



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 1658

21st – 28th November 2015 Solemnity of Christ the King (Year B)



Mass Times
Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am

Contacts	
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Parish Safeguarding Representative
Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)

Sunday 22nd	Coffee Morning – UCM Confirmation Hall 6pm
Monday 23rd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Meditation Group LCR 12 – 1.30pm
Tuesday 24th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 25th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
Thursday 26th	Rosary Church after Mass Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 27th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Saturday 28th	Reconciliation Session 3 Hall 10am
Sunday 29th	Coffee Morning – Live Simply Group

Readings: Dan 7:13-14, Apoc 1:5-8, John 18:33-37

Entrance antiphon How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Psalm: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

Intercessions: Father, have mercy.....

Response: Through Christ Jesus our Lord!

Next week: Jer 33:14-16, Thes 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28.34-36



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.

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If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.



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.

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

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Church Cleaning We have a real need for more people to help keep our church clean on a Saturday morning. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. This is a very important service to our church and gives a lot of satisfaction to those who help. 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



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: is the Solemnity of Christ the King: the last Sunday of the Church's Year. It is also the day we pray for our young people and their future life. There is a Retiring Collection for the Church's Mission to the Young people in the country.

We celebrate the Feast day of the Assumptionist Founder, Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon, who died on 21st November 1880. He worked tirelessly for the furtherance of Faith Education within the Schools he founded and also promoted an early form of ecumenism with the Eastern Churches in Romania, Bulgaria and Russia. He instigated the pilgrimage revival by organising trips to Lourdes and also the Holy Land.

Today is also Youth Sunday, when we pray for our young people, there is also a Retiring Collection for the Church's work in this area

We also held the Catechists' and formation for Adult Education Day with attendees from many of our local Parishes.

Sunday afternoon 3.00pm: the Civic Service for the installation of the new Chair of the North Herts District Council is being held at St Mary's Church.

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Our love and prayer reach out to the families and friends of Edward McCrudden and Neil McDonald. Neil was a stalwart of the 8.30am Mass with his wife, Grace, and also the Bethany Club. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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As part of a group organised by the diocesan Justice & Peace Commission, on Tuesday of this week Fr Tom will be setting off on a Cycle ride, to Paris, carrying a petition for the delegates at the United Nations talks on the Climate (COP 21 talks), which will begin on the 30th of November, and they will arrive in Paris on the 27th, when they will have a photo shoot in front of Notre Dame cathedral. There will be two priests, including Fr Tom, CAFOD workers and supporters from around the country in the group. We wish him a safe trip.



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The John Henry Newman School Christmas Bazaar, Hitchin Road, Stevenage SG1 4AE is on Saturday 28th November 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. Come and enjoy over 40 stalls including jewellery, Christmas gifts, decorations and puddings, new and used JHN uniform, refreshments and Santa's grotto. Ho! Ho! Ho!

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Thank you to everyone who came to help with the gardening session last weekend. Also a very big thank you to Mary Deuchar for donating hundreds of bluebell bulbs in loving memory of Peter Deuchar. As Mary said on Saturday; "The bulbs

bring together his 2 loves; Gardening and the Parish / God". The bulbs have been planted in the corner of the gardens by Nightingale House Day Centre and Nightingale Road.

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Hitchin Christian centre are setting up a CAP job club in January and are looking for some volunteers to help. They are looking at running it either on a Thursday lunchtime, 1-3pm, or on a Wednesday afternoon, 3:30- 6pm. The courses run for 6 weeks, 3 or 4 times a year, and the aim is to give people who are unemployed the skills and confidence to go to interviews and write great CVs. They would also like volunteers who could make refreshments, and if possible help clients to write up their CVs on computer- so basic computer knowledge would be helpful but not essential. Would any of you like to help in this venture? If so, what time would work best for you? Can you contact Phil Jackson directly phil.jackson@hcc.org.uk if you can help.

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For those who were not able to come to our Prayer for Peace Vigil last Sunday. This prayer might be helpful to use:

A prayer for our world; a prayer for Paris

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the earth.

Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred, and who justify killing in the name of religion.

God of understanding, overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy, we seek your light and guidance as we confront such terrible events.

Grant that those whose lives were spared may live so that the lives lost here may not have been lost in vain.

Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all."

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'Somewhere to go' is moving! The project to give homeless and vulnerable people somewhere to go on Christmas Day (11am – 5pm); Boxing Day (28th) and New Year's Day (10am-4pm) when everywhere else is closed is opening at Walsworth Road Baptist Church this year. If you would like to help, either by volunteering for an hour or two or by donating food – or a Christmas jumper (or other warm

clothes) in good condition - please contact 07752875608 or barbara.liberty@btinternet.com



Wanted for Uganda: tap dancing shoes are being to be taken by a dance group to Uganda in December. If anyone has any lurking in a cupboard that they no longer use please deposit them in the box placed in the porch If you belong to a tap dance class do spread the word.



Date for your Diary

Monday 23 November

3.00pm: There is the Induction of the new lead Chaplain at the Lister Hospital Chapel, led by the Bishop of Hertford.

Sunday 29 November



4pm Advent Service: Into the bustle of our lives and the effort to find moments of solitude we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah Into our homes and situations along with friends and families. Please do join us for prayer and quiet reflection.

