



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 1688

25th June – 2nd July 2016 13th 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	
Contacts	
Parish Priest	07547 171570
Fr Tom O'Brien	E-mail: frtomaa@gmail.com
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647
	eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert	07958 575442
Pastoral Support	michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants	Tel: 01462 455577
Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetics	
Parish Administrator	Tel: 01462 459126
Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
E-mail:	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representative	
Trish Bonnett	Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)

Diary

Sunday 26th	Coffee Morning – EDAID
Monday 27th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group LCR11.15-12.30pm
Tuesday 28th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30 – 3.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 29th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
Thursday 30th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday July 1st	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina - Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 3rd	Coffee Morning – Meditation Groups

Readings: 1 Kgs 19:16.19-21 Gal 5:1.13-18, Lk 9:51-62

Entrance antiphon All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Psalm: O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup

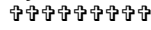
Intercessions: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week Is 66:10-14, Gal 6:14-18, Luke 10:1-12.17-20



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.

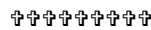


This week's counting teams:

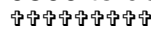
Sunday Team Monday Team

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



The next gardening session is on Saturday 9th July from 9 - 12ish.

Please come along to help with weeding, ivy clearing and general tidying.

All help very much appreciated. Many thanks Helen



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.

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:

Let's not forget that Jesus spent most of his life in Nazareth (28 years). He did not appear to do too much travelling. Then, in his final years (just over two), he was unstoppable, always on the move. Today we are told he is heading for Jerusalem. Unlike the apostles and disciples, we do not have a person to follow but we can hear his voice - in the scripture. Our following is along a path that has been well worn by so many different feet down through the ages although, for us, the ground is still fresh. So we follow the Way (the first disciples were called Followers of the Way). We don't know where it will lead or what we will encounter except probably not sheep or wheat or fish, except to eat, of course. However, we will meet people along the Way. Other pilgrims like ourselves with whom we can share the journey: its wonders and challenges, dangers and delights. We can also invite others to join us; telling them about our journey and how much Jesus helps, guides, challenges and motivates us along the Way; hoping they will want to continue along the Way. And maybe, just maybe, every now and again we will catch sight of Jesus up ahead. A sight that will fill us with joy, a joy that will sustain us through those times when we want to give up, when we feel lost, unable to continue, empty and forsaken. . . . And we will continue along the Way!

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Amoris Laetitia, "The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family" We meet on Thursday evening 30th June to discuss this. Please sign up on the board if you have not already done so.

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Thinking About Life and Faith: The search for happiness. Does God exist? Why do we need the Church? How do I discover the purpose of my life? These are just a selection of the topics covered in our new series: Thinking About Life and Faith, which starts on 7th July at 7:30pm until 9pm and continues on Thursday evenings each week. You don't have to come to every session but you might find you want to! Absolutely anyone is welcome – it doesn't matter what stage your faith is at. If you are interested, please sign the sheet in the porch – just so Susanna has an idea of where to hold it.

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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

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June 26th - There will be a second collection today in aid of "**Peter's Pence**"

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Text Giving

A new way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone !!Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

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Please be advised that Hertfordshire Constabulary have raised safety and security concerns regarding parking in College Road, in the Police Station and on grass verges.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ANYWHERE IN THE POLICE STATION OR ON GRASS VERGES.

This is strictly for police personnel and for visitors to the police station only. Given the current climate with regards to security, the police need to know who is parking on police property.

If the Church car park is full, it is requested that public car parks are used. The nearest public car parks are located behind Sainsbury's, in front of the Hitchin Dental Surgery. These are just a short walk away and are pay and display car parks.

It would be very much appreciated if this information could kindly be conveyed to everyone who is planning to attend Our Lady's Church.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

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Church Cleaning We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday or 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

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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 and also helps keep our costs down by not having to employ a gardener.



Choir members needed. If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord 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

Dates for Diary

Monday 27th June

11am Mass at Stagenhoe. Please be in the car park by 10.35 if you need a lift.

Monday 4th July

Michaelmas

8pm in the Lower Committee Room Michaelmas Fair Meeting.

