



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 1660



5th – 12th December 2015 Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)



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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Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
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Parish Office Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07958 575 442 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)



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 Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.



Proclaim15 Prayer Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life. May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Diary

Sunday 6th	Coffee Morning – Diapalante Healing Service Church 3pm Confirmation Session Hall 6pm
Monday 7th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 8th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 9th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am Praise Group LCR after Mass
Thursday 10th	St Pio Group Church and Hall after Mass Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 11th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 13th	Coffee Morning – KISS

Readings: Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:3-6.8-11, Luke 3:1-6

Entrance antiphon O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Intercessions: Lord, hear us.....

Response: Fill us with your joy!

Next week: Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team 5 Monday Team 1

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This Weekend: 3pm Sunday afternoon, we are holding our Quarterly Service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.



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At the **5pm Mass**, we will be welcoming another young Parishioner into the Ministry of Service at the Altar.

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.

Next Sunday 13th Dec : 4pm Carols in the Market Place Churches

Together in Hitchin is holding its usual Carols in the Market introduced by Liz Bundy of Hitchin Christian Centre, who will have just taken over the chair of CTH, and Father Michael of Our Lady's. The singing will be accompanied by Hitchin Band. Do come along and bring others with you.



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The recent quiz night held in aid of The Sick Children's Trust was a huge success and raised £1785! The Barnard family would like to thank all those who attended and those who supported the event for their time and generosity. Thanks also to the Church for allowing the event to be hosted in the hall. The cheque was handed over last week and the staff at Acorn House at Addenbrookes Hospital were thrilled with the donation. This will help enable them to continue their valued support. When we went to hand the cheque over the house was completely full. Thank you everyone!

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Thank you for your generosity and support for last week's LiveSimply coffee morning which raised £145. Thank you also to all those parish members who baked, gave items for the raffle and who assisted on the day

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Mid Day Supervisory Assistant Vacancy Our Lady School is looking to recruit a new mid day supervisor to cover the lunchtime period. The hours are from 12:00– 1:15 Monday to Friday. For further information please visit the school website or contact the school office staff who will be happy to answer any queries if you are interested.

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Don't forget that when you do your Christmas shopping online - you could be raising a **free**

donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladysrchitchin>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our

Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Thank you for your support!

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Leticia Kay is going to Mexico and will be visiting the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She is very happy to take your prayers and petitions with her. We have left cards with our book of intercessions for you to complete with your prayers for her to take. She will be collecting them on 10th December.

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Our Maintenance Team has come up trumps again, with a lot of hard work to provide the place for the concrete to serve as the base for a large shed that is needed, as we reach the first stage of implementing the development plan of the premises, initially with the transforming of the Garage into the Pastoral Office, to allow the construction of two flats from Fr Christopher's house. It is hoped to start the major project early in the New year, once planning permission has been obtained. We are very grateful to them for the effort and hard work that has gone into this starting project!

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The Sanctuary has asked if we can collect winter clothing for men. If you have any warm clothing or shoes which may be suitable please bring it in a bag labelled Sanctuary and leave it in the porch.

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The **Traidcraft** stall will be open next Sunday (13th). Orders for items from the catalogue in the porch can be placed through Frances Chamberlain (contact details are on the Traidcraft board). She is fairly confident that items ordered by Monday 14th will arrive in time for Christmas, if in stock.

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Friday 18th December your help needed at 11am Construction of crib we need



as many people as possible to help with this. Please let Trish know if you are able to help even for a short while. Please bring **evergreen** fir, holly and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Thursday 17th Dec.

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FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS As we prepare for Christmas it



would be good to ensure our Crib is well stocked with Poinsettias. We would be delighted to receive them in the coming days. Many thanks!

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 8 December

7.30pm, Patronal Feast and so we will also celebrate an Evening Mass, to mark this day of prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of the Mother of God and for the wellbeing of our Parish.

Tuesday 8 December

6pm The Guiding Association are holding their Christmas Carol Service in our Church, we welcome these young people into our Church and thank God for the commitment and dedication of so many of our young people.

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7pm: STEVENAGE DEANERY To mark the start of the Year of Mercy, there will be Mass in Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church (141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP). This church has been chosen to be a church with 'Doors of Mercy' for our Deanery. The Mass of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady will be followed by light refreshments in the hall. All are welcome

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UCM Advent Service At Shefford

Wednesday 9 December

10am we celebrate the Mass of Resurrection for Daniel Bradley, the grandson of Bill and Margaret Clark, whom many of us will remember fondly, they were great supporters of our Parish. Daniel was for several years at Stagenhoe, to which place he brought much happiness and joy. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

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Noon: the Ministers and Priests of our town come to the celebrate their mission of service to our town, in an early Christmas lunch together.

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1.30pm Morris Buckley 's funeral will be at St Thomas More, Knebworth followed by a reception at the North Star at Mardley Hill. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

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7.30pm Liturgy Committee meeting in the Lower Committee Room to finalise the Advent and Christmas Celebrations.

