



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 1650

26th September – 3rd October 2015 Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year (B)



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am	
Monday – Friday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Michael Lambert	E-mail: michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Tom O'Brien	frtomaa@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator Carol Cooper	Tel: 01462 459126 carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk
Sacramental Administrator Eve Krol	Tel: 01462 455577
Email:	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)	

Diary

Sunday 27th	Coffee Morning – Scout Group
	Confirmation Session 1 Hall 6 – 8.30pm
Monday 28th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 29th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Union of Catholic Mothers Hall 8pm
Choir practice 8pm Church	
Wednesday 30th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 1st	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 2nd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 4th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG

Readings: Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48

Entrance antiphon:
Psalm: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.
Intercessions: Lord, in your mercy.....
Response: Teach us to value our neighbour!
Next week: Gen 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16



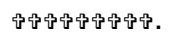
If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain on **07884 187463** directly, as the Hospital is not able to pass on the information to them. If you are in Pinehill Hospital, please contact the parish directly. When you come out of hospital 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 2 Monday Team 1**



The next gardening session is on **Saturday 3rd October** from 9ish till 12ish. Any help you can offer would be very much appreciated.

Please turn up on the morning or contact Helen on 07771 552058 or hbailey@talktalk.net

Proclaim15 Prayer Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life. May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions 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

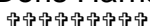


If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.

This Weekend: 5pm: our Confirmation Candidates enter officially onto their Programme of Preparation for the Celebration of the Sacrament. We will pray for them and their families as they reflect on their readiness to make that commitment.



Monday – Wednesday 28th – 30th September: Fr Michael is meeting with Parents whose children are applying to join John Henry Newman School next September. Please complete the paperwork as far as you can before coming along, there is no need to bring the child or children concerned. The Meetings are in the Doris Harris Room.



Marriage Preparation Courses Calling all engaged couples!! Anyone wishing to be married in Church needs to complete a course of preparation. There are two available in this parish, run by Jon and Lucy Bonnett. The first is on Saturday 7th November, 2015 from 9:30am-4pm; the second is on Saturday April 30th, 2016 at the same times. There are sign up sheets in the Link (between the church porch and the hall) – please sign up for your preferred day. Check the website for further information, such as venue.



Letchworth and Hitchin Foodbank news

The warehouse is in urgent need of **tea, tinned fruit and biscuits**. Could you please grab a tin or a packet when you next shop and pop them into the tub in the porch. Many thanks
Also when people can't afford food they very often can't afford either gas or electricity for heating or cooking. If you receive a Winter Fuel Allowance and don't really need it, why not donate some or all of it to the Foodbank so that we can help those who can't afford to heat or light their homes or buy food for their families. If you wish to discuss this please contact **Ciaran** of the St Vincent DePaul Society on **01462 483627**



The KISS coffee morning on 13th September raised £122.00 for the KISS charity who thank you all for your generosity and on-going support



Please see on the noticeboard a letter from Bishop Angaelos of **The Coptic Orthodox Church** on the Refugee Crisis.



Church Cleaning We have an urgent need for more people to help keep

our church clean Monday and on Saturdays. 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



Help is needed taking collection at Mass – we need 3 people ideally at each Mass to help take the collection and count the numbers attending.

There is no formal rota but if you are at Mass then please get up to help at the time of the collection. If you need more details please speak to Trish.



Choir members needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord and you are able to read music 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



17TH OCTOBER We hope you all had a chance to read the contents of the envelope distributed last week which included details of the Michaelmas Fair. If you were away, more envelopes are available in the porch. A big thank you to those who have already returned raffle ticket stubs and made offers for the auction. Thanks also to those of you who have donated such high quality goods. We will continue to collect items in the red baskets up to the day of the fair. At present we need more bottles and jars for the tombola. Wine, spirits or beer should be taken to the office rather than left in the porch. We also need more helpers on the day. If you can spare an hour please sign the chart in the porch. Many thanks.



GOOD NEWS: concerning the “Growing in Faith” Appeal, which we completed last April or so. This item for our Newsletter is from the Chair of our Pastoral Parish Council, Roger.

The first building projects of our "Growing In Faith" campaign have reached the approval stage.

Following the guide lines laid down by Fr Michael at the beginning of the financial commitment, being the Church proper, Hall improvements and Grove House update. Two projects have been identified by the teams set up by the PPC.

The first was that of Church Lighting. Our lights are old and costly to run, also the spare parts are not available any more. They are being replaced by L.E.D lighting.

Our proposal to the GIF Financial committee has been approved and at a cost of £7100.00, we will be saving money every year.

We will accomplish the changeover on October 5th-7th. There will be some disruption in our weekly Church life for the installation as the church will be out of action during the time whilst the new lights are installed. 10am Mass will be in the Lower Committee Room on those days. You can access the room via the outside door at the back of the hall. Thank you for your understanding.

Our second proposal that of refurbishing Grove House and moving the Pastoral team has also been approved. An architect has been appointed and will be drawing up plans very soon. The whole project is being funded by our own parish funds plus a generous commitment from the Assumptionist Order bringing a total budget of £156,000.00 including costs & VAT etc. Savings are hoped to be found as we proceed.

Grove House will become two flats for retired priests, our own Fr Michael taking the ground floor flat. Before work can begin on the house the garage / storeroom will be converted into the Pastoral Office for the team. This of course will be a lengthy Process, but there will be updates from time to time, to keep you all informed.

