



# 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 1671

27<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Third Sunday of Lent Year (C)

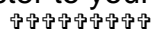
<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b>	E-mail:
Fr Michael Lambert	<a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Tom O'Brien	<a href="mailto:frtomaa@gmail.com">frtomaa@gmail.com</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine	<a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Tel: 01462 455577
Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Susanna Hawksley	<a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Tel: 01462 459126
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<b>Sacramental Administrator</b>	Tel: 01462 455577
Eve Krol	<a href="mailto:hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk">hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk</a>
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E-mail:	<a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b>	
Trish Bonnett	Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)

## Diary

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – EDAID	
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am	
	Meditation Group UCR 11.15-12.30pm	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am	
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30 – 3.30pm	
	<b>1st March</b>	Lent Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church
	Union of Catholic Mothers LCR 8pm	
	Choir practice 8pm Church	
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am	
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Rosary - Church after Mass	
	Italian Club Hall 1pm	
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm	
	Choir practice 8pm Church	
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am	
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm	
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Bring and share celebration after 10.30 Mass for Fr Michael's Jubilee	



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.**



### Readings: Ex 3:1-8.13-15, 1 Cor 10:1-6.10-12, Luke 13:1-9

*Entrance antiphon:* My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

*Psalm:* **The Lord is compassion and love.**

*Intercessions:* Lord, hear our prayer.....

*Response:* **Be with us always!**

**Next week: Josh 5:9-12, 2 Cor 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3.11-32**

### This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team 3 Monday Team 1**



**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.

### 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



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:** at 5pm we celebrate the First of the Scrutinies, a time of prayer with and for those who are preparing for Baptism or Reception in the Church or are celebrating Adult Confirmation.

**This Weekend:** Our theme for the year of mercy is focusing on the Corporal works of mercy **Visit the imprisoned and Visit the sick.** Practical things that can be done:

Information about becoming a prison visitor can be found at The National Association of Official Prison Visitors website <http://www.naopv.com/> There are also opportunities to become a Befriender at Yarl's Wood Detention centre at Bedford. More details can be found at <http://www.ywbefrienders.org/gettinginvolved/>

Closer to home we have many parishioners who are housebound or in care homes who would very much welcome a visit from a friendly face. Speak to Trish if you want to help in this way.

**3pm:** Our Quarterly **Service of Healing and Wholeness and Anointing:** for all



who feel the need; the sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered. We welcome Dr Paul Vooght of the

Letchworth Garden City Hospice who will be speaking to us. We also come to pray with and for people generally in need of healing during this time – so there is always a general invitation to the Parish to come along and join in.

**5pm:** We celebrate **the First of the Scrutinies**, a time of prayer with and for those who are preparing for Baptism or Reception in the Church or are celebrating Adult Confirmation

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**EDAID COFFEE MORNING** Goods may be brought into the Hall on Sunday morning or collected by Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) Information about Edaid's support for schools in Gambia is available in the Hall.

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**Ash Wednesday Lunch raised £175 for Christian Aid** and the Traidcraft stall did well too. Thank you to Holy Saviour and Church of God Prophecy for working together to produce a delicious frugal lunch!

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**Red Cross/Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society Appeal**

I am delighted to be able to let you know that the total of the combined collections for the Red Cross/Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society Appeal is £3,292.84. It is thanks to the heartfelt generosity of your and all the other communities that took part that this was made possible and will make a huge difference.

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*Thank You!*

Thanks to everyone who donated men's clothing to the **Sanctuary**. They have all they can store at present and the excess clothing has been given to Dan Drew of the Hub Church in Hitchin. He and a group of members of his church are taking the clothing to Calais this Saturday (27th Feb) to give to the refugees in need. We are exploring other ways in which we can help and will be compiling a display board soon with information

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**Our Lady's - Farmers Market** Giuseppina Walker wanted to say a huge thank you to those that helped her and also came along and supported the recent event. There was a steady flow of people and they raised £167 for the Church. She will be looking to run another one in late May.....keep looking in the newsletter for updates. God bless and thank you all.

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Please see the notice board for the **Lenten 2016 letter of Archbishop Samir**, the Maronite Archbishop

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We raised £125 for the **OLSSG** at our recent coffee morning. Thank you to all who helped that morning.

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**Help needed** to prepare Jubilee Mass sheets. We need to put the sheets together for Fr Michael's Jubilee celebrations. It would be helpful to have a team who could come to fold and staple. If you are available for an hour on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 7pm-8pm your help would be invaluable. Please let Trish know if you can help. We will meet in the parish office.

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**Fr Michael's Jubilee** Next weekend is the great celebration of 50 years of Priesthood for our dear Fr Michael. It is wonderful how many parishioners will be attending both celebrations. Just as a reminder, the bring and share meal is on the **Sunday 6th March** after the 10.30 Mass.

