



# 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 1667

## 30<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Fourth Sunday of the Year (C)

<b>Mass Times</b>
<b>Saturday</b> anticipating 6pm
<b>Sunday</b> 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm
<b>Monday – Saturday</b> 10am
<b>Reconciliation Saturday</b> 10.30am

<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Michael Lambert	E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Tom O'Brien	<a href="mailto:frtomaa@gmail.com">frtomaa@gmail.com</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine	<a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
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<b>Parish Administrator</b> Carol Cooper	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk">carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk</a>
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<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

### Diary

<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Live Simply Group
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group UCR 11.15-12.30pm
	ACTs Group Supper LCR 7pm
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	ACTs Group Lunch LCR 1pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm
	Choir practice 8pm Church
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
	Baptism Refresher Course Pastoral Office 7.30pm
	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup></b>
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – OLSSG



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.**



**Readings: Jer 1:4-5,17-19, Cor 12:31-13:13, Luke 4:21-30**

*Entrance antiphon:* Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

*Psalm: My lips will tell of your help.*

*Intercessions:* Lord, have mercy.....

*Response: Teach us how to love!*

**Next week: Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11**

**This week's counting teams:**

**Sunday Team 6 Monday Team 1**

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**Carol Cooper** the parish Administrator has decided to retire from the parish and will be leaving at the end of February. Carol has been ensuring the smooth running of our parish administration since 2002 and she will be greatly missed. Trish will arrange for cards to be available in the porch for people to sign and welcomes donations for her leaving present.

**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.

**This Weekend:** We pray for our Catechumens and Candidates as they sign the Book of Elect at the 5pm Mass. They will take the page to Westminster on 13<sup>th</sup> February to the Right of Election. May God bless and sustain them in their journey of faith.

On Sunday evening the Priests of the Deanery gather at Welwyn Garden City to say farewell to Bishop John and welcome to Bishop Paul, who was ordained on Monday. We will have the pleasure of welcoming him to our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Candidates on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the 5pm Mass. He will also preside the Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr Michael's Ministry for the past 16 years and induct Fr Tom as our new Parish Priest on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Bishop John has written to us to express his deep gratitude to us. He wishes his greetings and thanks go to all of us, clergy and parishioners for all that we have done in our personal capacity.

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**6.30pm Taize service** at St Mark's. It will include Bible readings and quiet reflection, with music from the Taize community.

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**Next Sunday:** at 10.30am Mass: we welcome Henry Newstead and his family to complete the ceremonies of Baptism: we pray for them all that they may be blessed as the undertake the formation of Henry into faith and life.



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Our next gardening session is next Saturday 7th February between 9am and 12. Everyone is welcome, no matter your ability or suspected lack of it!



All help very much appreciated.

If you would like any further information please contact Helen Bailey on 07771 552058 or [hbailey@talktalk.net](mailto:hbailey@talktalk.net).

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**Fr Michael Jubilee** We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Fr Michael's ordination on 5th/6th March 2016. You are invited to attend the services which will be March 5th 11am Mass followed by a catered reception in the hall. This will be 50 years to the day that Fr Michael was ordained.



Then on Sunday 6th March Fr Michael will celebrate the 10.30 Mass which will be the 50th anniversary of the first Mass that he said. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch in the hall.

We would be grateful if you could sign up on the sheets in the porch so we have an idea of numbers for both days and what food you will bring on the Sunday.

Also if you have any photos of Fr Michael from his time in the parish could you let Trish have a copy (electronic or paper) as we are compiling an album for him. If you still want to make a donation please hand envelopes with Fr M 50th on the front to Trish or to Carol Cooper in the office.

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**GIFT AID TAX REBATE** A big "thank you" to everyone who makes their offerings to the Parish under the Gift Aid scheme. We have now received the tax rebate for offerings made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of **£25,416.00**.

This is one of the largest tax rebates that we have ever received and reflects the fact that so many of you signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations during the Appeal, which we held in 2013; and it includes the rebates on all your other donations, which are welcome additions to our return.

Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do - **AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY !!**

To sign-up or to get more information, please speak to one of the members of the Finance Committee who will be in the Porch after Mass; alternatively, please contact David Wilson our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organiser on tel: **01462 627784** or email him via the Parish at

[hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)

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**CTH Lent house groups** A list of people who have kindly offered

their homes and time to hold these groups is in the porch this Sunday. Using the booklet entitled **All Is Gift** by Barbara Wood of Kew the groups offer the chance to meet and learn with people from other churches in informal friendly discussion. Participants may join in the discussion or simply listen to others. Do sign up for one. There are times to suit all places. The course lasts 5 weeks.

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**UCM Mass at Westminster Cathedral.** Members of the parish are welcome to join the UCM who are running a coach to the Annual Mass at the Cathedral on Saturday 9th April 2016. We will leave at 11am, Mass is at 2pm, returning to Hitchin around 5pm depending on traffic. For further information please ring **Ann Cook** on **01462 453893**.

