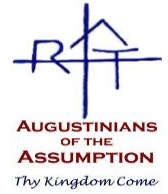


# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1622

14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 Fourth 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

<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)	

### Diary

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	Confirmation rehearsal Church 6pm
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
	Parish Council - LCR 7.30pm
	Lent Meditation by Ann Milner Church 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Lent Meditation by Ann Milner Church 1.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Choir Church 8pm
	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	RCIA Church 8pm
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group Pastoral office 6.30pm
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	First Reconciliation Celebration
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – UCM



Hospital

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.**



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

*Entrance antiphon:* Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**Psalm: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!**

*Intercessions:* Lord, in your mercy.....

*Response:* Hear our prayer!

**Next week: Jer 31::31-34, Heb 5:7-9, John 12:20-30**

**ONE WORLD GROUP** coffee morning this Sunday is in support of **Street Talk**, a charity which helps women caught up in sex trafficking.

### 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:** is Mothering Sunday, so we wish all our Mums a happy day and one at which you will receive those extra signs of gratitude for all that you do for your families!

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**This Sunday:** marks the half-way mark of Lent: hence the pink vestments worn by our Celebrants. The call to rejoice and give thanks for our call to serve the Lord and His people – we all are called to be gospel-sharers, as Bishop Francis reminds us. The divine life we live is to be shared with others! Such is our joint challenge. Our Confirmation Candidates gather at 6pm on Sunday to continue preparing their presentation to the Parish on Good Friday.

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**CAFOD** box collection will be taken after all masses this weekend. Our donations will be matched pound for pound by the government for the next three months giving us a great opportunity to maximise our contribution to Cafod. Gift aid envelopes are available in the porch or from the collectors.

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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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**Baptism Preparation:** The next course will be on Sundays 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> May at the 5pm Mass.

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Your help needed Please take a pile of the Churches Together in Hitchin, Easter service booklets and deliver them to the roads specified. Even if there is not one near you please take a pack and enjoy the walk. This is such an important part of our Christian witness to invite the town to our celebrations during Holy Week.

The Annual Collection towards the cost of flowers for the church will take place next weekend after all Masses 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March.



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**Congratulations to Mrs Tressa Timms**, who is Acting Deputy at the moment and Class Teacher for Year 6, who was appointed as permanent Deputy Head at our School with effect from the beginning of April.

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**Last weekend's** KISS coffee morning raised £130.00 - The KISS Trustees thank the Hitchin Parish for your support and generosity and their coffee morning will be back in September for the 'Autumn,series'.

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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 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

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**Job Vacancy** at Our Lady's Church – Sacramental Co-ordinator. See details on notice board. Application forms can be found on the Diocesan Website <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>. Closing date Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

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**Mar 30 7.30pm Passover Meal**

**in the Church Hall.** Please sign up on the board in the porch as we need to know numbers by 23<sup>rd</sup> March so that Jane can order the meat. This is such a wonderful occasion not to be missed.



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We are asking you to donate all outgrown Football kits, shin pads, shorts, t shirts, football boots etc and any sports wear for the fantastic KISS Charity supporting Vulnerable children in Uganda. [www.kiddiessupportscheme.org](http://www.kiddiessupportscheme.org)



Can I ask for all items to be cleaned before giving them to Giuseppina Walker. You can drop them off in the church porch in a labeled bag or email Gius on [giuseppinawalker@Hotmail.co.uk](mailto:giuseppinawalker@Hotmail.co.uk) for another drop off point.



**HELP NEEDED**

**Holy Week Services help needed**

Over Holy week there are a number of occasions when your help will be needed before, during and after the services.

1. Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 5pm people are needed in the hall to set up the room for the Passover meal. With enough of us it should only take about 45 mins.
2. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 11am we need to set up the Altar of Repose in the hall and require about 4-6 strong people to help carry the altar and arrange the display boards and set up the chairs
3. At the end of this service we need people to sign up to sit with Our Lord at the altar of repose until midnight.
4. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April Mass of the Last Supper 8pm we need 12 people willing to take part in the Gospel reenactment and have their feet washed and wash the feet of other members of the congregation. There is a rehearsal for this on Wednesday evening.
5. We also need 8 people who will have their feet washed as members of the congregation.

If you can help with any of these please let Trish know.

**Diary**

**Monday 16 March**

**11am Mass at Sue Ryder** Stagenhoe. If you need a lift please be in the car park at 10.35am.

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Fr Michael is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the children in Year 4 of our School.

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**7.30pm:** Meeting of Our Parish Pastoral Council, to continue its work for the Parish and its life.

**Tuesday 17 March**

**10am:** Feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland. Mass as usual.

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**Noon:** The Mass of Resurrection for Doreen Jarvis, a long standing member of our Parish, who always brightened our day with her delightful smile! May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Our love and sympathy go to her six children and their family.