Friday 11 December

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 Advent. All welcome.

Saturday 12 December

11am Our Families on the Reconciliation Programme, celebrate the Sacrament for the first time with their children. We pray for our young people on this important step in the Journey into

the richness of our Faith. Replaces the normal Celebration on a Saturday. Parishioners welcome

Future Dates

Dec 8 Pax Christi Advent Peace Service & Market: at St Aloysius Church, Euston, London NW1 1TA. 7:30pm–10pm. The Annual Advent Peace Service and alternative Christmas Market with goods from Palestine, Philippines, JRS and more.. and Pax Christi Christmas cards and gifts. The music will be led by Julie McCann... if you are interested in being in the choir contact the office. Tel: +44 (0)20 8203 4884 or E-mail: info@paxchristi.org.uk

Dec 8 7-8.30pm Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN 'Christ and Chalcedon'. At the Council of Chalcedon, the Church definitively articulated its faith that Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Fr. Dominic Ryan OP shows how the Church came to recognize the two natures of Christ, and why this is important. Fr. Dominic Ryan OP is a Dominican Friar based at St. Dominic's, Haverstock Hill. He teaches Christology at Blackfriars Hall and Studium, Oxford.

Dec 11 7-9pm An extraordinary Jubilee dedicated to Divine Mercy has been announced by Pope Francis commencing 8th December 2015. Bishop Nicholas will celebrate a Youth Mass December 11th at St Aloysius, Euston, during which he will reflect on the start of Divine Mercy Jubilee year. We hope that young people of our parish will also want to attend.

Dec 12 The Nativity Experience Tours Every 1/2 Hour from 4pm to 8pm Tickets £1, Children FREE

Set in the beautiful grounds of Hitchin Priory, come on an atmospheric journey back to the very first Christmas, 2000 years ago. Meet shepherds, angels and wise men as you travel to find the baby in a manger. An unmissable experience of about 50 mins for all ages. The experience is set in the open air, walking on grassland. We suggest you bring good, waterproof footwear and wrap up warm! Unfortunately due to the nature of the site, wheelchair access to the main scenes of the experience is not possible, however our refreshments tent and photo booth are accessible to all. Hitchin Priory, Tilehouse St, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 2DL

Dec 12 & 13 12noon to 6pm **The 19th Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival:** Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Admission £3.50: accompanied children free.

Faith Matters: Advent 2015. 'Behold, this is our God' Registration is required to secure your place. Please e-mail at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6078. There is a suggested donation of £4 per talk

Dec 15 7-8.30pm Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN, '**Christ the Fulfilment of our Hope**' Fr Gregory Pearson OP explores the Church's hope in Christ as expressed in the liturgy of Advent. Fr. Gregory is a Dominican Friar based at St. Dominic's, Haverstock Hill where he currently works on the parish

Other Items of interest:

From the Reverend Henton-Pusey on behalf of PHASE Please may I thank your generous congregation, for the wonderful support that you have given to Phase in the Pedalling Priests event, and for the astonishingly marvellous total of £1000. The new opening up of the relationship between Our Lady's and Phase is I believe a direct result of this event, and I'm quietly confident of the positive way that this will develop in the future.

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Hitchin Christian centre are helping to put together **75 Christmas Hampers** for those who otherwise would not be able to afford a good Christmas meal. Our church has been asked to provide **chocolate logs** for these hampers. Could you please add a chocolate log to your shopping trolley when you next shop and then drop into the church porch in the box provided by 22nd December. If you are able to help put these hampers together from 10am-12pm on 23rd December at the Priory School please contact Phil Jackson on phil.jackson@hcc.org.uk.

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News from the Diocese: Bishop Francis has appointed two new Bishops for our Diocese, one is the parish Priest of Watford, Canon Paul McAleenan and Mgr John Wilson from the Diocese of Leeds. Bishop John of Hertfordshire is taking responsibility for North London and the Bishop-elect Paul, will be with us from next year. We will be sorry to lose Bishop John, as he has endeared himself to us over the comparatively short time he has been with us, but we will support and welcome our new Bishop when he comes, with warmth and affection, as hopefully he will actually be living in our County!

Church Cleaning We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday or Saturdays. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email **Hannah Granger** at steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk



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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church. Please note re collection of old pens that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that EDAID collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or EDAID have a coffee morning.

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Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests: For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Revd Jane Hatton 01438 285138... or jane.hatton@nhs.net

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Choir members always welcome If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord and you are able to read music come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Tuesday evening for the practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

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St Francis Ramblers invite parishioners to join them on their walk **on Sunday 13 December** (Suitable footwear please!). Meet Stevenage station, walkers' train due in at 0946. Distance 10 miles with lunch stop (at The Rusty Gun, London Road, St Ippolyts, Langley, SG4 7PG), finishing at Hitchin in time for carol singing and mulled wine. Please call Paul on 07847 28 26 26 for more details.