

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 1349

17 - 24 October 2009 Twenty Ninth Sunday of the Year (B)



Diary

Times of Masses		Mass Intention
Sunday	8.30 am	R/S Bridget Casey
	10.30 am	People of the Parish
	5 pm	R/S Mary Brennan
Monday	10 am	R/S Peter, Delia & Michael Laffey
Tuesday	10 am	R/S Angela Farace
Wednesday	10 am	R/S Annie Friel
Thursday	10 am	R/S Richard Creagh
Friday	10 am	R/S Sarah Duffy
Saturday	10 am	Intentions Porter Family
<i>Anticipated Mass</i>	6 pm	R/S James Marshall
Reconciliation		
Saturday	10.30 to 11.15 am	

Sunday 18th	Coffee Morning One World Group
Monday 19th	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30am – 11.30pm
Beavers 	Meditation Group
Scout Hut 6-7pm	UCR 12 – 1pm
Cubs Scout Hut 7.15 -8.15pm	Sacramental Preparation Hall 8pm
Tuesday 20th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10am – 4pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8 pm
	Scouts Scout Hut 7:15 to 8:45 pm
Wednesday 21st	Mothers Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
	Scripture Group LCR 1.30pm
	Italian Club Hall 1.30pm
	RCIA UCR 8pm
Thursday 22nd	Rosary Church After Mass
Brownies Scout hut 6.30 – 7.45pm	Meditation Group LCR 6.30-7.30pm
Friday 23rd	Mother & Toddler Group Hall 9.30am – 11.30pm
Sunday 25th	Coffee Morning Union of Catholic Mothers

Contacts

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Parish Office

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Parish Safeguarding Representative

Carol Mascarenhas
Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)

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Hospital

If you are going into hospital please notify the RC Chaplain, Bernadette Cassidy on **07884 187463** directly, as the Hospital procedures do not allow them to pass on the information! If you are in Pinehill Hospital please contact the parish directly.



This coming weekend also sees the end of summertime: so please put your clocks and watches BACK one hour!

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.

Readings for this week

Is 53:10-11, Heb 4:14-16, Mk 10:35-45

Psalm Response: **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

Intercessions:

Prayer: Lord, heal us.....

Response: **Give us your New Life!**

Readings for next week

Jer 31:7-9, Heb 5:1-6, Mk 10:46-52

Today is Overseas Mission Sunday and there is a retiring collection. Gift aid envelopes available in porch.



Parish News

This Weekend: at our 10.30am Mass we look forward to Welcoming the young people who are considering celebrating Confirmation in our Parish next May. We pray with and for them, their sponsors and families during this important time of discernment. It is hoped that we will be able to set up a system of "Prayer Companions" to walk with them during this time, with an opportunity of "signing up" after Mass.



Sunday 6.15 pm Your Kingdom Come – in hall. The second session of the new Scripture Group with a course of scripture, reflections and meditations on Catholic Social Teaching. It is not too late to join. Please feel free to come.





Boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes

for the coming year are available for collection in the Hall after each of the Masses this weekend and next weekend. Parishioners who make their offering by Standing Order and would like a supply of Envelopes to use when making an additional offering during the collection at Mass can also collect Envelopes at this time.

If you missed the opportunity to sign up for the Planned Giving Scheme during the recent Campaign, it is not too late to do so and David and Margaret, our Planned Giving and Gift Aid Organisers, will be on hand to provide any information you might require.

Fr Michael writes: "As many of you will now know, my operation was cancelled whilst I was already unconscious with the pre-med, because of my high pulse count, which did not come down, with the relaxant which had been injected. It is more than the adrenalin flowing, because of what was going to happen or the presence of delightful ladies caring for me! I had an ECG and blood tests and saw a cardiologist within 20 minutes, so I have now arranged for a more complete consultation for this coming Monday, to clarify the issue and see what needs to be done. In the meantime, may I thank you for all the love and concern you have shared with me and for me and I would ask that you continue for the immediate future, as things progress. The condition I have is called an atrial flutter, which means that the top two valves in the heart are spraying blood

down to the lower valves which are then forced to work at double the normal rate, if the condition is not treated it will get worse and could eventually lead to a stroke."



