



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 1668

6th – 13th February 2016 Fifth Sunday of the 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)



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.

Diary

Sunday 7th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG Confirmation 6pm Hall
Monday 8th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Meditation Group UCR 11.15-12.30pm
Tuesday 9th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 10th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am Praise Group LCR after Mass
Thursday 11th	Rosary Church after Mass Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 12th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Saturday 13th	Bereavement Meeting Hall 2pm
Sunday 14th	Coffee Morning – KISS

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

Entrance antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

Psalm: **Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.**

Intercessions: Lord, hear us.....

Response: **Make us your messengers!**

Next week: Deut 26:4-10, Rom 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team 7 Monday Team 2



The new counting rota has been published and copies are available for those who have not got email.

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This 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.



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 celebrate Education Sunday, giving thanks for all who minister and serve our Children in their early formation in faith and life. There is as usual a wonderful display of the Children's work for us to appreciate in the Hall. At the heart of the Mass there will be the completion of the Baptismal Rites for Henry Newstead, so we pray for him and his family as they start his Journey into Faith and Life! Each life is precious and the formation received is of critical importance for their full development as Citizens and Members of our Church.

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Next Saturday: RCIA: Rite of Sending / Election

We will journey to the Cathedral to celebrate the Rite of Election (of the catechumens – those preparing for baptism) and the Call to Continuing Conversion (of the candidates – those who are baptised but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist) with Cardinal Vincent. We will hold them all in our prayers at this important moment in their Journey into Faith.

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Fr Michael Jubilee Please do sign up for the celebrations on the 5th and / or 6th March. The 5th is catered for and the 6th will be a bring and share meal.



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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CTH Lent house groups are still up. If you want to sign up for a group this is the last weekend. 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**.

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Thank you for your generosity and support for last week's LiveSimply coffee morning which raised £122.42. Thank you also to all those parish members who baked, donated items and assisted on the day.

Lectio Divina – something for Lent perhaps? We look at the Sunday Gospel and try to enter more consciously into its meaning for us today.

As we wish and feel able, we share what we are receiving and then give thanks in prayer for having had the time together. The group is small ranging from between 3-7 attendees at any one time and we meet in the Parish Pastoral Office.

We begin at 2pm and finish around 2.30 -2.45 to allow for collection of children from school. Should you wish to join us then please feel Free to do so, at any time.

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Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral
Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm.

The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (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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Support for divorced or remarried Parishioners: is being offered:

Beginning Experience

There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or the death of a partner from 15th to 17th April 2016 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent.

For details please contact Sandra 01293-783965, Freda 01322-838415 or John 01992-642443 email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Monday 8 Feb

Fr Michael is working with Years 5 and 6, at Our Lady's School, to explore more deeply the Sacrament of Reconciliation and its importance in our daily lives.

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8pm: Quarterly Meeting of the Council for Churches Together in Hitchin, to plan ahead and work together on the various projects which we have initiated. The Meeting is at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church.

Tuesday 9 Feb

We are holding the first Deanery Meeting for the Priests in the Parishes and move forward together in our work for the Year of Mercy and other areas for importance.

Wednesday 10 Feb

WE CELEBRATE THE START OF LENT AND OUR JOURNEY OF LIVING THE VARIOUS FACETS OF THE LORD'S YEAR OF MERCY. Let us live this time as a means of love and service to those around us and create positive steps to show the Mercy of the Lord to others, in practical ways.

Today is one of the two days in the year when we are asked to FAST and ABSTAIN from meat. Masses are at 7.30am, 10.00am and 7.30pm.

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

Friday 12 Feb

We are holding a Farmers' Market in our Parish Hall from 1.00pm till 4.00pm. We are very grateful to Giuseppina Walker, who has taken the initiative to organise this and caring for the local produce of our area, that we benefit directly from it when it is at its freshest! Do come along and support our local farmers..

Saturday 13 Feb

Day of Prayer for the Sick across the world, to pray and support those who are in need of medical attention, for all the medical and nursing staffs who look after them and the many carers who work tirelessly behind the scenes on a day to day basis.

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2.00pm: our Bereavement Team have organised an Afternoon Meeting for all those of you who have been bereaved over the last year in particular, but all who are still grieving over the years are most welcome too. It finishes at 4.00pm.

