



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 1698

03 September – 10th September 2016 23rd Sunday in ordinary time Year C



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am	
Monday – Friday 10am (no Sat 10am until September)	
Reconciliation during August apply to Priest directly	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 E-mail: frtomaa@gmail.com
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert Pastoral Support	07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley Catechetics	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Diary

Sunday 4th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG
	Healing Service 3pm
Monday 5th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 6th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm UCM LCR 8pm
Wednesday 7th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
Thursday 8 th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 9 th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 11th	Coffee Morning – KISS

Readings: Wis 9:13-18, Phil 9-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Intercessions All merciful God.....

Response: **Be with us always**

Next week : Ex 32:7-11, 13-14, Tim 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 4
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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Our Healing, Wholeness and Anointing service is this Sunday 4th Sept at 3pm in the church. The sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered. We come to pray with and for people in need of healing during this time. All invited.

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.

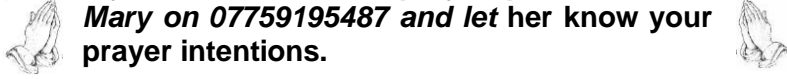
Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**
Via text message: **07876 526935**
Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net

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.



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.



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:

“... none of you can be my disciples unless (s)he gives up all his/her possessions!!!” Does that mean we all have to join a Religious Order or Congregation, like the Assumptionists? Now that would really be interesting When Jesus started his mission, he went from place to place, depending totally on the hospitality of others. But, if they had all given up their possessions, there would have been no hospitality available? A recurring issue in Religious life is that, in owning nothing, no one is responsible for anything, and material items fail to be looked after properly or are easily abandoned. We appoint Bursars to look after all the material goods but this still leaves the question of responsibility. Our vow of poverty demands that we take extra care of everything we use. In the book of Genesis, God placed creation into our care as *stewards* not owners or possessors - stewards! In fact, we own nothing; everything we have is gift, even those things we worked hard to afford. Everything is gift. As stewards of all that we have at our disposal, we have a sacred responsibility to care for all that we have lovingly, however inanimate the object (*viz Laudato Si*), just like a child with their precious toy that they carry with them everywhere. Maybe Jesus presents us with an irony. Whatever we call or believe to be our ‘Possessions’ are really those things that POSSESS us! Not the other way round. What would we do without mobile phones? Could we live without them? Jesus calls us to give up our possessions and become stewards - not necessarily Religious.

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Pope Francis declared September 1st as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, as the Orthodox Church has done since 1989.

The Pope said “The annual World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.” Please take a copy of the prayer sheet in the porch for your use.

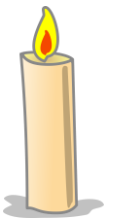
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There will be a second collection next weekend (11th September) in aid of Catholic Education.

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Father Michael will be away from Saturday 10th September until December. If you wish to have his address whilst he is in America, please contact the Parish Office for details. Father Michael will also be contactable via his email address.

Candles going spare In a sort out of our sacristy we found many candles that we no longer need so please help yourself to them in the hall. Any donations welcome but not essential!



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Confirmation! Young people who will be in Y9 or above, next year: you are invited to consider preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. We will meet

every two weeks on Sunday evenings, 6pm - 8pm from October, with a ‘Getting to know you’ session in September. We are running a new course this year and hope it will be lively, thought provoking and useful for deciding whether you are ready to take this step in the development of your faith. Please pick up an application form and more information from the Link (down the steps towards the hall).

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLICATIONS

It’s time to apply if your child is in Y3 or above! Forms are on the table on the left as you leave the church and online on our website under Sacramental Preparation under the First Holy Communion tab. You also need to sign up on the sheet in the porch for a Family Chat with Fr Tom as soon as possible. Thank you!

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All parents presenting their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation in the coming year are required to attend ‘**The Baptised Life**’ on **Monday 27th September, in the parish hall at 8pm.**

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There is a box of small cards in the Church Porch. Please feel free to take one for your purse or wallet. The card requests that a Priest visit should you be admitted to hospital.