Future Dates:

Nov 24 7-8.30pm Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN

"Fear not," said the Angel to the shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy for all the people." (Lk 2.10). Fr. John Farrell OP offers a meditation on St. Matthew and St. Luke's account of the birth of Christ, and on the joy of believing. Fr. John is the Provincial of the English Province of the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominicans and is a well-known lecturer and public speaker.

Nov 26 Our year five Children from Our Lady's School are leading a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 10am: it is so good to see the children share their faith with us in such fresh and helpful ways.

Nov 28 Domestic abuse conference at Letchworth Garden City church. There is still time to register for this free half day conference, which has been specially planned to accommodate church and community leaders. This conference is being run by Hertfordshire Police and is being hosted jointly by Rev Janet Graham of Covenant Praise Church. Register at covenantpraisechurch@gmail.com

Dec 1 6-8pm **'Pray and Fast for the Climate'** Our last chance to pray for 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. 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/>

Dec 1 7-8.30pm Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN, **'Waiting for Christ with the Fathers'**. Fr. Thomas Skeats OP explores how the early Church understood the coming of Jesus through a study of some of the earliest commentaries on the Gospels. Fr. Thomas is superior of the Dominican community in London and parish priest at St. Dominic's, Haverstock Hill. He also teaches Patristics at Blackfriars Hall and Studium, Oxford.

Dec 6 3pm: Our Quarterly Service of Healing and Wholeness and Anointing: for all who feel the need; the sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered. 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.



Other Items:

Dec 12 & 13 12noon to 6pm **The 19th Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival:** Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Admission £3.50: accompanied children free.

Our Lady's is helping this year with the CTH Prayer Tree for this Festival. If anyone is willing to help Trish decorate the tree please let her know.



Babysitters needed: If you are willing to help babysit (paid or free) for the children of other parishioners please let Trish know as there are a number of parents who need babysitters.

Over the past few weeks we have read more about the issue of self-harm, we have read how it impacts hundreds of young people here in Hitchin and we have read what Phase are doing to combat this problem. This week we will read about the difference the work of Phase and the self-harm support team is having on young people in our town. In the past 6 months Phase has run many self-harm support courses giving young people the tools, support and knowledge to live a life without self-harm. Phase has seen the frequency of self-harm in these young people decrease, seen their understanding of themselves and their emotions improve and every young people has expressed that the quality of their life has improved having been through the course. As well as this, Phase has produced a fantastic video, assembly and lesson called 'Let's talk' that encourage all young people to communicate about how they are feeling, so that the cycle of self-harm does not begin. It has been watched by hundreds of students in the schools and by people all over the UK.

Story:

Michelle is full of ideas and witty remarks, a real quick thinker, but the pressures of growing up and her lack of confidence saw her gradually become more and more withdrawn. In fact, Michelle often refuses to speak to anyone for days at a time. This all began her journey to self-harming but Michelle found it to painful a topic for her to address. Michelle needed support but joining one of the Phase support groups was too much for her. So instead of leaving Michelle to struggle on her own, a member of the team meets with Michelle for 1:1 mentoring. Before this Michelle had walked out of every other intervention. There are still sessions where Michelle can't talk about the difficult stuff, but now she will choose to sit in the room even in the silence, choosing to trust that somebody wants to sit with her.

Stats on self-harm:

- The common onset age for self-harm is 11 years old, that means children currently in year 6
- 43% of 15 year olds who self-harm said that they do so at least once a month, that is 120 15 year olds in Hitchin

For Phase to provide 1:1 support to young people like Michelle they need to raise £15,000 –you can help them to do this by donating just £4. What does £4 buy you? Two small coffees from a shop, a couple of large chocolate bars, 4-5 apps on your phone, a few music singles, a magazine or a

newspaper over a couple days. £4 is not much, but what will it buy for Phase?

£4 will provide the self-harm support course handbook for a young person, £4 per month provides 1:1 support for a young person going through the struggles of self-harm, or a lesson for 30 young people on how to stay mentally healthy.

Prayer:

Lord we bring to you anyone dealing with the issue of self-harm in their lives.

We ask for your love to surround those themselves that are struggling as well as their friends, family and carers and professionals supporting them.

We pray that there can be a sense of peace for those that feel unable to cope with their emotions or circumstances and we ask for healing in their lives, relationships, hearts and minds so that they can know their worth and potential.

We ask Lord that you can break the chains that hold people to destructive addictions and that they can come to you with all their pain and brokenness.

We pray for courage for those that are struggling. Courage to ask for help, talk to people about how they feel and to face and challenge difficult things and resist the urges to harm themselves.

We ask Lord for the right support to be available to those that are struggling and that the obstacles of stigmas and misunderstandings around the issue do not make people feel isolated or unable to access help and support.

We pray for those left with scars and ask that they are able to see healing rather than hurt.

We ask you to be with those supporting loved ones who are struggling, may they be patient and know your love for them and that your hand is over their situation. For those on the journey to recovery we ask for strength to continue the fight and to continue being the living, breathing example that you bring freedom and peace to the most trapped and broken hearts. Amen.

If you would like to support this work then it is very easy, you can text: MAKE05 £5 to 70070 right now. However, the best way to support Phase, to help them make a lasting impact and to see the issue of self-harm in Hitchin decrease is to sign up to become a Partner, £4 per month will provide the support these young people need. Go to <http://www.phase-hitchin.org/#giving> for details of how to give.