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Street collection in the town centre for Syrian refugees

This will take place on Saturday 13 February and 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. If you would like to be a collector for one or two hours, please contact John Richardson on 01462 435595, 07505 426876 or johnrichardson891@btinternet.com

Future Dates

Feb 27

Spring fair at Christchurch, Bedford Road, Hitchin, 1.30pm-5.00pm. On the day there will be a nearly new stall – clothes and toys, cream teas, teas and coffee and lots of fun for the family. Please come and support the Angels Support Group, *which is a parent led voluntary organisation and Registered Charity set up in North Hertfordshire to support parents and carers of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and/or Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).* . If you would like to know any further information please contact: info@angelsupportgroup.org.uk or contact telephone: 01462 685150

Mar 19

HOLY WEEK RETREAT for RCIA Groups

10.30am – 1.30pm / (Optional pilgrimage to St. Albans Abbey at 1.30pm)

@Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church, Hazeldine Road, London Colney, St. Albans, Herts, AL2 1RP Nearest Train Station is Radlett – we can provide transport to and from the station.

Retreat Talks will be given by:

- **Mary Boland**
 - **Being Catholic in the secular world**
 - **Fr. Richard Nesbitt**
 - **Our Vocation as Catholics**
 - **Rev. Anthony Curran**
 - **When we fail to live up to the Gospel ideals**
- The retreat will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession.

BOOKING DETAILS

This retreat morning is aimed at RCIA groups in the diocese and especially those people preparing to be baptised or received into the Catholic Church. The retreat is free, but please bring a packed lunch if required.

(Refreshment will be Provided.)

Please book a place asap by Emailing: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk / or call: 020 7798 9150

May 17

MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS – Westminster Cathedral – 7th May

Those attending the mass are warmly invited to join us for refreshments and to hear some short presentation before going to the cathedral to join the Cardinal for mass.

4pm Tea & Welcome in Vaughan House – Conference Room.
 4.30pm – Being Catholic / Hopes & Fears – Theresa O’Sullivan
 5 pm – Sharing the Good News of the Catholic Faith – TBC 5.30pm – Preparing to celebrate mass as new Catholics with our Bishop – Mary Crowley & Rev. Anthony Curran
 6pm - Mass with Cardinal Vincent
 Please book a place asap by Emailing: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk / or call: 020 7798 9150.

Other items of interest



HERTFORDSHIRE
 CONSTABULARY



Invitation to join Hertfordshire Senior Watch

We have a growing number of older residents in Hertfordshire, many of whom live alone. While most crimes affect younger people, many older residents have accrued savings or receive income from pensions, so some criminals target this using tactics such as rogue trading, frauds and scams. Hertfordshire’s hugely successful Neighbourhood Watch alerts over 100,000 members to current local crime trends, providing crime prevention and other safety advice, but many older people don’t have email access, so aren’t able to directly receive our messages.

In order to reach out to our older residents, we are seeking the help of caring local people who have regular contact with older residents, and asking them to share information and advice to help keep them safe.

To achieve this, we have created “**Senior Watch**”. We would like to invite local senior residents to join, and also any other residents who have older neighbours or relatives, or who care for an elderly person in a personal or professional capacity.

Senior Watch will work alongside Neighbourhood Watch, but with messages specifically for our senior residents. We will work with other local agencies to inform members about local support services and support groups, and provide other useful advice, such as how to access a vetted and trustworthy tradesperson.

By joining “Senior Watch” you will receive OWL messages from your local policing team which we would like you to pass on to senior residents with whom you come into contact.

Senior Watch membership is voluntary and completely free-of-charge. Your contact details will be held securely on the OWL system and will not be shared with any other business or organisation. If at any time you wish to cease membership, you



can opt out and request that your details are deleted from the system. To register, visit: www.owl.co.uk/herts/senior

Interested in the Christian approach to Punishment and Prison? Pact – Prison Advice & Care Trust, a Catholic prison charity is seeking two new trustees to give guidance, to ensure good governance, strategic oversight and direction. Pact is a growing, award-winning independent Catholic national charity working in prisons and communities across England & Wales. Its aim is to offer realistic hope of a fresh start to tens of thousands of prisoners, ex-prisoners, offenders, children and families.

To find out more visit www.prisonadvice.org.uk/get-involved or call **Chris Dunne: 020 7735 9535**

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.



Don’t forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a **free donation** for **Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin**? You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and 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. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for

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.
 Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself