



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 1661

12th – 19th December 2015 Third 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
Fr Tom O'Brien	frtomaa@gmail.com
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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.



Year of Mercy Prayer Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and our Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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.

Diary

Sunday 13th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 14th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 15th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Union of Catholic Mothers Hall 8pm
	Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 16th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
	Reconciliation Service Church 7.30pm
Thursday 17th	Rosary - Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 18th	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 20th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

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

Entrance antiphon Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Psalm: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel

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

Response: Hear our prayer!

Next week: Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-44

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team 6 Monday Team 4

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This Weekend: we rejoice with the Families and Children who have celebrated their first Reconciliation this weekend. Our prayer goes with them as they enter the preparation for First Eucharist.

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Traidcraft stall will be open this Sunday 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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Sunday at 4pm Carols in the Market Place led by the new Chair of Churches Together and Fr Michael - a chance for us to proclaim our faith in the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

The Year of Mercy began on December 8th and we will be considering ways of taking the messages of the Mercy of Christ into our parish and our lives, over the coming weeks. To help us in our prayer at this time we are reintroducing **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in our church on a regular basis after the 10am Mass on Saturday until 11.15am. This will begin on Saturday **19th December** so please do consider spending some time with Our Lord in this very special way.



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Foodbank serving Letchworth and Hitchin. When people can't afford food they very often can't afford either gas or electricity for heating or cooking. If you receive a Winter Fuel Allowance and don't really need it, why not donate some or all of it to the Foodbank so that we can help those who can't afford to heat or light their homes or buy food for their families. To offer this please contact Ciaran of the St Vincent DePaul Society on 01462 483627.

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Our Schools close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday: we pray for our Staff and Children that they be refreshed and renewed through the Celebrations of this Holy Season.

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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!

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CAFOD collection will be held after all masses next weekend (**19th/20th December**). Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors.

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FRENCH FLAG A kind parishioner lent a French flag for the Michaelmas Fair. Unfortunately we can't remember who owns it. If you would like it back please **contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)**

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There are a number of audio spiritual talks in the Parish Library. Feel free to borrow them.

Somewhere to go' at Walsworth Baptist Church gives homeless and vulnerable people somewhere to go on Christmas Day (11am–5pm) for Christmas dinner and company; Boxing Day (28th) and New Year's Day (10am–4pm) for a meal and company. If you would like to come, please book by contacting barbara.liberty@btinternet.com or 07752875608.

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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 labeled Sanctuary and leave it in the porch.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 14 December

11am Mass at Stagenhoe led by Fr Tom. If you need a lift please be in church car park by 10.35.

Tuesday 15 December

2pm Mass at Milford Lodge Care Home. All parishioners welcome.

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8pm: UCM Christmas Carols and Social Evening in the Hall.

Wednesday 16 December

7.30pm: Service of Penance and Renewal, as we turn towards the Coming of Christ in Bethlehem, we open ourselves up to His loving Mercy expressed in this way.

Sunday 20 December

6.15pm: Carols and Readings for preparing for the great day of our Saviour's birth, led by our Young Ministers of the Word and choir. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow.

Other items of interest

Hitchin Christian centre 75 Christmas Hampers for those who otherwise would not be able to afford a good Christmas meal. So far your generosity has provided **51 chocolate logs** so we need only **24** more by next weekend. Thank you so much.



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Spiritual Dance /Study days to be held at Convent Chapel, Digby Stuart College, Roehampton University, London, SW15 5PU on Saturdays Jan 23rd, Feb 20th, March 19th, May 7th, June 11th, July 9th

10am coffee Dance 10.30 until 4pm. Please bring food to share for lunch. A contribution for the day is £10. Trish may be going to some of these and is happy to give a lift to people. They are very uplifting and no dance experience is required.