



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 1672

5th – 12th March 2016 Fourth Sunday of Lent Year (C)

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

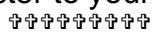
Contacts	
Parish Priest	E-mail:
Fr Michael Lambert	michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Tom O'Brien	frtomaa@gmail.com
Fr Euloge Kasine	eulogeka@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistants	Tel: 01462 455577
Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Tel: 01462 459126
Carol Cooper	carolcooper@rcdow.org.uk
Sacramental Administrator	Tel: 01462 455577
Eve Krol	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 6th	Bring and share celebration after 10.30 Mass for Fr Michael's Jubilee
Monday 7th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Meditation Group UCR 11.15-12.30pm
	Gill Blake Funeral Church 1.45pm
Tuesday 8th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30 – 3.30pm
	Lent Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Church
	Choir practice 8pm Church
Wednesday 9th	Rosary Group for All (Small babies welcome) Hall 9.30am
	Praise group LCR after 10am Mass
	Sacramental Preparation LCR 4.30pm
Thursday 10th	Rosary - Church after Mass
	St Pio Group Hall after 10am Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group
	Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 11th	Choir practice 8pm Church
	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Saturday 12th	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
	Eucharist Preparation Session 2 Hall 9-10.30am
Sunday 13th	Coffee Morning - KISS



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

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast

Psalm: **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

Intercessions: Lord, hear us.....

Response: **Thy kingdom come**

Next week: Isaiah 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Luke 8:1-11

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.

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team 4 Monday Team 2



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: is a Celebration of Fr Michael's Golden Anniversary of Priesthood, with the commemoration of the actual date on Saturday and the Anniversary of his First Mass the following day. Fr Michael writes: "It has been a long time in the preparation and at this stage I would like to express my profound gratitude to so many of you who have been working behind the scenes to ensure that the whole weekend will indeed be a celebration of service and commitment to the Lord and His Holy People. There are so many people involved I will not venture into thanking individuals, but I would like quite simply thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all the support you have given me at this time, both of poor health and to ensure all goes well over the coming days. Please God, it will all come together in the glorious reality of the Eucharist which is the Prayer of Thanksgiving for the whole Church!.



I must not forget to rejoice with all you who are Mums or Grandmas (and more!) on this your special day: Lady Day. Your role in the family is of supreme importance, in formation and holding the family together in love, united, please God with your husbands in this glorious and most wonderful sharing of love that it is possible to live.

We are also going to announce the three priorities which will guide our work for Proclaim '15, much work and consultation with parishioners has taken place and we have come up with a wonderful range of activities which will really affect the whole Parish in many ways and also our local community too.

Love and peace to you all, Michael aa"



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



Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service Churches Together in Hitchin is holding its annual Walk of Witness and Service on Good Friday, 25 March. Members of all churches are invited to gather around the bandstand in Bancroft Gardens for prayer at 10.30 am then to walk along Bancroft and High Street to Market Place for a united service, led by our ministers with singers and musicians from Walsworth Road Baptist Church and the New Testament Church of God. Do please join this act of witness to the

town on one of the most important days in the Christian year




INTERESTED IN JOINING AN INSPIRATIONAL AFTERNOON THAT CELEBRATES WOMEN?

Celebrate Women for International Women's Day




Saturday 12th March 2016 2pm – 5.30pm

We will:

- * Create a safe and confidential space
- * Celebrate and honour women
- * Share pearls of wisdom
- * Reflect on inspirational women who have influenced us
- * Hear a talk about some courageous women



At the beautiful Niland Conference Centre
 93 Elstree Road, Bushey, WD23 4EE

£34 payable in advance includes refreshments

Take time out in a friendly and peaceful environment

For more details contact: Claire Pierce - 07957 418 985
 Claire Pierce's Counselling work has been featured on Sky TV
clairevapierce@psychotherapycounselling.uk.com
www.psychotherapycounselling.uk.com



Our fantastic supporters have raised **£59.67** for Our Lady's RC Church

Hitchin this quarter! **Don't forget** that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a **free donation** for **Our Lady's RC Church** Hitchin. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladyrchitchin>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 7 March



1.45pm The Funeral Service for Gill Blake in our Church. Our love, sympathy and support reach out to Colin, her husband and Lauren-Emma, her daughter, in particular.