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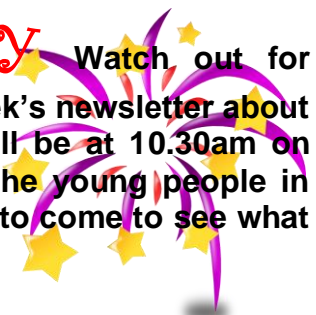
Free packet of wild flower seeds from Kew gardens can be applied for (one per household) to use in the church gardens or your own. Go to the address below to claim yours!

<https://www.growwilduk.com/content/claim-your-free-packet-wild-flower-seeds>



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FUN SUNDAY Watch out for more details in next week’s newsletter about **FUN SUNDAY** which will be at 10.30am on 18th September for all the young people in the parish. Make a note to come to see what it is all about!!!!33



Michaelmas

Fair

8TH OCTOBER Along with your newsletter this week you will find a poster to advertise the Michaelmas Fair. We would be very grateful if you could display it in a window to help our publicity. We are including a wide range of children's games and activities this year including a treasure hunt, a balloon and bubble entertainer as well as the pig race, a toy and games stall and chocolate tombola. All children are invited to create a 'treasure' picture of their own or colour the one included in the pack. All pictures will be displayed at the fair and should be returned to the parish office. You will also find four books of raffle tickets which we hope you will either purchase yourself or sell to your family and friends. Additional books are available from the office or from Trish. Counterfoils and money should also be returned to the office. Finally you will find information about our popular 'Promises Auction' and an opportunity for you to offer your gifts and talents to your fellow parishioners.

The Michaelmas Fair provides a wonderful opportunity to support financially the many activities our parish engages on as well as helping an education centre in Senegal. It is also a great chance to do some Christmas shopping and find a bargain in our 'Aladdin's Cave,' not to mention the wide range of food available including lunches and international cuisine. Many of you have already left goods for sale in the red basket in the porch and next weekend (10/11th September) we are asking for 'Nearly New' items and any religious books, statues etc. If you would like to have your goods collected please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) Very many thanks for all your support.

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The Foodbank needs the following items asap.

- TINNED TOMATOES ***URGENT***
- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE ***URGENT***
- TINNED FRUIT ***URGENT***
- TINNED FISH ***URGENT***
- SPONGE PUDDINGS
- DRIED MILK
- TINNED MEAT (NOT CORNED BEEF)
- BISCUITS
- TINNED VEGETABLES (NOT SWEETCORN)
- SUGAR 500GM OR 1KG BAGS
- LONG GRAIN RICE
- INSTANT POTATO
- CEREALS
- SQUASH
- UHT MILK
- SHAMPOO



Please add one of them to your shopping basket and drop it in the tub in the porch of the church.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 6 September

8pm UCM Mass in the Lower Committee Room

Wednesday 7 September

11am Mass at Elmside Care Home. All are welcome.

Sunday 11 September

live simply Care for Creation Pilgrimage Join us to pray for Creation with your feet. September is Care for Creation month. To mark this and in answer to Laudato Si there will be an All Faith Pilgrimage on the Hitchin Outer Orbital Path (the HOOP). We will pray using texts from different faith traditions. Come for a couple of hours, a morning or the day. See the schedule posted in the porch. Email Ann at oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk for more info and to register.

Future Dates

Sept 14 6.30pm - London: Catholic History Walk "SMELLS AND BELLS Discovering London's Catholic culture" - Meet on the steps of St Martin's-in-the-Field, Trafalgar Square WC2 4JJ. Cost £5. Students, Senior Citizens and unemployed according to your means. Children (up to 3 per adult) free. Priests, Religious and seminarians free. More information: www.catholichistorywalks.com

Sept 17 10am-12pm **CAFOD Supporters Morning** CAFOD Westminster Volunteer Centre, 1st floor, Catholic Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, London N14 4HE. There is a guest speaker who has first-hand knowledge of our work in Bolivia. Bolivia is the country we are focusing on this Harvest Fast Day. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Bookings taken on 0208 449 6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk

