



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 1634

6th – 13th June 2015 The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (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 Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator Carol Cooper	Tel: 01462 459126 carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk
Sacramental Administrator Eve Krol	Tel: 01462 455577
Email:	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)	

Diary

Sunday 7th	Coffee Morning – EDAID Healing Service 3pm Church
Monday 8th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 9th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir Church 8pm
Wednesday 10th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am Praise Group LCR after Mass
Thursday 11th	St Pio Group Church and Hall after Mass Italian Club Hall 1pm
Friday 12th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 14th	Coffee Morning – Kanyike Project

Readings: Ex 24:3-8, Heb 9:11-15, Mark 14:12-16.22-26

Entrance antiphon He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

Psalm: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

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

Response: **Answer our prayer!**

Next week: Ez 17:22-24, Cor 5:6-10, Mark 4:26-34



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.

This Weekend: This weekend we rejoice in the reality of Jesus walking with us and feeding us in our Journey of Faith and Life: as we celebrate His Body and Blood, shared with us and bringing us all into the intimacy of the Love who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit: His Word guiding and inspiring us and leading us to the Kingdom and His food and drink to sustain us and empower us in our lives and hearts. So it is very appropriate that our children who are on the Early Communion Programme are celebrating their Personal Communion, with their Families at the Mass of their choice. We pray for them as they say their personal "yes" to Jesus living in their hearts and lives in the gift of the Eucharist. We pray for Jane, Trish, Teresa and Fr Tom who have been walking with the parents over the year.



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.

3pm: There is the Quarterly Service of Healing and Wholeness, to which anyone is most welcome, there is also the opportunity for Reconciliation and / or the Sacrament of the Sick.

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The **Traidcraft** stall will be open after Masses this morning (Sunday)

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Over the following two weekends we will have the parish welcome Masses where we will rejoice with our children as they receive the Eucharist. Some of the Masses are likely to be quite busy as many family members will be in attendance.

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Fr Michael writes: "Dear Sisters and Brothers, I still have a severe infection and need to continue with the anti-biotics and the doctor was not able to carry out the cystoscopy, this has now been re-scheduled for four weeks time, with the second ultra sound on June 17th and a consultation with the Consultant. The good news is that the CT scan did not reveal anything sinister, but not everything is revealed by it, so I still need the other test. I am very grateful to the ladies of the parish who took me to the various appointments, I am away till next Saturday, to recuperate and gain strength.

On a brighter note, things are in hand for my 50th Anniversary of Ordination: it so happens that the date of the Second Saturday of Lent, is the same as my Ordination: March 5th, so I would like to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with as many of you as can make it, at 11am (the time the Ordination Mass started), there will be refreshments in the Hall afterwards, with the Anniversary of my First Mass on the Sunday, being the same as that day 50 years ago: 10.30am; hopefully this will be followed by a Shared Lunch..

I will also be standing down as Parish Priest at Pentecost next year: a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Spirit who has been working in my time with you and continuing to inspire and guide our Parish, with Fr Tom as Parish Priest, will be celebrated at 10.30am.. I hope to be a "Vocation of Presence" in a similar way to Fr Christopher, when I take up residence in the other House, whenever the flat will be ready.

My thanks again for your prayer, your love and concern for me shown in so many wonderful ways over the past weeks, I hope to begin to return to normal on my return, in time to rejoice in the Parish Welcome to our Children, who are welcomed and recognised in the course of the Masses over next weekend.

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This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team 7
Monday Team 1

Our love and sympathy go to the family of ex-parishioner Helen Buckley who died on 2nd June aged 96 and whose funeral service will be celebrated at 12noon on 22nd June at at St Hugh's Church in Letchworth. Helen was very active in the UCM and Hitchin Cub Group before she moved to



Letchworth. May she rest in peace to rise in glory!

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PARISH FINANCES 2014

The Parish Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2014 have been completed, signed-off by Fr Michael and submitted to the Diocese where they are being audited along with the Accounts of all the other Parishes.