We are in debt to the organizers of our "Sacred Space"

Week, for the great variety of prayer, reflection and input that was available in the course of those days and also very helpfully spread around the day to allow as many people as possible to share in them. May the graces which have been brought to our Parish and our sisters and brothers be a source of growth and for a renewed sense of community!

Our Week had a great start with our **Mass of Welcome** where we had a good sprinkling of new Parishioners and a goodly number of existing Parishioners who came along to share in the greeting. Of those parishioners most were also involved in Ministry and so the Mass was offered for them too. The spread which was put on in the Hall could have fed an army! As it was we made the most of it, took home some to share and to hold over to welcome our new prospective Candidates for Confirmation on the Saturday morning.

The Anointing Service: apart from the Sacrament of the Sick, we had the first venture with our newly formed Healing Ministry Team. The whole time of prayer was very relaxed, informal and with a great sense of community, as when we came to the opportunity to share names and intentions we had a long period of praying for the many names that were mentioned. Together with the Sacrament of Anointing, which also included Frs Michael and Christopher offering the Sacrament to each other before ministering to the gathered Community, we concluded with the opportunity of being prayed over with members of the Prayer Ministry. There were around 40 people present and we are grateful to those Parishioners who have come forward to become involved in this new Ministry for the Parish.



One World Group Quiz Night on **6th November**, Parish Hall, 7:30 pm. Tickets £10 to include a Fish and Chip Supper (option for vegetarians) Tickets also available from **Margaret, tel 01462 627 784** or any member of the One World Group.

Music Praise - Our Lady's Choir joined together with 7 other choirs in a packed Christchurch to sing in praise together last Sunday. It was a joyful occasion and one to make a note to attend next year!



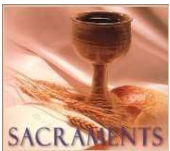
Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting: was held at Knebworth and it started with Fr Michael celebrating Mass for the parish and members of the Council.



We took as the theme, the introduction to the great prayer of the early Church, describing Jesus "emptying himself out" for us, in Philippians chapter 2. At the meeting we welcomed a representative from the combined Parishes of Welwyn Garden City, explained how the Council came into existence and looked at its objectives. These are seen as a long term vision to be fulfilled, hence the necessity of having manageable steps to move forward. We are looking to support Welwyn Garden City in its efforts to work together to form a joint Community of the three Parishes and also will be creating an audit of our own needs and skills that we can offer to be of service to the Deanery Churches. Quite an exciting project and something which should have a rolling impact on the rest of the Deanery!

Dates for your diary

Monday 19 Oct



8.00pm: we are holding our **2nd Session of Formation** for parents whose children are looking to celebrate Sacraments in the course of the coming year. The topic for the evening is "Baptism" and so is of particular importance for parents with children who are due to celebrate the Sacrament with us (expectant parents are also cordially invited to attend too).

Tuesday 20 Oct

Bereavement awareness

Hitchin Deanery is holding a bereavement awareness session at St Mark's Church on Tuesday 20 October, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. It will explore children's bereavement issues from the perspective of a child and parent, and the speakers will be Marilyn Goodhew of Lister Hospital and Eleanor Willis of Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Members of all churches are welcome - **contact Mike Davies on 01462 434202** if you are interested in attending.



Tuesday 20 Oct cont

Eucharistic Service 7.15 pm A simple service where we sit in a reflective atmosphere before the altar, and think about God's word, pray for ourselves and our needs, and those of our family and friends.



7.45 pm One World Week meeting

Christchurch Ladies' Friendship Circle is holding a One World Week **meeting at Christchurch on Tuesday, 20 October.** The theme will be 'Hungry for One World - An Active Gospel' and the speaker will be Ken Bamberough. Members of all churches are welcome.

7.30 pm Healing Service (Churches together in Shefford) at the Methodist church Shefford. All welcome.