Sept 17 12pm - 12.45pm **Welcoming the stranger: An ecumenical service of hope for refugees**, then walk to the march in Park Lane at St James' Roman Catholic Church, Spanish Place, 22 George St, London W1U 3QY For booking see link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welcoming-the-stranger-an-ecumenical-service-of-hope-for-refugees-tickets-27150534981>

Sept 17 **St Scholastica's Retreat – Open Day – Saturday**, The Retreat offers sheltered housing to practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £401pcm – more information on the poster and from The Warden: Rev Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437. Email: info@stscholasticas.co.uk
www.stscholasticas.co.uk

Sept 18 **Pilgrimage of reparation and prayer for the sanctity of life** at Walsingham, led by Bishop Alan Williams. Bus leaving Letchworth at 8.45am. £15 Adults, and £5 children. Contact Paul Vooght on 01438 359276 to book.

Sept 20 **6.30-8.00pm Modelling Bible Studies for Parish Bible Groups with Brian Purfield** This practical session is intended for everyone who is interested in Bible Studies; you might just want to attend a bible group in your parish or to get one together. Also, you might want to learn how to lead a group, or if you have good experience, to share some good practice or ask some questions related to Bible Studies. Brian Purfield is a well experienced speaker and bible group leader. He will guide a group through simple steps on how to make Parish Bible Studies effective by simply modelling a session. Held at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN Registration is required. Email at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk and indicate your name and the date of the event. Suggested donation £4.

Sept 21 **8pm** Next Council meeting of Churches Together in Hitchin **at Holy Saviour** (tea/coffee from 7.30pm) with a presentation by Mission Direct, the international Christian volunteer organisation now based in Burymead Road, Hitchin.

Sept 24 **10am-1pm in our church.** Laudato Si and Care for Creation – Where next? Autumn series of events on local and global effects of climate change, Pope Francis' "Laudato Si" and practical ways you can get involved. Range of exhibitors and talks with addresses from CAFOD, Justice and Peace and Caritas. Sponsored by Justice and Peace Westminster, Caritas Westminster and CAFOD. Please do try and come and RSVP to barbarakentish@rcdow.org.uk

Sept 25 **11.30am The Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham** in Covent Garden in Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane. Please come and join us for the solemn Mass in the London Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Sept 29 **5.30-8.30pm John Henry Open Evening.** Last Tour 7pm Headteacher's Speech at 7.30pm.

Other items of interest

The Diocese is offering a range of training for Catechists. You can find details on the board in the Link or by going to the following place <http://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/training/>

The three Jesuit Centres in Britain including Mount Street in London are now sharing a website **Pathways to God** which can be found at www.pathwaystogod.org which will tell you about courses and events coming up.

A request from Elmside the Methodist Care Home in Hitchin is looking to find some volunteers who could really change the lives of its residents. Rhonda Challis, the Volunteers Co-ordinator, writes: 'Our residents are forever learning and growing and they love one to one company and individual time. We have a lovely community in our care home and, though members of Christchurch do all they can, we don't have enough help and support. We would be grateful if anyone would like to come in and do a talk on literally anything. We have four blind residents that would love to be read to. Any help you can offer us will be greatly appreciated.' If you are interested, just call in at Elmside to find more.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) message

'For some while there has been a UK national group working on setting up a Quaker bank. As can be appreciated this takes quite a bit of work and, even if it is a good idea, the timing needs to be right so that it will attract enough business to be viable. The group has asked that we pass on the link to this survey <http://www.qft.uk.com> Please could anyone who is interested find some time to respond.'

Please see the poster in the porch about **Catholic Singles**, an organisation which helps practicing Catholics meet other Catholics.

Deepening Our Awareness of God Within Us

Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH [pathwaystogod.org](http://www.pathwaystogod.org) 020-7495-1673

There are still some places left on this 9-month part time course. The course uses Ignatian spirituality to foster the connection between life and prayer. It includes many different ways of praying, reflecting and listening to help "find God in all things". Go to website for further information.