



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 1699

10th September – 17th September 2016 24th 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:	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 11th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 12th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 13th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 14th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
Thursday 15th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 16th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 18th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

Readings: Ex 32:7-11.13-14, Tim 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Psalm: I will leave this place and go to my father.

Intercessions: Lord in your Mercy

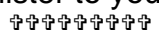
Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

Next week : Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-11



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.



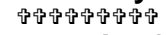
If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.



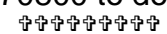
Year of Mercy Prayer Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, so that our Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

This week's counting teams:

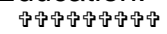
Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 1



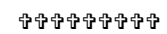
No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.



There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of Catholic Education.



2017 Parish diaries are now available in the porch priced 50p. Money to go inside the doors of the church in the pamphlets box.



Copies of the new Eucharistic Ministry rota are available in the link and on the parish website.

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:

Storytelling has always been one of Jesus' strengths but the Gospels do not always do him or his stories justice, although Luke's story of the Prodigal Son does stand out. In celebrating the Jubilee of Mercy, this is the story we all remember. We are presented with a God whose love looks far beyond our misdeeds and failings, however dire, to our ultimate well-being. Mercy is presented as much more than forgiveness. It restores dignity, self-worth, value and purpose. God always, always, wants life for us to the full. If we could only believe that we always live in God's embrace (received at our Baptism), we would live a life of thanksgiving in which God significantly flavoured all our experiences – even those that are the most difficult and cause the most suffering. But Mercy is not just restorative, it is the source of inspiration to make us better people than we were before. Just as in the corporal works of mercy, the hungry, who are fed, end up feeding others who are hungry. In this Jubilee year, we have learned that corporal and spiritual works of mercy enhance the deep dignity of our human lives, strengthens and unites humanity and frees people from selfishness and egoism. The Father of the story allows us to discover what true love can achieve. Maybe Luke's story is not so much about a Prodigal Son but about a Prodigal Father!!!

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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 Tuesday 27th September, in the parish hall at 8pm.

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Meeting with Fr Tom, concerning Admission to John Henry Newman School; The open evening at the school is **Thursday 29th September**. You then need to see Fr Tom for you to complete the school application. From the school you will need to bring with you the completed Self Assessment Form. There is no need to bring the child or children concerned. Please make sure that you give as much information as you can about yourselves, asking yourselves the question: "Why is John Henry Newman the School for my son or daughter, or children?"

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.

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CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's liturgy starts again this weekend at the **10.30** Mass for children of school age from Reception to year 5. Children go out at the start of Mass when called by the Priest. Children are split into two groups. R-Year 2 go to the lower committee room.

Year 3-5 go to the upper committee room. The 4's and unders can also go out with their parents after the gospel into the hall for their own liturgy. The 4th Sunday of the month is a children's Mass and everyone remains in the church for a children focused liturgy. **See the item about FunSunday – a new initiative for the parish starting next week 18 September.**

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FUN SUNDAY

18th September 10:30 Mass - The Youth Ministry group invite all children of the parish to our first

event. Children need to be registered from **10:15** in the hall and brought directly into the hall for a liturgy; including fun games, arts and crafts activities and a getting to know you session. Children will be brought back into the Mass for Communion, they will then share with the parish what they have enjoyed doing during the Mass. Children under the age of 4 must be accompanied by an adult. Please be assured that parents staying with their children in the hall will be fulfilling their Sunday obligation on this occasion. We are all looking forward to this first event and having fun.

FUN SUNDAY

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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



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 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful, please speak to Tish or email Hannah Granger at steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk

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The ever popular Catholic Speed Dating is back on 16 September, but we are looking for a few more men to sign up! Details: 16 September, 7:30 'til late with a £5 donation, at Austin Forum, St Augustine's Church W6 8AU. Interested me should contact gabriella@austin-forum.org

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Spanish after school club Mondays 4.30pm – 5.30pm. Free trial offered. For details, please contact Montse on 07732 760751 or email spanishmontse@yahoo.co.uk

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Michaelmas 8TH OCTOBER We hope you received your pack last weekend with all the details of how you can support this year's fair. If not, there are still some in the porch or available from the office. Many thanks for all the books donated last week as well as the toys and games. Next weekend (17/18th September) we are asking for new items for our gift stall plus jewellery. If you would like your goods to be collected, please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

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The Torchlit Procession in honour of Our Lady of Willesden takes place Sunday 2nd October from 7pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. Cardinal Vincent will lead the procession at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady All are warmly invited to join the procession in this jubilee year of mercy.

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Dates for Diary

Wednesday 14th September

2.30pm: There will be Mass at Foxholes
10am: After Mass: There will be a Praise Group Meeting in the Lower Committee Room. Hymns will be sung relevant to the previous month's Liturgy.