The Accounts shows an operating surplus of £37,821 for the year, which is a significant improvement on the 2013 figures. The better figures are due to many factors including: a significant improvement in Offertory Income resulting from the Offertory Appeal held in October 2013 and a major increase in Parish Centre Revenue coming from rental income from the Bridge Club and other users. There were also significant savings in Clergy Expenses, Non-Clergy Salaries, Housekeeping, Liturgical Expenses and Property Repairs and Renewals. However, with the anticipated fall-off in Offertory Income and pressure on expenditure, we are anticipating an operational deficit from 2016 onwards. We will, therefore, need to continue to keep a tight control on expenditure and to do what we can to maintain Offertory income levels.

A summary of the 2014 Accounts is posted on the Pastoral Council Notice Board in the Porch. If you have any queries, please contact Margaret or Pascal from the Finance Committee

at:

margaret.w.wilson@ntlworld.com

or

pascal.kwo@btinternet.com

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Missio Red boxes: is there a Red Box lurking on top of your fridge or on your bookcase? Or perhaps you have spied a Red Box in the home of a friend or family member. Do you know whether it's been emptied recently?

Thank you to everyone who has a Red Box. If you have one which hasn't been emptied for a while, or know someone who might, please bring it in to Pauline Watkins at Sunday evening Mass or to Carol in the Parish Office. See poster in the porch.



Let's Talk//PHASE are producing a series of videos and supporting resources recognising the issues around self abuse and

our young people. The first video is available for comment on youtube at <https://youtu.be/-ngrSSyMv-E> If you are struggling with any of these issues and would like to talk to somebody and be signposted towards further support then please contact: letstalk@phase-hitchin.org Please pray for the success of this project.

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Pictures for First communion board. Any parents who have not yet sent in a picture of their child please drop it into the office asap or email it to Trish and it will be added to the board.

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Vacancies on the CTH Executive, your help is needed with the following roles: **Treasurer, Justice & Peace officer and Publicity Officer.** Please see notice on the board in porch for full details of what is involved or speak to Trish who is on the Executive. The work involved is not huge and it is so rewarding to be a part of this wonderful ecumenical organisation which bears witness to Christians united together in Hitchin in working for the coming of the Kingdom.

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Sunday June 28th 10.30 Mass

will be a Mass of Welcome to our new parishioners who have joined us over the year, and thanksgiving for the service and ministries offered by our parishioners to the parish. We also take this chance to say our final goodbyes to Jane Gonzalez after her years of service to our Parish and we formally welcome Susanna Hawksley to the role of Catechist Co-ordinator. This mass will be followed by a **Bring and Share Picnic** in the garden if the weather is good or in the hall if it is inclement. Please sign up on the notice in the porch.



Diary

Monday 8th

11am :Mass at Stagenhoe with Canon Danny from Knebworth. If you need a lift please be in the car park at 10.40am.

Wednesday 10th

2pm :Mass at Foxholeswith Fr Tom. All parishioners welcome

Thursday 11th

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 on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Future Dates

June 10-13 **Spirit in the City festival** gathers people of all cultures for a joyful and dynamic Catholic celebration of faith in the West End of London. The events include prayers, talks, celebrations and a Eucharistic street procession and all day festival in Leicester Square gardens on Saturday. For details visit: www.spiritinthecity.org

June 10 **7.30pm Three Witnesses** - a remarkable theatre play based on the Gospel of St Luke. London premiere at Notre Dame de France church An evening not to be missed! Tickets: £7 book online: www.bit.ly/3wtickets or T: 020 7440 2663, E: info@spiritinthecity.org

June 17 **Speak Up: For the love of ...** Join members of the Climate Coalition at the mass lobby of Parliament for an inspirational day of action on climate change. This will be your chance to tell the new government to take strong action to protect everything we hold dear that is threatened by climate change. Over 10,000 are expected, representing all constituencies in the UK. Please consider taking the day as holiday off work to take part. Meeting up at 11.45am outside the Emmanuel Centre on Marsham Street before the ecumenical church service begins at 12pm. After the service there will be films, talks, and displays on climate change. Followed by the finale rally outside Parliament at 4.30pm. The lobby of MPs will take place from 1pm to 4pm and MPs will come out to meet with their constituents in the streets around Parliament.