Everyone is invited to attend. Meanwhile could you put aside any

items suitable for sale at the fair? In September we will place baskets for collecting goods which will include bottles and jars, produce, new items, good quality bric a brac, toys and games. On the day we will be looking for cakes and plants. At the moment we are compiling a list of 'promises' for the auction. If you can offer to cut and style hair, bake a cake, cook a meal, do some gardening or promise any service at all, please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587 or email pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com) who will send you a form to complete

Future Dates

June 29

6.30-9.30pm A Pastoral

Approach to Suicide Prevention and Coping with Grief. Console, the Suicide Prevention and Bereavement Charity, will present a seminar to be delivered by Sr Kathleen Maguire PBVM, MA CT and Rev Dr Tony Byrne, CSSp on pastoral approaches to preventing suicide and coping with grief. The seminar will take place at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. For more information and bookings, please contact Console either by email at info@consolecounselling.co.uk or telephone 020 7821 8865.

July 2

10am-4pm Poetry Workshop:

Light Within Led by Helen Overell
House of Prayer, 35 Seymour Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0PB

This creative space provides a touchstone for ideas and an opportunity to put words down on the page. The writing exercises are both individual and collaborative with opportunities for sharing within the group. The emphasis is on constructive feedback together with encouragement and support so as to allow the beginnings of poems to emerge. Cost: £20. Please bring a packed lunch.

July 3

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be preaching on the Jubilee of Consolation at **Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church (141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP)** on Sunday 3rd July. There will be a Service with catechetical teaching at 4pm. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions around 5.15. There will be Mass at 6.30pm and finally social time. Come for a part or the whole period. Our Lady's Church has Jubilee Doors of Mercy for this Holy Year. All are welcome!

July 15

7pm in the Church. Susan

Brown is holding a Thanksgiving Evening as she retires from Our Lady School this year. It will be the opportunity for her to say 'thank you' to all the people she has known during her time at Our Lady school. She will recall some of the events and important happenings which have taken place in her headship. Everyone is welcome and the school's PTA is kindly organising refreshments afterwards.

July 15 6-8.30pm Please support the excellent work which **The Passage** does for homeless people in Central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey Tickets at £35 each, include wine, soft drinks, buffet supper, prize raffle, and live music.

Tickets are available from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020 75921856. Email: tickets@passage.org.uk See also www.passage.org.uk

July 17 3pm **The Friends of Holy Saviour** invite you to a "Talk & Tea" event...

"Living Threads: Restoring life to beautiful fabrics."

Textile Conservator Janie Lightfoot, whose studio restored Holy Saviour's beautiful Alleluia Altar Frontal last year, will talk about her work, and the wide range of projects she and her team undertake.

Holy Saviour Church. Radcliffe Rd.

Tickets £8: Friends £7 (including tea) from 01462 423603 or Hitchin Festival Office at the Town Centre Initiative, Churchyard

Contact: veronica.trotma66@gmail.com

July 23

Bar-B-Q & Jerk Chicken/Pork

Time: 11:30am to 4:00pm. Tickets: Adults £6.00 Children £3.00. Venue, New Testament Church Ground William Road, Hitchin SG4 0LD. Sponsored by Church of God of Prophecy, Hitchin

Sept 10 2pm **Jubilee Mass for Workers and Volunteers of Mercy**

The Cardinal will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral for all workers and volunteers whose work and voluntary service embodies mercy. This includes, but is no way limited to, those who work in social care in the State or private sector. Also, so many of our diocesan and parish organisations, such as Caritas and the SVP. You are most welcome to participate in this Diocesan event in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Oct 8 2.30 pm **Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Albans**

Starting in Verulamium Park with a short liturgy focusing on our Proto-Martyr, we will process to St. Alban's Shrine in the Abbey, where Bishop John Sherrington will preach at Evensong at 4pm. Everyone from across the Diocese is most welcome.

Other items of interest

Growing Ability is an organisation that works through horticulture with people with disabilities and meet at Ransom's Recreational ground where they have an allotment. They are presently looking for an outdoor table that will seat 8 people. Does anyone have a garden table they no longer need and could donate to them please? Or even two smaller ones that they could push together? If you can help please contact Liz McElroy on liz@trianglegarden.org

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Feltham Community Chaplaincy Trust (FCCT) is looking for volunteers to mentor young imprisoned men. It is possible for this ministry to fit in with your existing commitments. No experience is required, just a passion for Christ and his teachings. Full training is provided. Contact FCCT directly for more information on 020 8844 5585 or ccfeltham@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

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Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

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Kieran Murphy of PHASE thanks the parish for their support and generosity towards their work. Our donations last year from the Pedaling Priests and from the One World Group have been a source of great encouragement, as we make stronger links in working together. The commitment of our parish to pray for PHASE is really valued and appreciated by the whole team, and empowers them in everything that they do.

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Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com