



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 1669

13th – 20th February 2016 First Sunday of Lent 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 Administrator Carol Cooper	Tel: 01462 459126 carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk
Sacramental Eve Krol Administrator	Tel: 01462 455577 hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07958 575 442
Website:	parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
E-mail:	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.



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 14th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 15th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group UCR 11.15-12.30pm
Tuesday 16th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm
	Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 17th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 18th	St Pio Prayer Group Church and Hall after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 19th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 21st	Coffee Morning – One World Group

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

Entrance antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Psalm: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

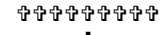
Intercessions: Lord, hear us.....

Response: Walk with us in our daily lives!

Next week: Gen 15:5-12.17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team 1 Monday Team 3



Job Vacancy in our parish A Parish Administrator to provide administrative, secretarial and bookkeeping support to the Parish. Salary £10-£12 per hour. Hours: 3 hours per day/12 hours per week (10am to 1pm Monday to Thursday). A detailed job description and application form is available on the Diocesan website and the closing date for applications is 3 March 2016.

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



Happy Valentine's Day

Show your love for Creation this month by wearing your green heart.

This Valentine's Day we're showing how much we care about the impact of climate change on the earth and on

our global neighbours by wearing and sharing green hearts with those we love.

The only way the Paris climate deal means anything is if we bring it home – and make sure that the climate pledges made in our name are honoured.

We can bring this message of hope to our communities by making, wearing and sharing a green heart this February. It's a beautiful way to begin a conversation with people about the things you love that climate change threatens, and the clean energy choices we must make to protect our world.

It's important to keep the momentum going to make sure ambition behind the climate deal continues and grows.

So this February, as part of the Climate Coalition, we'll be sharing our hearts individually, in schools and with groups in our parishes to spread the word – both online and off – about the importance of clean energy and a just world.

“Personal and community actions such as these seem like small contributions to the climate change debate, but they can lead to real life policy change,” said Libby Abbott, CAFOD's Campaigns Coalition Manager.

“Last Valentine's Day our green heart message reached the highest rungs of government when Prime Minister David Cameron and the former leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Labour Party – Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband – all signed a declaration committing to tackle climate change.”

Let's make this year even more special.

We begin all Masses this weekend with a Video made by our Pope. His prayer intention for February is:

“THAT WE MAY TAKE GOOD CARE OF CREATION –A GIFT FREELY GIVEN– CULTIVATING AND PROTECTING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

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CAFOD COLLECTION will take place after just one world

Masses next weekend (20/21st

February) The government will match our donations pound for pound thus doubling our contributions, so this is an opportunity not to be missed. Our next collection will be in July. Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors.

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The **Traidcraft** stall will be open next weekend.



Our love and sympathy go to:

The Family of **Bridie Pinney**, who died recently: John and Anthony her sons and their families. She was a very long standing member of our Parish and had been actively involved with our Scouting movement; the Bethany Club; the UCM and CWL. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

The family of **Gill Blake**, who died after a long illness and for whom we have been accompanying in prayer over the past months. We hold Colin, her husband and Lauren-Emma, their daughter, in our prayer that they may feel comforted and supported by our community at this difficult time for them. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

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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.

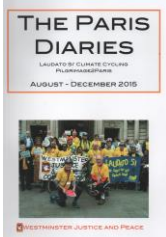
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Ready for Lent a new Resource: 'Lent Fast, Vegetarian Feats – Go Veggie for Lent Cookbook.' 20



booklets are now available in Hitchin after masses, at £3 for one or £5 for two. Compiled by members and fellow-cyclists to Paris including our Fr. Tom, it

highlights the need for us all to eat less meat to protect our planet. Also, read up on our Paris Pilgrimage also with Fr Joe Ryan's call to action on the next stage of our Climate Campaign with **The Paris Diaries** also available from us at £3 each or two for £5 (or same prices for combinations of both books). Please complete the order sheet if you want a copy of this.



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Our Prayers and best wishes go to Tilehouse Baptist Church, who have invited **Rev Jane Robson** to be their new Minister. We look

forward to meeting her and seeing her share with us in the Mission of Churches Together in Hitchin. More details as to her arrival and induction will come in due course.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 16 February

2pm Mass at Milford Lodge All parishioners very welcome.

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8pm: The Union of Catholic Mothers meeting in the Lower Committee Room will include a speaker from Cancer Hair Care.

Wednesday 17 February

11.30am The funeral of Ronald Cooper who was 96. We pray for his family at this time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!



Thursday 18 February

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 the month of the Sacred Passion. All Welcome.

Future Dates



It is believed that the UK government will call for a final vote on renewing Trident nuclear weapons in March this year. There is a call for a mass rally to show our opposition to its approval being organised for **Saturday 27th February** in London.

Pax Christi and the Network of Christian Peace Organisations is supporting a major national demonstration called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) to Stop Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system. We want to make sure that this will be the biggest protest against nuclear weapons in a generation, we need your help.