**Our Year of Mercy:** the Diocese has sent us a link to a booklet for Lent for those living the Covenant of Marriage or are preparing so to do. The following booklet has been recommended as a Lenten reflection on mercy in marriage and personal relationships:

<https://marriageresourcecentre.org/shop/mercy-booklet/>

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **Monday 1 Feb**

**11.30am** Funeral of John Furphy, here in our Church followed by Cremation at Harwood Park. We continue our prayer for Phaedra, Austin and Dominic, his immediate family and all who will be gathering to share in this time of prayer. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!



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**7 pm: Proclaim '15 response** - Pope Francis has asked us to spread the Word of God to those around us. Under the banner of Proclaim '15, Cardinal Vincent is asking us to look at projects which would help reach out to people of all ages, those who are lapsed, those who don't know Our Lord at all; those who have lost their way or anyone who wants to get to know Our Lord. We are meeting tonight for supper and to talk about how we can do this. Please let Trish know if you are able to come. (alternative time Tues at 1pm for lunch)

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**7 pm:** Full Governing Body Meeting of John Henry Newman School.

#### **Tuesday 2 Feb**

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE:** the closure of the Christmas Season. The Crib will be taken down at 11am: we need volunteers to help with this so please do come along for an hour.

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**1pm LCR: Proclaim '15 response** there is a repeat of Monday Evening's gathering for those who were unable to attend then: anyone who can make it is more than welcome but let Trish know for catering.

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**8pm UCM Business Meeting** in Lower Committee Room



### **Future Dates**

**Feb 8** **8pm CTH Council meeting** at Tilehouse Street Baptist church. There will be a few items of business then members of the Hitchin Churches Youth and Children's Forum will lead a session on work with children and young people. You may or may not be aware that this Forum,

organised by PHASE, meets regularly to support this work which goes on outside/alongside the work in schools. Liz Bundy wants to highlight this important work during her year and we look forward to a good session.

**Feb 10** 12.30 pm at Holy Saviour, there will be the annual **Ash Wednesday lunch** for Christian Aid. Soup, rolls, fruit, plus a Traidcraft stall.

**Feb 13** There will be a **street collection in the town centre for Syrian refugees**. The money raised will go via the Red Cross to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society which is actively providing food and medical relief for those trapped, starving and injured in their home towns. It is hoped that Christians and members of other faith groups will stand together on that day to collect from people in the town.

### **Other items of interest**

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 3pm.**

The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please let Carol (Parish Office) know the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by the 3rd March 2016.

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Our first Farmers Market will held in the Church Hall on Friday **12th February** between 1-4pm. Tea & coffee will also be available and not forgetting homemade cake. Lots on offer from local businesses selling cheese, fresh baked bread, chocolate to name but a few. Please come and support your local businesses and put the date in your diary. There will also be a raffle too! If any aspiring foodies are out there please let me know and you can also sell your products. I will need some help on the day and if you can contact me on [giuseppinawalker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:giuseppinawalker@hotmail.co.uk) that would be great.

## The Foodbank has the following shortages:

- Instant Potato
- Dried Milk
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- UHT Milk
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Carrier Bags (preferably the strong type)



Please do grab one of these next time you are shopping and pop it into the tub in the church porch.

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**Items to give away** There is a sofa bed and futon, and a Moses basket to offer the parish if anyone is in need. Contact **Steph Dias** on **07954 104491** if you are interested.


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**Paid help needed** Family in central Hitchin needs someone for 2 hours (10am to midday) on 3 days a week (Tues, Wed & Thurs) to walk their cocker spaniel and prepare evening meal. Pay £8.00 ph. Contact Chrissi Evans on 07811 328798.

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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](mailto:jane.hatton@nhs.net)

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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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**Catholic People's Weeks - (CPW)** This Catholic Lay Organisation organises a range of events during the year 'Holidays that make a difference' for people of all ages. Some brochures are in the Link or visit [www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk](http://www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk) for more information. Greg Hewitson is our local contact. 01462 637150.

## Faith Development Helpline

You may know someone who has not been to our church for a long time. Of course, there can be a multitude of reasons for this. Some people go through their whole lives without any serious doubts about their faith but many of us are not so blessed and can be assailed by doubts and difficulties that can be a block to the practise of our faith.

**They might not have anyone to talk to about it.**

Our Parish offers a service for anyone to talk in complete confidence with a sympathetic and thoughtful listener. You do not need to identify yourself if you do not wish to; this could be a great help in dealing with a problem.

A group of parishioners have taken on the role of Listeners at the end of the phone. You need to be free to say anything you wish to so the listeners have had some life experience, are not easily shocked, not judgmental, and are able to hold a conversation in confidence and to gently make suggestions as to a way forward if appropriate.

**Please call us – we want to help**



**Our Lady's Parish  
Faith  
Development  
Helpline**

Problems or doubts  
about your faith?  
Are you feeling a bit  
lost?

**Try ringing  
07582 648433**

This is a  
confidential  
service and  
follows Parish  
Safeguarding  
Policies

**Tues, Weds,  
Thurs  
8pm – 10pm**