Whilst we have the monies available, if there are any parishioners who would like to donate to these two projects, it would be most welcome and furthermore enable the GIF team to achieve more on your behalf. Please place any donations in an envelope marked GIF Fund and place them with your weekly collections.

Roger Lawrence-Hyde
Chair PPC.

Diary

Tuesday 29 September

12.30pm: Walsworth Road Baptist Church there is a meeting of the Priests and Ministers of the Churches in Hitchin, to prepare for the coming year's activities together.

8pm UCM meeting in the Hall

Wednesday 30 September

1.30pm The Scripture Study Group, led by Jane Gonzalez, will resume in the Pastoral Office. Our subject will be the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Sii*. All parishioners welcome.

6pm Deanery Mass for the children of our Parish Schools at Letchworth, St Hugh's Church. It is presided by Bishop John.

Items of interest

Sept 27

'LIFE SURVIVAL KIT' 8 week course
Launching Sunday 27 September, 7pm-9:15pm, at HCC.

Stressed? Worried? Trouble sleeping? Struggling with decisions? No time for anything? Fed up? Trouble at work or at home? Life Survival Kit is a life skills course designed to help you think smarter! Using a simple cognitive behavioural therapy approach, it helps you to weather life's storms, control your emotions and overcome problems. Relaxed and informal, Life Survival Kit is research proven to help people deal with a wide range of life's challenges including anxiety, insomnia, stress and depression. Be happier, sleep better, do more, feel more confident!

Each session looks at a particular skill or challenge such as 'Why does everything always go wrong?' or 'How to fix almost everything!' and includes a workbook and other resources. The course will be run by a team with backgrounds in psychology and other related skills.

Cost: £50 for the 8 week course. Includes a meal each week and course materials. Bursaries available upon request to those from low income households or full time students. Please apply by email to Kate Middleton (kate.middleton@hcc.org.uk) for bursaries. <http://www.hcc.org.uk/events/life-survival-kit/> for all course dates and to book your place. Only 18 places remaining

Oct 1

'Pray and Fast for the Climate' is an initiative to mobilise Christians to fast, pray or hold a vigil on the first day of every month for a meaningful and just global climate agreement. We hope this will be agreed in December 2015 at the Paris climate summit. People may choose to fast and pray for the whole day, to fast during their lunch break or to pray with others in the evening. *As part of the 'Pray and Fast for*

Climate Change' initiative our church will then be open for a vigil prayer time from 6pm-8pm. May the Holy Spirit guide the new political representatives to understand the reality of the problems facing the whole of God's creation, so that they will engage constructively and meaningfully at the 2015 December Paris Summit. See: <http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

Oct 10 **Pedalling priests PHASE** who support faith development in the schools in Hitchin have a fundraising event supported by Fr Tom. A team of our clergy and ministers is aiming to cycle 100 miles without leaving High Street just outside Poundland! Come and see how/cheer them on/sponsor them on Saturday 10 October from 10am.

Oct 17 **10:30am to 4pm "Divesting to Reinvest – investing for a just economy"** A joint event with *Operation Noah* and *Quaker Peace and Social Witness* to explore faith and finance, considering how money can be disinvested from fossil fuels and redirected into positive, sustainable investments, at the Friends House, Euston, London. We're hoping to reach people managing diocese/church investments at local level. Workshops will explore: dis-investing; fossil free investment funds; investing in renewable energy; and investing in community energy and other projects. We'd also love for anyone interested in their church's investments to come. For more information and booking see: <http://operationnoah.org/news-events/disinvest-to-reinvest-investing-for-a-just-economy/>

Oct 18 **6.30pm Music Praise** The annual /worship event involving choirs and music groups from member churches will take place at Christchurch. As usual, there will be a good number taking part and Phil Jackson, the organiser, has given them strict time limits! Please do come to support our choir and to enjoy the rest.

Oct 24
10am – 12.30pm **'European Union, Migration, Equality and Peace'**, at Friends Meeting House Hitchin. Half-day workshop with Jessica Metheringham, Friends House' Parliamentary Liaison Officer

Oct 31
2pm Two parishioners are holding an afternoon tea event with a difference in the parish hall. Nicola

Sylvester and Brianna Cyrus will be holding a Caribbean High Tea showcasing a range of tropical treats! The tickets are priced at £12.50 per person and is inclusive of entertainment as well as food.

For more information or to purchase a ticket please contact Nicola or Brianna on: 07958 795662 / 07958 476511 or email nsylvester@hotmail.co.uk / byearwood@hotmail.com

Other Items of Interest



Gardening opportunities - A parishioner who is unable to look after a large garden would be happy to have someone who would like an allotment to cultivate one in her garden: ideal if you do not have a garden and would like to satisfy your green fingers. Please speak to Trish if this is of interest.

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Christian Aid Week 2015

The final figures for this year are: House to house collection, £16,246.57 of which £7,673.62 was gift-aided, giving a grand total of £18,164.97. This is just £47 down on 2014, a real achievement at a time when house-to-house collections are questioned. Thanks to all who collected and contributed.

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Extra Smile Hitchin had its first project day last Saturday. To see what was achieved please go to the following facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/Extra-Smile-Hitchin-1141390535889882/timeline>

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Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests: For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Revd Jane Hatton 01438 285138... or jane.hatton@nhs.net