenage – if you could do so by 15th March, that would be great.

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Thank you all for supporting our bereavement coffee morning on Sunday, which raised an astonishing £131.56.

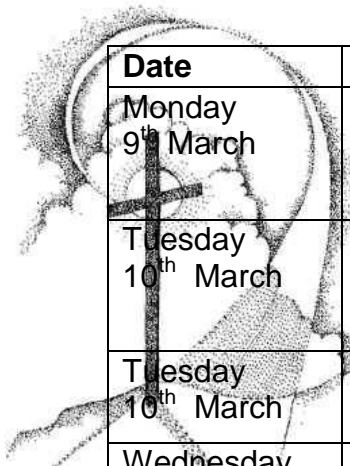
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CAFOD BOX COLLECTION will be taken after all masses next weekend (14/15th March) For the next two months the government will match our contributions pound for pound so this is a great opportunity to maximise our donations.. Special envelopes for this collection are available on the table in the porch or from the collectors.

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Spanish lessons for children on Mondays at 4.30pm in Hitchin for one hour. Learning with lots of fun, games and songs. Native Spanish speaker with 15 years experience. CRB checked and fully insured. For more information please contact me on email: spanishmontse@yahoo.co.uk , or call 07732 760751

Lent Events week commencing Sunday 8th March



Date	Time	Event
Monday 9 th March	7.30- 8.30pm	Lenten meditation with music, pictures, silent reflection and meditation as well as spoken prayer. Session 3(repeated on Tuesday afternoon)
Tuesday 10 th March	1.30- 2.30pm	Lenten meditation with music, pictures, silent reflection and meditation as well as spoken prayer. Session 3
Tuesday 10 th March	7.15- 8pm	Lent Eucharistic service with extracts from The Nail by Stephen Cottrell Week 3
Wednesday 11 th March	8-9pm	Join the RCIA group for Reflections on the Sunday readings (Year A). This week, the Man Born Blind