



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 1662

19th Dec 2015 – 2nd January 2016 Fourth 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
Fr Euloge Kasine	eulogeka@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 Eve Krol Administrator	Tel: 01462 455577 hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk
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)

Diary

Sunday 20th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
Monday 21st	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 22nd	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm
	Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 23rd	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 24th	See separate sheet
Friday 25th	See separate sheet
Saturday 26th	See separate sheet
Sunday 27th	Coffee Morning
Tuesday 29th	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm
Sunday 3rd Jan	Coffee Morning - Diapalante

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

Entrance antiphon Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Psalm: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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

Response: Hear our prayer!

Next week: Sam 1:20-22,24-28, 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24,Lk 2:41-52

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team 7 Monday Team 3

††††††††††

Next week's counting teams:
Sunday Team 1 Monday Team 2

††††††††††



collection will be taken after all masses this weekend. Gift aid envelopes are available in the porch or from the collectors.

††††††††††

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.

Christmas Collection It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collection are made out to the Parish, and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place (the Christmas collection goes to the Priests of our parish)

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: our thoughts turn more and more to the Coming of Christ in Bethlehem, and our Young Ministers of the Word and Choir will lead us in our time of Readings and Carols on **Sunday evening at 6.15pm:** everyone is welcome to share in this joyous moment of peace and joy as we experience the Lord's love and mercy for us through His Son, Jesus. This is followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.



††††††††††

Monday 21st December: the Funeral Mass for Denny D'Cruxe is at 11.30am. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Our love and sympathy go to Valerie his wife and his family. The Service of Cremation will take place on Wednesday 23rd at Luton at 1pm.



For other events at this time, please make sure you have the Special Christmas Sheet which has been prepared for us.

††††††††††

May the Coming of our Saviour bring you all much peace, happiness and love to receive and to share with others over this time, which is also challenging for so many people who are less fortunate than ourselves.



††††††††††

Fr Andrew sends his thanks for all the Christmas greetings you have sent and also for the messages of condolence on the recent death of his sister.

††††††††††

Nominations are invited for vacancies to the Parish Pastoral Council. Application forms are available from the link; please complete and return to the Parish Office by 8th January.

††††††††††

'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.

††††††††††

Go green this Christmas - CAFOD advice

Christmas time is full of great joy and happiness but it's also a time when we create a huge amount of waste - an estimated 736,571 tonnes each year in Britain alone. CAFOD's Web Editor Ffion has shared 6 top tips to make it your greenest Yuletide yet. <http://blog.cafod.org.uk/2014/12/11/six-ways-to-have-a-greener-christmas/> We can all embrace the "4 Rs" this Christmas - Reduce / Re-Use / Recycle / Recover (energy)". Let's do as much

recycling as facilities are available, because we are doing it out of love for God and great respect for all of his Creation everywhere.

Christmas Messages to Bethlehem: This is a simple but important way of showing solidarity with the people of Bethlehem at this time. You can find out how to do this here <http://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/resources-and-documents/>

And use this link to find a short video "Silent Night Bethlehem" which points to some of the events in Bethlehem this past year. <https://www.facebook.com/SADAKAireland/videos/991165590924711/>

††††††††††



After another year of rounding-up the recycling in the parish, Deolinda Eltringham is pleased to let you all know that this month of December the parish received a cheque from Terracycle for the recycling collected and sent to them from November 2014 to the end of October 2015.

In the last 12 months we raised £758.80 divided as follows:

A - £108.80 will this time be paid directly to the N.H.Sanctuary (from the writing instruments)
B - £650.00 paid to the parish, including all other recycling items, and to be shared as follows:

- £ 505.20 to Fr Jean-Marie's Congo project (from all the coffee packaging and Tassimo discs)
- £ 95.98 to the Parish Hardship Fund (from Biscuit Wrappers)
- £ 48.82 to the Parish funds (phones and laptops)

In total since we have started in Dec 2012, the combined funds raised are now of £1292.48

Fr. Jean-Marie's DRC Project - £ 811.00
North Herts Sanctuary - £ 225.98 (already paid directly)

Parish Hardship Fund - £ 174.00

Parish funds - £ 81.50

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL supporters! As we go into the Christmas season and into next year I would very much like to encourage many more parishioners to contribute to our recycling program in the parish. Finally, the funds raised from the coffee packaging and Tassimo discs recycling, from this Advent season onwards will be donated to the PHASE project in Hitchin that provides support and counseling to school children in Hitchin schools.