On **Saturday 5th March** for the Mass at 11am we are expecting over 200 people, which is a wonderful tribute but will also mean we have to consider some issues. **Please can parishioners do everything possible to park somewhere other than the church car park** to ensure that we keep it free for the guests travelling from around the country who will not

be familiar with the other parking facilities in the town.

**For the Saturday celebration we will need welcomers in the porch to hand out service sheets. If you can help with this and can be at the church by 10.15am please let Trish know.**

After the celebrations in the hall on both Saturday and Sunday **we need your help with clearing up** and getting the hall sorted. The more helpers we have the quicker we will be. Thanks for helping to make this a celebration to remember

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**Church Cleaning** We have a real need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday and Saturdays. (People keep dropping out unfortunately.) Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email **Hannah Granger** at [steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk)



### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**11am Mass at Elmside Care Home.** All parishioners welcome..

#### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

**1.30pm: Women's World Day of Prayer** Service at St Faith's church, Woolgrove Road, at 1.30pm. The theme is praying for Cuba. All are welcome to join in.

### **Future Dates**

#### **Mar 1 & 8**

#### **Faith Matters: Lent 2016. YEAR OF MERCY**

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm. Dates: 1st and 8th Mar 2016.

1st Mar: Fr. Paul Rowse OP: **Vessels of Mercy: What St Paul thinks of us now.** 8th Mar: Fr. Nicholas Crowe OP: **The Peace of Christ: Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy**

Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis St , SW1P 1QN. Booking is required as places are limited. Register at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or if you have no access to the Internet call at 020 7931 6078 to leave your details. Suggested donation is £4.50 per talk.

#### **Mar 3 thro Jun 24**

#### **Scripture from Scratch series of talks in Hertfordshire. Making the BIBLE come ALIVE**

Location: The Niland centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 4EE  
Time: 7-8.30pm. Please book your place at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) If you do not have access to the internet, please call 0207 931 6078

and leave your name, contact phone number and date(s). Suggested donation £5.00.

#### **Our heritage: the Hebrew Scriptures**

Thu 3 Mar 2016, The Gospel of Matthew

Thu 17 Mar 2016, The Gospel of Luke

Thu 31 Mar 2016, The Gospel of John

To All God's Saints: New Testament Epistles

14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2016, Is the End Nigh? 1

Thessalonians

28<sup>th</sup> Apr 2016, You stupid people! Paul's Letter to the Galatians

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Philippians: A Love Letter to a Christian Community

26<sup>th</sup> May 2016, "I belong to ..." A Divided Christian Community in Corinth

Taking Away the Veil: Unmasking the Book of Revelation

10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2016, A to Z: Symbols of Revelation

24<sup>th</sup> Jun 2016, The Lamb's Supper

#### **Mar 7**

One World Group Lenten Meditation will be led by Susanna Hawksley. 7.30pm in the Lower Committee Room. The meditation will be followed by a Lenten supper. All are welcome.

#### **Mar 10 & 17**

#### **Hope UK Drugs awareness workshop for Parents (FREE!)**

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at Hitchin Boys School (HBS).

To book your place please contact Andrew Hanahoe at Hitchin Boys School [ahanahoe@hitchinboys.co.uk](mailto:ahanahoe@hitchinboys.co.uk) or use the reply slip on the attached poster. (Please state if your child is not a pupil at HBS). Spaces are limited and booking is essential so please book your place before the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.

#### **Mar 19**

#### **HOLY WEEK RETREAT for RCIA Groups**

Saturday 19th March 2016 / 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](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk) / or call: 020 7798 9150

**Mar 19**

**The Church of God of Prophecy Hitchin Coffee Morning** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 10am to 11am at Holy Saviour Church Hall, Radcliffe Road, Hitchin SG5 1QG. All are welcome.

**Apr 15-17**

**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 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk)

**May 7**

**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](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk) / or call: 020 7798 9150.

**May 14**

**Cardinal’s Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 3pm. **Westminster Cathedral**

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.

**Other items of interest**

**Vacancy: Our Lady School** is looking for a site manager to start at the beginning of June. If you are interested and would like further information please visit the school website [http://www.ourladysherts.sch.uk/our\\_school/staff.html](http://www.ourladysherts.sch.uk/our_school/staff.html) or contact the school office on 01462 622555.

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**Food bank shortages**

The following are items that are in greatest need at present.



UHT Juice , UHT Milk, Dried Milk, Instant Mash, Heavyweight carrier bags, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Rice Pudding and Toilet Rolls.

**ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE UNDAMAGED AND IN DATE PLEASE**

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**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](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/get-involved) or call **Chris Dunne: 020 7735 9535**