June 26 7.30pm Prayer service for bereaved parishioners in the church run by Our Lady's Bereavement Support Group. There will be an opportunity to place names in a basket of Remembrance which will be placed on the altar. Light refreshments will be served in the hall after the service.

July 1 **July 1 '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. We hope this will be agreed in December 2015 at the Paris climate summit.

'Pray and fast for the climate' was launched on Saturday 1st November 2014, and is supported by members of the 'Faith for the Climate' network. People may choose to fast and pray for the whole day, to fast during their lunch break or to pray with others in the evening. As part of the 'Pray and Fast for Climate Change' initiative our church will then be open for a vigil prayer time from 18:00 to 20:00 - May the Holy Spirit guide the new political representatives to understand the reality of the problems facing the whole of God's creation, so that they will engage constructively and meaningfully at the 2015 December Paris Summit.

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

July 7 Walsingham Pilgrimage There are a few places available on a coach for the annual UCM Pilgrimage. The coach will leave Shefford at 8 am returning at 7.30 – 8pm. All are welcome to join us. Cost £25 including all pilgrims' costs. To book contact Ann Cook on 01462 453893

Aug 29-31 Cycling pilgrimage to Paris, Phase one, London to Newhaven, Diocese of Westminster Justice and Peace, see: <https://westminsterjp.wordpress.com/2015/03/24/cycling-pilgrimage-to-paris/> for details. If you are a keen cyclist and are looking for the next challenge with a meaning, then consider joining this ride for the sake of Global Climate Justice at the coming Paris Summit in December 2015.

Other Items of interests

The Live Simply team sends thanks to everyone who supported their coffee morning last Sunday, which raised £107

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Lectio Divina Group. break has been longer than initially anticipated but all set to begin again in the pastoral office at 2pm on Friday 19th June. Lectio divina is a way of learning how to listen to God. To quote Michael Casey OCSO "lectio divina is a contact sport, it is like Jacob grappling all night with an angel".(Gen32:22-30) Open to all. Unsure if it is for you? Call me on 07721 574767 and we can have a chat about it. Eileen

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An Italian nurse who is moving into an unfurnished flat in Hitchin in two weeks, needs a table and chairs and a wardrobe. Does anyone have any of these going spare? We also have some parishioners who have a three seater beige leather settee and two matching chairs that they would like to give to a good home if anyone can collect them. Contact Trish about these items on 07801 752141 or by email.

Extra Smile Project in Letchworth serves the many



needy people in our community who are unable to afford or do not have the money and skills to do jobs in their home. There are people in churches who have the skills to help and would welcome the opportunity to serve others in this way. We propose to set up a branch of the Extra Smile Project in Hitchin, our own project but leaning on the experience gained in Letchworth.

The project would operate on one Saturday morning each month. We need to find people who would be willing to be involved with this from all our churches. In the first instance you are invited to find out more about this at a meeting on Saturday 27th June at 9.30am at the Hitchin Christian Centre. It would be great to have some of our parishioner be with Trish at this meeting. Let her know if you can attend.

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WORLD YOUTH DAY The priests of our Deanery (Stevenage) have taken the decision to have our own coach going to next year's World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland where it is anticipated that 2 - 3 million young people (16-30 years old) from across the globe will gather with Pope Francis. The dates are Saturday 23rd July to Tuesday 3rd August, 2016 with no overnight travel and the price roughly £770. Obviously we would do fundraising, seek sponsorship and ensure safeguarding guidelines are followed.

Do think about it for yourself or someone you know. It WILL be a brilliant experience and will definitely enrich our parishes with the enthusiasm of our young people when they return. The planning and promotion of the trip have to start at this early stage to secure the bookings and to fill the coach.

For more information contact the Dean, Fr Norbert Fernandes on 01707 323234 or welwynqndncityeast@rcdow.org.uk

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.