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Divine Mercy Day of Prayer in Westminster Cathedral Saturday 1st October 9.30am to 4.30pm with Mass at 10.30am or 12.30pm. Keynote Speakers: Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of the Diocese of Maiduguri in North Eastern Nigeria, who will speak of the experience of leading a Diocese under attack from terrorists & how Jesus came to him and his flock in their hour of need, with

an urgent message to pray the Rosary to counteract the evils of our times & defeat terrorism; and Mgr. John Armitage, Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, who will speak on Our Lady of Walsingham's Mission for the Conversion of England. For full programme details contact: Antonia at antonia4161@gmail.com

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Future dates

Sept 16 5.30pm The Cardinal will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of Mother Teresa in the Cathedral.

Sept 18 3pm – 5pm 'Travelling together in peace' Come and see local faith groups tell of their religious and spiritual journeys then meet over refreshments. Free admission at Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood WD6 1WA

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Sept 22 7.30 – 9.00 pm The Power of NOW The Prophets' message speaks loud and clear to our beautiful, broken world. *What is Prophecy? The world of 8th to 6th Century BCE & our world* Suggested donation £5 Book at 020 8950 4000 or www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programme-of-events

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Sept 29 10am – 12pm The Grace of Later Years (Sister Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver) A reflection morning Suggested donation £6 Book at 020 8950 4000 or www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programme-of-events

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Oct 1 11-4pm St Augustine and Creation. An Augustinian response to Laudato Si' with Sr Margaret Atkins O.S.A Austin Forum, 55 Fulham Palace Rd, W6 8AU. FREE. Sr Margaret was previously a Senior Lecturer in Theology at Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds and is now a Research Fellow at Blackfriars, Oxford. She has a particular interest in ethics of healthcare and of the environment and in St Augustine.

Oct 1 10.30am – 2pm Mindfulness in Christian Tradition with Mgr. Malachy Keegan SLOW DOWN! TAKE A LOOK!

Do you have too much to do? Do things get on top of you? Do you worry or have regrets? Or do you just need some space? Why not take some time out to come along to our Mindfulness talk to gain insights from our entertaining and engaging speaker on how to improve your mental, physical and spiritual well-being. The Parish Hall, SS Alban & Stephen, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB (close to the station) To register (or just come on the day): email cchandco@btconnect.com or phone 07778 179127. Suggested donation £5. **Tea/coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch.**

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Oct 1 10am – 12pm Male Suicide Awareness Seminar Covenant Praise Church is holding a men's health seminar on Male Suicide.

In [2014](#), male suicide accounts for 76% of all suicides and is the single biggest cause of death in men under 45 in the UK. Men find it difficult to talk about their feelings and bottle things up inside. Come and learn how we can help men, families and society deal with this issue at Strathmore Infant and Nursery School Old Hale Way, Hitchin 9:30am registration, Refreshments provided Pre-register at covenantpraisechurch@gmail.com

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Oct 2-8 A Foyer de Charité Retreat will be held at St. Joseph's, Ashurst, in the New Forest near Southampton, from Sunday 2 Oct. (6pm) – Saturday 8 Oct. (2pm). The theme is God's Plan for the Fullness of Time, and the preacher will be Mgr. Keith Barltrop, with help from Foyer members and past retreatants. Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day, and offer a holistic way of deepening our faith in the Church's teaching and our life in Christ. The Foyers are communities of consecrated lay people living with a priest in order to help others grow closer to Christ and live the Catholic faith more fully. For further information or to book a place, contact Mgr. Barltrop: keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk; 07879 953953; St. Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London W2 5DJ

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Oct 5 7pm The Death of God and the War on Terror (*Theos Annual Lecture*) lecture by Professor Terry Eagleton at One Birdcage Walk. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception. Please let us know by 14th September at the latest

if you are able to attend by emailing events@theosthinktank.co.uk

Oct 16 6:30 pm Music Praise Festival This year's music praise festival will be at our church. The choice of theme this year is 'security in trouble', thinking of some of the troubles that there are in the world and yet as Christians how we can have the assurance that God is looking after us. Our choir will be supporting the singing so please do come to join in the praise of Our Lord.

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Oct 22 Start 1400; End 1800 The Catholic Medical Association are holding a Conference for juniors and students of the healthcare profession:

What is it?

A half day conference. An opportunity to meet new friends and hear what the Catholic Church teaches.

Where?

Newman House, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6AR

Lunch will not be provided but tea, coffee and soft drinks will be free of charge Afterwards there will be an opportunity to go for an evening meal together

What will it cost? Nothing - it's entirely free to attend but registration is required

The Catholic Medical Association 39 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1BX www.CatholicMedicalAssociation.org.uk

Topics covered: Sacrament of Marriage Family Life Humanae Vitae Pro-life The Gospel of Life Church teaching Who is this for? All juniors and students of the healthcare professions (doctors, nurses, midwives, medical students, nursing students etc) What next? If you wish to come, please email: events@catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk by 17th October to register.

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The Pilgrimage of Mercy to St Albans Cathedral takes place on Saturday 8 October 2016.

Bishop John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, is leading this pilgrimage to St Albans. The pilgrimage begins in Verulamium Park at 2.30pm, with an enactment of the story of St Alban, a procession into the cathedral, past the shrine of St Alban, and ecumenical Evensong at 4.00pm in the cathedral. There will be an opportunity to venerate the relic of St Alban after Evensong.

All are welcome to attend.