



# 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 1685

4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time Year C

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

<b>Contacts</b>	
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<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

**Diary**

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Sick Children's Trust
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group LCR11.15-12.30pm
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30 – 3.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir practice Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary - Church after Mass
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning - UCM

**Readings: Kings 17:17-24, Gal 1:11-19, Luke 7:11-17**

**Entrance antiphon** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? When those who do evil draw near, they stumble and fall.

**Psalm: I will praise you Lord, you have rescued me.**

Intercessions: Help us proclaim

**Response: God has visited his people**

**Next week Sam 12:7-10.13, Gal 2:16.19-21, Lk 7:36-8.3**

**H** Hospital  
 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.**

**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, so that 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 3 Monday Team 3**



**No cash for the collection?** Just text **Parish HITCH** to 70800 to donate £5. See posters in porch.

**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.

**Ramblings for Reflection:** Too often have I cried out to God to save the life of a child, a young person or a loved member of a family, for it not to happen!! So, I find this week's readings very hard. Fortunately, St Paul reminds us of another kind of death: being cut off from Jesus, from God. He also reminds us that the life and joy he received made his life very much harder, facing many more challenges and trials than if he hadn't converted. But it is the sense of fulfilment, of purpose, of the joy and love he received from Jesus, beyond measure that inspired not only him but us all. I would like to believe that Jesus did not need to go through the suffering of abandonment, rejection, trial, and an inhuman death to show his love for me, but he did, and I love him all the more.

I am always deeply humbled by those who endure long and painful suffering without complaint and know of the love they evoke from those closest to them but also from all who have known them.

Death is not the end. . . . For  
**LOVE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH!**

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I would like to thank you all from the heart for your prayers, mass intentions, cards and messages and kindness throughout the 3 and a half years of Ted's illness. He fought so hard for life and overcame 2 major surgeries and treatments. He is now at Peace. God bless you all LOVE Mary Hollingdale and family

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**Monday morning counter required.** One of the team who count the non-offertory parish money on a Monday morning has had to stop and so we need someone to fill the gap. You are committed once every 4 weeks for about 1½hrs from about 9am. If you are able to help please contact Graham Felton at [grahamfelton@ntlworld.com](mailto:grahamfelton@ntlworld.com)

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To all Ministers of the Word: for those without access to email please find limited printed versions of the next rota in the Link



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**More than just a red box.** Those who have a red Missio box supporting the church throughout the world, please bring them to be emptied (or empty them and

bring the cash) to the parish office for the attention of Pauline Watkins. Pauline will be collecting the money and boxes over this and next weekend. If you would like a red box please contact Pauline on 07742965111.

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**June 23rd 2016 is the referendum on Europe.** There is a range of information, events and debates, to help make our decisions which have been loaded onto the parish website. Please go to <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/events/> and scroll down to June 23rd.

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**Proclaim '15 PHASE Youth project.** Following discussions among people who are interested in supporting youth in our parish, we are embarking on a project to run a youth group which will engage our young people in group activities, social action and faith development. We need prayer in our parish to ask the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and discern God's will for the youth of our parish. We are asking parishioners to say a rosary (a decade or full rosary depending on the time you have available) once a week for this project. Please do help us in this way. Thanks for your help in anticipation.

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**Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrews Youth Group - starting September 2016.**

From September 2016 we will be starting a monthly youth group (with the support of PHASE) aimed in the first instance at years 6 - 8 and then looking to grow and expand the group to older children (yrs 9+) and then our younger children (yrs 4 - 6).

Our children are the future of our church and parish. We need to connect, encourage, develop and grow our children's faith during a period when they are questioning everything, including their faith. With the support of PHASE we aim to provide a friendly, safe and fun environment where children can ask questions, explore their thoughts and feelings and also have a lot of fun.

Therefore we are making a short appeal for help;

*Firstly* we need ideas of events, games, ways, films, music, topics etc. etc. that we could use during the monthly session. Sending us an idea does not mean that you are going to have to get involved as we already have a team of volunteers but that leads neatly onto our second appeal.

*Secondly* we are asking for volunteers! This can be any adult or young person (year 10+) who wants to help younger people and who is happy to talk about their faith journey. This can either be in helping us set up the group or more specifically helping us run the group from September.

If you are interested in helping with ideas and or volunteering, please contact Helen Bailey at [hbailey@talktalk.net](mailto:hbailey@talktalk.net).



**Amoris Laetitia, (AL) “The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family”**, is the Exhortation written by Pope Francis after the two Synods of Bishops on that topic in October 2014 and October 2015.

**AL** draws on a long history of Church teaching, and a very intense Synod experience. It draws on both new and old. What’s new above all is an attitude of accompaniment. Pope Francis, like his predecessors, recognizes the complexity of modern family life. But he puts an added emphasis on the need for the Church and her ministers to be close to people no matter what their situation might be or how far from the Church they might feel: to understand, to accompany, to integrate, and to have their arms open especially for anyone who is hurting. **AL** is not simply a theoretical text with no connection to people’s real problems.

The biggest challenge of **AL** is for everyone to read it without rushing and put it into practice. **AL** lays out proposals for the Church and her pastors to change its focus regarding the family: to accompany, to integrate, to remain close to anyone who has suffered the effects of wounded love. Above all, **AL** challenges us to be understanding in the face of complex and painful situations. Pope Francis would have us approach the weak with compassion, and not judgement, to “enter into the reality of other people’s lives and to know the power of tenderness.”