Wednesday 21 Oct

11.00am: A Meeting is being held for the Catholic Partnership – which is a group which unites the Priests, Heads and Chairs of Governors of our Deanery. It is at **John Henry Newman School and starts at 11.00am.** Issues of topical and local issues are discussed.

8.00pm: NORTH HERTS FAITHS FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is being held at **WALSWORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH.** This Meeting will be followed by talks on: "The Concept of Salvation" with **SPEAKERS FROM THREE DIFFERENT FAITHS: - SIKH, BUDDHIST AND CHRISTIAN.** **The Forum aims to provide opportunities to grow together within a framework of respect for each others' faiths, to promote understanding by sharing and learning with and from each others' culture. ALL ARE WELCOME!** **Contact Phone: 0781 7884969**

Thursday 21 Oct

11 am Our Archbishop is meeting with the Priests of Hertfordshire, to continue his process of "getting to know you.," as well as giving some insights into how he wishes to move forward in the coming months. The

Meeting is at Our Lady, Queen of Creation, Welwyn Garden City.

Saturday 17 Oct

We rejoice with **Karen McDaid and Richard Borrett**, who celebrate and exchange the Covenant of Marriage at **12.30pm**. Our prayers and best wishes go with them for their future happiness.



OTHER ITEMS

NEEDED for a family hoping to foster. Does any parishioner have unwanted essential baby and toddler equipment (e.g. pram, high chair stairgates) which must be in good order. The family need to have all the equipment ready to be approved. Can you contact Trish in the first instance to say what you have available.



The Diocese has published a new **Secondary School Prospectus for 2010**. The Prospectus, entitled **Choosing a Catholic Secondary School**, is aimed at parents of children who will enter year 6 in September 2009, and who are due to transfer to secondary school in September 2010. There are sufficient places in Catholic secondary schools in this diocese to accommodate every Catholic child. The Prospectus explains clearly what parents must do if they wish to secure a place in a Catholic secondary school. Please go to the Diocesan Website: rcdow.org.uk and then click on the Education area for access to the 16 page Document, it should prove very helpful to those of you who have children coming up to 11 this coming year.

RECYCLING THE MUSIC

Our appeal for a home for old unwanted sheet music produced a quick response from Peter Robbins, who had a long association with us as chorister, choirmaster and organist until 1989. Having sorted the items, he kept the plainchant items; the polyphonic Masses are being sent to Michael Schosland, another former Hitchin choirmaster; some French pieces have been sent to our dear Sister Anne-Marie; and a few organ studies have gone to Walsingham. The really thrilling find was the manuscript copy of a setting of the antiphon 'Ecce Sacerdos Magnus' ('Behold the Great Priest'). The composer was Robert L. Hasbury, whose footnote says "Written especially for the entry of Cardinal Bourne at



the Demonstration held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 16th September 1929". This 'Demonstration' was part of the extensive programme of events celebrating the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation. The manuscript has gone to the Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral for his archives – or perhaps for his choir to sing during the visit of Pope Benedict next year.....?!



Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single, widowed, separated and divorced Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet, either one to one or through social events. All members receive a monthly bulletin, called Catholic Networking.

For more information please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

Our Marriage Preparation Course Date for next year: is May 8th

it will be held here in our Hall from 9.30am till around 4.00pm, with a shared lunch. This Day is an integral part of Marriage Preparation and all couples must attend either this one or another which they find themselves and for which they must obtain a Certificate of Attendance.



FOUNDATION GOVERNORS WANTED

The Diocese of Westminster Education Service is currently recruiting foundation governors for 1st September 2009 onwards to all Catholic Schools in Diocesan Trusteeship. This is a vital ministry in the Church. As a governor you will work as part of a team and will be provided with the necessary information and training to understand the role. A key element of the role is to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school in accordance with the school's trust deed. For further details email Maureen Roe maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk Fr Michael has copies of the Application Form available or people can talk to him about it.



There are a number of boxes with all kinds of things in them in the Lower Committee Room. If there is anything any organisation needs to keep can they please claim it before the end of the month when Trish and Jane will recycle the contents. Thanks for your help.