



# 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 1673

## 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Fifth 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
Carol Cooper	<a href="mailto:carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk">carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Sacramental Administrator</b>	Tel: 01462 455577
Eve Krol	<a href="mailto:hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk">hitchincat@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07958 575 442
Website:	<a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
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 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning - KISS
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group UCR 11.15-12.30pm
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30 – 3.30pm
	Lent Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church
	Choir practice 8pm Church
	UCM LCR 8pm
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary - Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	Confirmation Stations rehearsal Hall and church 6pm

**Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Luke 8:1-11**

*Entrance antiphon:* Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

*Psalm:* **What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.**

*Intercessions:* Lord, hear our prayer

*Response:* **Renew us in mind, heart and life!**

**Next week: Isaiah 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Luke 22:14-23.56**



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.**



**This week's counting teams:**  
**Sunday Team 5 Monday Team 3**



Please support our Parish ANNUAL FLOWER FUND COLLECTION which will take place after all Masses this weekend. The proceeds will be used to provide floral decorations in the Church for the coming year. Thank you.

**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**



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.

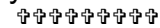


**Fr Michael writes:** “Now that I have had a chance to unwind and come down to earth a little, after my wonderful Weekend with you all and

with many of my friends, I would like to put into words something of how I felt and have enjoyed over the past week. I had great joy in seeing friends I had not seen for quite a time and others wrote to send me their best wishes and often with memories of services I had rendered and had forgotten. It makes me realise more and more how important it is to sow seeds whenever and wherever I am, so others can gain important memories of what I had tried to do and which still bear fruit today.

The time consuming work that has gone on behind the scenes has been incredible, have been barred from places or told to go away and the whole experience has really been quite overwhelming and it will take me a lot of time to express personal thanks for what has happened. It is quite humbling for me to realise, how many of you have been touched by what I said or done and how this has been reflected in the ways so many of you have become involved in all the work which went into that glorious weekend, for me certainly and hopefully for all of you who came to one part or other. Words really fail me (which many of you might say: ‘that would be a first!’) when it comes to saying thank you and expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all that you have done. So I would like to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart, for all that you have done, in the preparations the clearing up afterwards, the words of appreciation and so many cards, large and small, and many other gifts. These have all been transformed and transfigured in the Celebrations of the Eucharist, for the actual Ordination and then my first “solo” High Mass at the Convent Chapel where I had been to primary School, as being an expression of wonder and awe at what has happened over the past 16 years, with your help, guidance and inspiration, which have all helped me to be liberated to use my gifts and talents in many rich and enhancing ways for me and hopefully for you too. Our Church was beautiful, reminding us that all of us are Church and beautiful too, the cleaning and enhancements that spoke of the day, in the proclamation of the Word, the wonderful music which enhanced the celebrations, the care and attention to the Liturgy, through the Ministry of Service but very much also with the aid of the very special Orders of Service which have been created and prepared for by another little team. The welcoming which is so much part of the richness of our Parish, was very

visible and all the spectacular way our Hall was transformed to allow you to see something of my journey of life in more detail; the food and drink helped the flow of memories and happy times and I am only sorry I could not spend more time with each and every one of you to express my feelings to you personally – so I am making do with this rather long (as usual) message of affection, love, joy and appreciation for what each and every one of you has done in the past, now and please God will continue into the future! I must add a word of appreciation for the wonderful gifts I have received from the parish and from the School. I was particularly touched by the wonderful Stole of Life you created for me, deeply moving and something I will be able to use in other Liturgies as a starting point. May the Lord love and hold you all the more closely to His heart, to share with you all the wonders of His mercy, for which I give thanks with all my heart, that I have been able to share with you. Michael aa”



**This Weekend:** we celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny for the Candidates for Baptism and Reception at 10.30am. We will be praying with and for our fledgling members as they complete the final phase of their preparations. The Readings and Gospel for the Mass are taken from the A Cycle in the Missal



**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)



The Tradecraft stall will only be open after 10.30 mass on Sun 20th March due to staff shortage. If anyone would like to volunteer to help once a month with the stall please speak to Trish or Frances Chamberlain on the stall. She would be most grateful for your help.



**Next Weekend** is the start of Holy Week: with the Blessing and Distribution of Palms at all Masses.



**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30pm Passover Meal in the Church Hall.**



To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a chance for us to understand more deeply our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome. We hope to welcome people from St. Mary's Church again this year.

**You need to bring: a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person. Roast lamb is provided. [You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.]**

It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up NOW on the board in the porch, as we need to know numbers by **14<sup>th</sup> March so that Jane can order the meat.**

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Colin and Lauren Blake wish to thank everyone for all the prayers, kind messages and cards following the recent sad loss of Gill.

A Mass will be offered for the intentions of our parish to express our gratitude. May God's blessings be upon our community.

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Planned Giving Envelopes Boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes for the coming year will be issued before and after Mass over the weekend of 2/3 April 2016. They will then be available again before Mass over the weekend of 9/10 April 2016, which is the first week of the new Envelope year.