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**8pm UCM** meeting in the lower committee room for Stations of the Cross. Please remember to bring your items for the hampers for the raffle at our coffee morning after 8.30 am and 10.30 am Masses 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Friday 20 March**

**9am:** There is a gathering of our School to watch (with suitable protection) the virtual eclipse of the sun, weather permitting!

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**7pm:** Taize Service for the Families and Children who celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on the Saturday or the one after. We will pray for our young people as they prepare to take this important development in their Journey of Faith.

**Saturday 21 March**

**11am:** Celebration of the First Reconciliation for a group of children with their families: as this is the only form of the Sacrament available, parishioners are also invited to join in the celebration.

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11am until 12.30pm **"Romero's Martyrdom: Ecumenical Service"** - from at St Martins in the Field, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 2JJ. This service marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero. The preacher is *Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.*

**Future Dates**

**Mar 29**

3.30pm Holy Saviour Church A Festal Flourish, with Trevor Hughes - organ and keyboard and Gillian Hughes – clarinet.

A concert celebrating the 150th anniversary of Holy Saviour Church, including music by Elgar, Parry, Stanford, Bach, Mozart, Karg-Elert, and Jongen, among others.

Admission (including interval refreshments) Adults: £10 Concessions: £8 Students: Free

**April 3**

**Good Friday Walk of Witness** and United Service Churches together in Hitchin is holding its annual Good Friday Walk and Service We will meet as usual at 10.30am for prayer in Bancroft Gardens then walk along Bancroft and High Street for our service in the Market Place at 11am. Members of all congregations are invited to take part in this important act of witness to our town on this significant day in the Christian calendar.

**April 17**

7.30pm: KISS concert "Songs from the shows" with pupils from JHN, the Church choir, a children's group and the musicians going out on the Uganda tour. Money raised goes toward buying a PA system and a keyboard to take out to Uganda. Tickets on sale in the next few weeks.

## April 18 Covenant of Marriage Preparation

**Day:** 9.30am (to meet and greet and begin to get to know the other couples) and lasting till 3.30/4pm, 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.

**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).

### Other items of interest



Recycling News: Lent a season of spiritual spring cleaning, when one often thinks of giving up something, and in this parish every parishioner is invited to

give up putting in the household bins items of waste that can be recycled through the parish and raise funds for charity. Last year we managed to raise over £500 from all the stuff we sent for recycling with Terracycle. It would be wonderful if twice as many people were to contribute to this scheme and help us raise £1000 by Christmas? I think this Hitchin parish can do it! So here is a list of the things you are being invited to round up for us and bring to our collection bins in the LINK area:

- Spent Writing Instruments - we are collecting: All spent writing instruments (except wooden pencils and crayons) can be collected, regardless of their brand or material - ballpoint pens, felt tips, mechanical pencils, markers, highlighters and correction fluid and strip containers.

Coffee Packaging - we are collecting: ALL brands of coffee packaging coffee refill bags, plastic jar lids and tin lids, coffee bean bags and coffee sticks (NO glass jars, NO metal tins please)

- Tassimo TDISCS - we are collecting: ONLY Tassimo TDISCS and their outer foil packaging, we cannot deal with Nespresso of any type, please use their own web-based facilities.
- Sweet Biscuits Wrappers Recycling - we are collecting: ALL brands of SWEET Biscuit Wrappers. (Please NO bags of crisps, sweets, dried fruit or nuts, marshmallows, chocolate wrappers).
- Discarded Mobile Phones and Laptops: - we are collecting: Any size, brand, or condition of used mobile phone; however we can't accept landline phones, phone chargers or loose batteries. And accepted waste: - Laptops, Notebooks, and Tablets and charger if you have it. Donate regardless of age or condition including faulty or dead laptops- we accept any make.
- CDs, DVDs, Printer cartridges, etc.: If you have no more use for old, damaged, or broken CDs or DVDs, please bring them for recycling.

Lastly: Announcing the launch a new competition! McVitie's® Wrappers to Riches Collection Contest with a combined 50,000 TerraCycle points to be won – and a grand prize of £125 in donations! Every location (like ours) on the McVitie's Biscuit Wrapper Brigade® is automatically entered into the contest, with the twenty top collectors at the end of the competition winning charity contributions of £125, £75, £25, or £10. The competition will run from 2nd March 2015 to 31st May 2015. *Between these two dates you are offered double points for your biscuit wrappers – so each wrapper you send in will be worth 4 points!* So please let's round up all the sweet biscuit wrappers going and see if we can be one of the sites to be given a prize!

### Lent Events week commencing Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Date	Time	Event all held in the church
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.30- 8.30pm	Lenten meditation with music, pictures, silent reflection and meditation as well as spoken prayer. Session 4
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	1.30- 2.30pm	Lenten meditation with music, pictures, silent reflection and meditation as well as spoken prayer. Session 4
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.15- 8pm	Lent Eucharistic service with extracts from The Nail by Stephen Cottrell Week 3
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8-9pm	Join the RCIA group for Reflections on the Sunday readings (Year A). This week, the raising of Lazarus