Monday 7 March cont

7pm: Full Governing Body Meeting of John Henry Newman School.

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

Tuesday 8 March

The monthly Meeting of the Priests of the Stevenage Deanery is at St Hilda's Church, Shephall.

Wednesday 9 March

Frs Michael and Tom will be in Stevenage to update themselves on the latest regulations concerning the Registration of Marriages in our Church.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes Care Home. All parishioners welcome.

Saturday 12 March

We rejoice with Tanina and Kevin Osborne on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, which will be commemorated at the 10am Mass. Our love and prayers go out to them and all who are celebrating important Wedding celebrations at this time.

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12:30 - 3 pm DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOOR, Westminster Cathedral. In the program Holy Mass, passing through the Door of Mercy, enthronement of the image of Divine Mercy, talk on Divine Mercy, exposition with chaplet. All welcome.

Future Dates

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 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

14th Apr 2016, Is the End Nigh? 1 Thessalonians

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

12th May 2016, Philippians: A Love Letter to a Christian Community

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

Taking Away the Veil: Unmasking the Book of Revelation

10th Jun 2016, A to Z: Symbols of Revelation

24th 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 8

Faith Matters: Lent 2016. YEAR OF MERCY

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm. Dates: 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 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 14

7-8.30pm Scripture from Scratch series of talks in Central London: **How does Jesus teaching in the parables help us live our vocation?** by Fr John Hemer

Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN
Please book your place at

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 website.

Mar 15

6:45 - 8:45pm there will be a Faith Matters Question Time: **Climate Change**

- **How Do Christians Respond?** at Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH for further information and to book see:

www.mountstreet. or phone: 020-7495-1673

All welcome to join Cafod's Chris Bain, Baroness Liddell, and Tibetan Buddhist Lama Gelongma Zangmo for an informative lively evening on how we might respond to this important issue.

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.

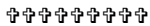
(Refreshment will be Provided.)

Please book a place asap by Emailing: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk / or call: 020 7798 9150



Mar 31 7pm Blessed are the peacemakers:

Fr John Dear, an internationally known voice for peace and nonviolence. A long time activist, popular lecturer, and movement organizer, John is the author of 30 books and hundreds of articles on the Beatitudes, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, Ekklesia, in collaboration with the London Catholic Worker, is very proud to be hosting a talk from internationally renowned preacher, Fr. John Dear. 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 15th to 17th 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

Other items of interest



DAILY DISPATCH

For your interest ZENIT gives a daily dispatch about what the Pope, Cardinals and various others are saying and doing involved with the Church. You can access this at <https://zenit.org>



New Recycling News: Good News! The LiveSimply team are inviting all parishioners to

bring their milk bottle tops of any colour for recycling. We will then deliver them to the nearest Lush Cosmetics shop in Luton. Since August 2011, Lush has been collecting plastic bottle tops from their customers. You can watch a video about their motivations on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ri25e8Mwll>

Lush also raise money for various environmental charities, the web-site is:

<https://uk.lush.com/>

All High Density Polyethylene Plastic tops from milk or other bottles

can be brought to the parish for this scheme. It is still possible to continue placing the coloured lids in the normal household recycling grey bin, but if you wish to help us support this campaign

to help clean-up the UK environment and reduce the plastics that contaminate the beaches and get caught-up in the food



chain of all fishes, then keep them aside and bring them to our recycling area, where a designated bin will become available soon.

Very importantly, **please make sure that all residues of milk and sugary flavours are washed off,** so that we will not have a smelly build-up of moulds and bacteria in the church porch that would develop into a health hazard for us all that use it.

Let's do it, in response to Pope Francis appeal this month that we care for our common home! Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Garden help needed. You will have seen the appeals in the newsletter for helpers to meet up on a Saturday morning to keep the church gardens under control and



they will continue but there is an ongoing need for people to just pop in and do an hour or so whenever they feel like it. We have a garden manual which shows the various areas of the church grounds and what needs to be done when. If you can give an hour or two even monthly then please let Helen Bailey know on **07771 552058** who will show you where the sheets and gardening equipment is kept. This is important work which makes our church grounds look lovely.