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**Dates for your Diary**

**Monday 14 March**

**Fr Michael** is in Our Lady's School to celebrate his 50 Years as Priest with the Staff and Children.

**Tuesday 15 March**

**2pm Mass at Milford Lodge** Care Home. All parishioners welcome

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**UCM 8pm** in LCR Rosary followed by a Business Meeting

**Wednesday 16 March**

**We are celebrating the Mass of Resurrection** for Peter Leeming and our love and prayers reach out to Helen, his daughter and her Family as they

mourn his loss. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

**Thursday 17 March**

**10am:** Mass, Feast of St Patrick,

**Saturday 19 March**

**Solemnity of St Joseph, Patron of the Church and of the dying:** a day of prayer and devotion for our Community and those who are returning to the Lord in the near future..

**Passion Play: 3pm and 7.45pm at the Catholic Church in Baldock:** this is a devotional exercise as we are in the Season of Passiontide. All are welcome to share in it.

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**Future Dates**

**Mar 15** 7.30pm **Crosslight - passion play for Lent at Letchworth Garden City Church.** It is being presented by the Riding Lights Theatre Company who have a great reputation for creative Christian drama. Tickets are available from the Christian Bookshop and David's Bookshop in Letchworth.

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**Mar 19** Green energy for North Herts?

March 19 10.30am-1pm at Walsworth Community Centre This conference is being organised by the North Herts Co-operative Party, This has relevance to each of us as we aim to be better stewards of God's creation and it might also be worth commending to church property officers/treasurers. Further details are available from Martin Stears-Handscomb on

[mstearshandscomb@gmail.com](mailto:mstearshandscomb@gmail.com)

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**Mar 19 RESURRECTION - A PASSION PLAY** Holy Trinity & St. Augustine of Canterbury, Baldock Two performances 3pm and 7.45 pm **FREE ENTRANCE** Donations welcome.

**WEBSITE** [www.caramba-theatre.co.uk](http://www.caramba-theatre.co.uk)

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**April 1** 7pm **Roman Catholic Mass** at St. Nicholas History will be made when Father Richard Moroney, priest at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Biggleswade, comes to Saint Nicholas Church, Hinxworth. It will be the first such service to be held in St. Nicholas Church since the Reformation, and all Roman Catholics living in the villages will be most welcome. "I'm all in favour of breaking down barriers," said Father Richard who remembers Father Christopher from Hitchin who used to celebrate Mass at St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Offley in the late 1970s. Do come and celebrate this historic occasion.

**Mindfulness in the Christian Tradition (Retreat).**  
**Wed 27th Apr 2016 (10am – 3pm) Facilitator:**  
**Mgr Malachy Keegan. Where: The Niland**  
**Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree**  
**Rd, Bushey, WD23 4EE (Easily accessible by**  
**public transport).**

This retreat is open to anyone who would like to learn more about their faith, themselves and how to be more effective in their parish ministries, particularly Parish Adult Faith Formation/Small Communities Leaders and Members, Catechists, Parish Pastoral Council Members, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Volunteers and Parents in Sacramental Preparation Programs.

Registration is required. Email at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) and indicate your name and the date of the event. If you do not have an access to the Internet, please leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078. **Suggested donation £14.00. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.**

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**Scripture from Scratch series of talks in Central London:** Biblical Models of Discipleship  
**Location: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN**

**Time: 7.00-8.30pm**  
**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 the date(s). Suggested donation £ 4.00.**

**All talks are audio recorded and uploaded on the** [rcdow.org.uk](http://rcdow.org.uk) **website.**

**Tue 12th Apr 2016, Mary Magdalen: The Witnessing Disciple by Brian Purfield**  
**Mon 9th May 2016, Paul: The Missionary Disciple, How Paul helps people live out their Christian vocation in differing circumstances? by Fr John Hemer**

**Sat 11th June 2016, 10.00am – 2.00pm Retreat Day by Brian Purfield**

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**Choir members needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us.**

You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Tuesday evening for the practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

**Other items of interest:**

recently had their biggest Time Trek event ever with 71 children attending! Along with all the adult leaders they also had 8 teenagers helping as young leaders. Here is how one of them, Mary, found the day...



Time Trek happens every half term on a Tuesday. As soon as I know when half term is, I write Time Trek on the calendar- its usually one of the first things on it at the beginning of the year. I love working with the children and the adults to make some beautifully decorated cakes or biscuits or item of food. Also, the prayer activities at the end give us as leaders an incite into each child's world: sometimes they pray for themselves and sometimes they pray for everyone in the whole world.

I often work with the KS1 groups (ages 4-7) but the older and younger kids all play and learn together too. The activities are perfectly tailored to each year group and help the children to hear a wide range of classic bible stories. These stories are shown through videos and great acting from the Professor, Pippa and Percy. The children love the songs (although some of the actions require a lot of concentration!) and are enthusiastic in all the games. In discussion times it is easy to keep the conversation rolling as the children ask all sorts of questions and sometimes answer their own questions. As a young leader I turn up on the day to help set up; take the children to their groups and introduce them to their leaders; help with crafts and games and then tidy up at the end. There's a fantastic group of adult leaders who look out for each child and, if you help regularly, its possible that some of the children will remember who you are. I love helping out at Time Trek and enjoy every minute of it. PHASE's next Time Trek event will be on Tuesday 31st May at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. So please let us know if you would like to get involved.

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**Meeting needs at Christchurch** is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email [stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com)