We want to respond to this document as our parish put a lot of work into providing our views via the survey undertaken before the Synod. Therefore we want to invite all the parish to an evening where we will discuss how we can best respond to this document in our parish. Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June you are invited to a supper at 7– 8.30pm.

In preparation for this we will be publishing two chapters per week (Chapters 3-8 of the letter) so that you can read the letter in advance of the evening and be ready to talk about how we can explore further what it asks of us. Please take copies of Chapters 3 & 4 this weekend from the table in the porch.

Could you please let Trish know if you are planning to attend (for catering purposes) We would encourage as many people as possible to take part. We are all part of “The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family”.

## **Dates for your diary**

### **Monday 6 June**

**7.30pm Reflection on Mercy** being led by our own Fr Tom as part of a week for the Year of Mercy in the Stevenage Deanery. A beautiful service put together by Fr Tom and Susanna, it would be wonderful if you could join us at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, 141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP

### **Tuesday 7 June**

**8pm UCM Lower Committee Room.** Deacon Peter Hyde from Shefford will be giving a talk entitled HOW, WHY & WHAT. Reminder for members to bring items for the HAMPER

### **Wednesday 8 June**

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

### **Saturday 11 June**

**After 6pm Mass** all young people in the parish are invited to a talk about World Youth Day with Pope Francis, which is taking place in Krakow this year. There are still places available on the trip from the deanery. It is a wonderful experience so come and find out about it.

### **Monday 13 June**

**6.30pm St Pio Mass** at Michael Hill's home in Pirton followed by supper. All welcome. The evening will start with the Holy Rosary followed by Holy Mass in the grounds in front of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima celebrated by Fr Tom O'Brien. It will also be in memoriam of Ann who looked after us so well last year. After Mass, we will be treated to a warm supper in Michael's home and garden. Please come and support his hospitality.

### **Friday 17 June**



The Funeral Mass of **Ted Hollingdale** will be on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10am** in our church. May he rest in peace and rise in glory

## **Future Dates**

### **June 11**

**10am-2pm A Retreat Day** in Central London: Biblical Models of Discipleship with Brian Purfield **Location:** Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN 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. Suggested donation £ 4.00. Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea/coffee will be provided.

## June 18

**Vocations Pilgrimage to Walsingham**, A day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated and married life. For further details and bookings, contact Fr Richard at [richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk)

## June 18

You are all warmly invited to join the **Northampton Diocese Justice & Peace Commission Conference**. Registration at 09.30am for a 10am start. The keynote speaker will be Barbara Kentish (Field worker with the Westminster Diocese J&P Commission) on "Laudato Si". There will be workshops to identify parish level activities. The venue is **St John the Apostle Church**, 296 Sundon Park Road, Sundon Park, Luton, Beds, LU3 3AL. Please bring food for a shared lunch. For further details, contact Fr. Tony Brennan on 01582 502400

## June 21

**12.30-2.30pm** I would like to draw your attention to an event in the forthcoming refugee week: a **vigil of prayer for refugees in Whitehall**, outside **Downing Street**, where there will be commemoration of those who have died while trying to reach places of safety. This is organised by the London Catholic Worker.

## June 25

**2.30 to 3.30 pm** We are holding a 'pilgrimage' service in the church of **Notre Dame de France**, Leicester Place, off Leicester Square, to pray for refugees, using a 'Lampedusa Cross', that is, a cross which has been made by an island carpenter from one of the refugee boats from Africa,. See the CAFOD website for details of the Lampedusa crosses.

## July 2

**10am-4pm** "Made in God's Image" – **A day workshop at Mount Street Jesuit Centre organised by the LGBT Catholics Younger Adults Group (YAG) of the Westminster Diocese, on self-acceptance and reflecting on our journeys. Through input from Mgr. Keith Bartrop, spiritual guide for LGBT Catholics Westminster, and through the sharing of experiences of members of the LGBT Catholics Westminster community as well as group and individual reflection sessions, we hope that those taking part will be able to see God's work in their lives and feel encouraged and supported by the Westminster diocese in being who they are..**

Suggested donation of £10 which will include lunch. For more information and to register to this event please contact YAG: email [lgbtcatholicisyag@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicisyag@gmail.com), website [www.lgbtcatholicisyag.org.uk](http://www.lgbtcatholicisyag.org.uk).

## July 5

**UCM Walsingham Pilgrimage** If any members of the parish would like to join us you will be most welcome. We are joining with Shefford UCM who are arranging a coach which leaves Shefford at 8 am prompt. For further information please contact Ann Cook on 01462 453893.

## Other items of interest

**Meeting Needs** have been asked for the following items for local families in need. A dressing table for a girl of 11. Other children's bedroom furniture. A flat screen TV. Good condition mattresses (must have a fire label). Double pushchair, vacuum cleaner and double bed frame please. If you can help with any of these please let Steph Kirby know. [stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com) or 01462 816658

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**Childminder** needed to look after a 4 year old girl from September. Needs to be able to start from 7am and be willing to accommodate shift work with the potential for set days. Needs to be able to drop off and pick up at school times from Our Lady's School. Please contact Francesca Barnard on 0758065422

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**Computer desk free to anyone who can collect it.** Please contact Annette Field on 07792124049. Must be collected by 14<sup>th</sup> June.