Pax Christi invitation: Join us on the day, we are organising a gathering for interfaith prayer at 11 am at Hinde Street Methodist Church, Hinde Street, London, W1U.

We will then join the march under the banner 'No Faith in Trident'... The march will assemble 12 noon at Marble Arch, and march to Trafalgar Square for a rally with contributions from political

and celebrity speakers, due to end around 4pm. Full detail here

http://paxchristi.org.uk/event/stop-trident-national-rally/?instance_id=492

Would you be free and interested in taking part, in this mass effort to show our love for God's creation and His children, present and in the future?

Pope Francis has pointed out in the past if God's Children don't speak up, then we deserve what we get, we are called to be the salt of the Earth and Light to the world we read recently!

If enough of us go by train we can get a group discount. We would meet at the station at 9.40 and aim to get the 10 am train. If you wish to come please let Trish Bonnett or Deolinda Eltringham know.

Other items of interest

Going free to clear space Pram with folding steel frame undercarriage with brakes and three removable top structures

- Moses basket

- Full pram box about 750mm long

- the third is intermediate in size between the two

See noticeboard for pictures.

Also a McClaren folding buggy which has seen lots of action - the back wheels are very worn - and the fabric is faded but it appears to be complete and has all the safety harness stuff For any of these items please contact John Scott johnsletchworth@ntlworld.com

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Help needed with two Polish boys in the summer. An appeal by Tomek and Teresa Pernak. Since year 2013 we have helped to place young Polish people with British families for a week, two or three during summer time.

This year we have two candidates, boys aged 14 and 12. The main goal is to help them to learn English, therefore the best would be having them separated and placed with their peers.

The boys' family is prepared to pay for their staying, so there will be a financial remuneration to the families who accommodate them. We would like to place them for 2-3 weeks in July/August. It could be a week in one family, one with another.

My (Tomek's) role is to make sure we know who the boys and families are; I am also taking care of the guardianship formalities. If you would like to help please contact Tomek at pernak@btinternet.com



SUPPORT | CONNECT | INSPIRE

Phase exists to support the development of wellbeing in young people. We aim to enable young people to develop resilience, the ability to cope with the stresses of life, and to live and thrive in today's world.

We understand that growing up is full of challenges and hard decisions - whoever you are - and so we want to be there for all young people, providing support, encouragement and equipping them for the future. Phase delivers a range of key support services including:

mentoring, emotional support, self-harm issue advice, spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and the Phase team are an accessible way for young people to explore these topics and more.

Phase is an invaluable support service that is there for the many children who are struggling to make sense of life, Phase makes a positive difference in the lives of young people in Hitchin and the surrounding area.

Through all Phase delivers, we want to support, connect and inspire young people

Phase is keen to grow our relationship with Our lady's parish and there are three practical ways you can help fill the **GAP** and support the work of Phase:

Give: become a Phase Partner by committing to financially support our work with young people. Just £5 per month provides a young person with a spurt course

Act: Get involved with volunteering. There are many opportunities to use your skills and experiences in a range of ways to support our work
Pray: we believe that prayer changes things. Sign up to receive our monthly prayer guide.

Kieran Murphy, director of Phase will be speaking at all masses on 20th & 21st February.



Are you available for our next work day on **Saturday 20th February**.

There is a garden clearance to do and a house that needs some painting plus another small jobs that would be great to do for a disabled lady who would just like to have some pictures hung on her wall. If you can help that morning from 9-12 please contact Phil Jackson at phil.jackson@hcc.org.uk

During Lent we renew our commitment to prayer, fasting and alms giving. These ancient disciplines are opportunities to draw



JUBILEE OF MERCY

close to God, not in our strength, nor by our own effort, but by the grace and mercy of God. Prayers, fasting and almsgiving are not ends in themselves or merely external signs of our conversion or commitment to Christ. Rather, we practise them in order to become more aware of our dependence upon God for strength and grace in living our Christian lives.

Lent is also a time for us to recommit ourselves to and rediscover the importance of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The corporal works of mercy are:

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To welcome the stranger
- To heal the sick
- To visit the imprisoned
- To bury the dead

The spiritual works of mercy are:

- To counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offences
- Bear patiently those who do us ill
- Pray for the living and the dead

When we understand that God has been so good, so tender and so merciful to us, then we want to share this blessing with others. The works of mercy bear witness beautifully to God's grace in our lives.

The homilies throughout the year (when appropriate) will focus on these works of mercy and practical suggestions made about how we can carry them out. Attached to the newsletter is a leaflet about almsgiving for your consideration.



The Computer Centre (at Christchurch, Bedford Road) needs volunteers on Mondays and Thursdays 10am-12pm to help our users with their computing. The usual problems are: sending e-mails, searching the web, using Word for letters and CVs and downloading photos from cameras.

Please contact Ken Ryder on 01438 832082 or kenryder1@btinternet.com for more details.