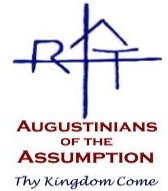




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1628

25th April – 2nd May 2015 Fourth Sunday of Easter (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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Sacramental Administrator Eve Krol Email:	Tel: 01462 455577 hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel:	01462 459 126
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Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 26th	Coffee Morning – Confirmation Group
Monday 27th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
	Sacramental Preparation Hall 8pm
	Michaelmas Fair Planning Meeting LCR 8pm
Tuesday 28th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Flower Arranging Group Hall 7pm
	Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 29th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 30th	Rosary Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group Pastoral office 6.30pm
Friday 1st May	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
	Meeting with Green Party Parliamentary Candidate Hall 3pm
Sunday 3rd	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club



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.

Readings: Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

Entrance antiphon The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Intercessions: Lord, hear us, in Jesus' name....

Response: **We are the sheep of His flock!**

Next week: Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8

Message received from Fr Jean-Marie:

“I have been appointed as Regional Superior of our mission in East Africa. It is a new responsibility for which I need your prayers. God bless all who are contributing to help us here in Africa.”

If anyone would like to help, I have Fr Jean-Marie's contact details. Mary Dawson (713872)

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:

A chance for us all to savour the richness of the Liturgy, on Vocations Sunday, a day of prayer for a call to young people to consider the priesthood or the religious life, or older people who feel the call too – to come forward and explore if that is what the Lord is calling them to do. We rejoice in being part of the flock, whom Christ our Brother, guides and protects through the ups and downs of life. It is also a time of prayer to recognise that all calls in life are vocations where we seek to follow and be Christ-like in whatever area of life we pursue.

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This Sunday there is a **Retiring Collection for the Students for the Priesthood** for the Diocese and our Order. What comes in is split between the two areas. Those of you who are involved with the “Growing in Faith” programme, please remember that you are already responding to this area in what you have pledged and so do not need to contribute any more – unless you want to do so. Many thanks in advance for your loving support to this cause.

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Communion cards and gifts will be on sale in the Hall each Sunday morning after Masses.

Diary

Monday 27 April

1.30pm: Our Pastoral Team meet to plan the coming month.

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8pm: In The Hall. The first Session of Preparation for Parents with children seeking to share in Early Communion in June.

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8pm: A planning meeting for this year's Michaelmas Fair will be held in the Lower Committee Room. The fair itself will be on **Saturday 17th October**. After last year's successful effort we are keen to incorporate new ideas so please come along if you would like to help. Proceeds from the fair make an important contribution to parish finance and also support an education centre in Senegal through the charity Diapalante. In addition it provides a great day out and an opportunity to do your Christmas shopping.

Friday 1 May

3 – 5.30pm: In the Hall - your chance to informally meet and quiz the Green Party candidate for the Hitchin and Harpenden constituency, Richard Wise. Richard will be available to answer questions and provide information. All are welcome!

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6-8pm In the Church. 'Pray and Fast for the Climate' is an initiative to mobilise Christians to fast, pray or hold a vigil on the first day of every

month for a meaningful and just global climate agreement. As part of the initiative our church will be open for a vigil prayer time from 6 to 8pm. See

<http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

Saturday 2 May

Saturday 2nd May: we rejoice with the parents of **Nancy Emmeline Mary** and **Verity Helena Ruth Cahill** who will complete their Baptismal celebration with us at 3.00pm. We pray for them, their families, god-parents and all who will be supporting them as they enter more deeply into the faith and life.

Other items:

Our KISS Charity Concert, held last Friday, was a great success raising £4013 to support the musical talents of the young people in Uganda. It was good to see so many young people and children playing an impressive part.

Many thanks to our Choir Mistress, **Sam Wilkins**, who created the programme, and to **Colette Hewitson**, Head of the Music Department at John Henry Newman School, for her assistance.

Our thanks to you all for the pleasure and delight you brought into our lives!

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The Candle Stands at the Sacred Heart Shrine and at the Memorials of our Deceased Parishioners, have new stands, for us to try out. They are very eco-friendly, and are safer to use in the Church. The used wax can be easily recycled. There is a little maintenance involved: ie refreshing the water and when necessary scooping up the residual wax. The price is the same as the candles we are using presently. We look forward to hearing your comments about them and it will allow us to see if we wish to proceed with having them permanently.

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We are looking at having the statues and the Cross in the Sanctuary repaired and repainted. If there are any parishioners who would like to offer to undertake the task, that would be wonderful. Failing that we will have them done professionally.

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Giorgio who is a Master Cake Maker and his wife **Sabrina** have just arrived from Italy. They are in need of a double bed. If anybody has one that is surplus to your requirements could you contact them on 075170238749 or 01462 422221.