



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 1700

17th September – 24th September 2016 25th Sunday in ordinary time Year C



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Reconciliation 10.30am	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am	
Monday – Friday 10am	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 E-mail: ftomaa@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 18th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
Monday 19th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 20th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 21st	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
Thursday 22nd	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
	Thinking about Life and Faith Church 7.30-9pm
Friday 23rd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 25th	Coffee Morning – Gardening Group

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

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Psalm: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Alleluia!

Intercessions: Lord, in your Mercy...

Response: **Hear our prayer**

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

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 3
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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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.

A Volunteer is urgently wanted to escort Linda Budd to the 10.30am mass on the 1st Sunday of the month so that she can continue to proclaim the word. Linda has a driver but Sue Ryder policy says there must be an escort on the ambulance. Please let Trish know if you would like to assist.

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:

The success of the GB Paralympic team at the Olympics to date is testimony to what can be achieved with commitment, belief, perseverance and sacrifice. What is even clearer is that each success achieved was because of a whole community of support, encouragement and love that brought them to their achievement. They teach us about the absolute honesty and totality of their commitment, and of developing their talents to the fullest despite their disability. And there is no doubt that money (that tainted thing) played an important part in the whole process. In Jesus day charging interest on loans was anathema - a sin against God (maybe we should bring that back??) so contracts were written in such a way that they stated that you had borrowed more than you had actually received. The "astute" steward probably just changed the contracts to what was actually loaned. If anything, it was the steward who lost any compensation he would have received from the contract. That we, who belong to the family of God, are not astute in that way is true and to be honoured. We trust people, who let us down and don't keep their promises, again and again. We give money to people begging on the streets hoping it will buy them a meal and, as we turn our backs, they slip into the pub. No, we are not astute and maybe we shouldn't be. I am sure Jesus cured a lot of people who later turned their back on him when he was arrested and he never takes back what he has given!!!

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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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PARISH FINANCES

The Parish Accounts for the half-year to the end of June show an operational surplus of £14,629 thanks, in part, to a generous legacy of £10,000.

When other costs and payments due are taken into account, the surplus is reduced to £6,810, which is broadly in line with the budget forecast for the year.

A detailed Financial Statement is on the Notice Board in the Porch and, if you have any questions, please contact either David Wilson (davidwilson45@ntlworld.com) or Pascal Kwo (pascal.kwo@btinternet.com) from the Finance Committee.

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The Parish and the LiveSimply team would like to thank the hard working team of **John Scott, John Chamberlain, Tom McGennity, and Philip James** for all their time and hard work to replace the old metal grills in the church floor around the outer walls and replacing them with a quieter and more visually pleasing blue carpet in-fills. In the spirit of our LiveSimply parish status we can report that the money received from recycling the scrapped aluminium sections has paid for the carpet tiles used. A very good job well done, it is hoped that our church services will be less inconvenienced with this quieter flooring! What a resourceful parish we share!

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Livesimply #LiveLaudatoSi Creation Time Creation Rosary Thurs. 29/09/2016

Join us to answer Pope Francis' call to Care for Creation. We will pray a 'Walking Rosary'. The Rosary is a prayer that is often said while on walking pilgrimage or in procession. We will walk in some of Hitchin's most beautiful countryside and pray the Mysteries of Light which were added to the Rosary by Pop John Paul II in 2002. We will reflect specifically on care for creation in light of Pope Francis' "Laudato Si". This will take place on Thursday morning, time to be confirmed. Email Ann at oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk for more info.

Dates for Diary

Sunday 18 September

7-9pm Hitchin Christian Centre An Evening of Comedy Magician John Archer this evening. Huge laughs guaranteed at this special night with acclaimed comedy magician John Archer. John is "the first man to fool Penn and Teller". John is a past winner of the 'Magic Circle Stage Magician of the Year' and certainly one of the best comedy magicians in the UK today. Expect an evening of laughs, surprises and John sharing his story about how he came to faith in Jesus - great to invite non-Christian friends too. Book tickets online at <http://www.hcc.org.uk/events/johnarcher/>

Tuesday 20 September

2.30pm Milford Lodge. There will be Mass at 2.30pm – All are welcome.

Wednesday 21 September

8 pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council at Holy Saviour Church in Radcliffe Road. This includes a session on Mission Direct, the international Christian voluntary organisation now based in Burymead Road, Hitchin

Saturday 24 September

10am - 1pm Church Hall Laudato Si and Care for Creation – where next? An event to discuss the local and global effects of climate change, the message of Pope Francis in Laudato Si, and practical ways for you to get involved. We are a Live Simply parish and we have a firm commitment to the principles outlined by Pope Francis in his document so we really hope that you will come to this event. If you are able to, please rsvp to barbarakentish@rcdow.org.uk Please bring a plate of food for a shared lunch. Parishioners are also asked - if you are unable to come would consider baking biscuits or cakes for the event. Please bring them to the church Friday or Saturday morning

Future Dates

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.

Dec 22

CHRISTMAS IN LOURDES 6 DAYS BY COACH No overnight travel

Departs London Victoria Coach Station. Overnight stop south of Paris in both directions. 3 night full board 4* Hotel Lourdes. Wine with evening meal in Lourdes

Mass celebrated at the Grotto on Christmas day. £375 per person sharing £465 per person in single room Telephone 0844 855 1844 for further information www.options-travel.co.uk

Other items of interest

REBUILDING ENGLAND'S NAZARETH

On the 24th September we shall be celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, and on this weekend the Bishops have asked all parishes to have a second collection to help in the

developments of England's National Shrine to Our Lady. We are looking to upgrade existing buildings and build new facilities, to help us serve the increasing numbers of pilgrims, who continue to walk in the Walsingham Way, since the shrine was established in 1061. Our aims are to update our facilities, and to make provision for sick and disabled pilgrims and to have facilities for young people to come on pilgrimage. Full details are given on our website www.walsingham.org.uk Thank you for your generosity.

Mgr. John Armitage Rector

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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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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 7th to 9th October 2016 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For more details please contact Freda 01322-838415, Sandra 01293-783965 or John 01992-642443 email johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

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Evangelisation: How to Begin! with Sherry Weddell

Author of the best selling book - *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Sherry Weddell will be speaking. It is a unique opportunity to hear Sherry here in the UK. Her book has had an enormous impact on the Church as parishes contemplate the formation of evangelisers/disciples and the move from maintenance to mission.

The following link highlights Sherry's background and work on evangelisation. https://gallery.mailchimp.com/3fd4cc33417e0d55f579887b1/files/Forming_Intentional_Disciples.pdf

Date: Monday, 19 September

Venue: St. Patrick's Church, Soho

Time: Beginning at 6:30 pm.

Entry: £5.

For information and register: guildofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com

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The 9th-15th of October this year is National Prisons Week. It's a week dedicated to praying for prisoners, ex-offenders and their families. This has been ongoing annually since 1975. Caritas Westminster is holding an event on the 11th of October 6-8pm at Westminster Cathedral Hall to promote volunteering work with prisoners, ex-offenders and their families. An opportunity to meet with prison chaplains, hear about the work that goes on in prisons and how you can get involved. RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk by Monday 3rd October

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A four week 'Confidence in Public Speaking' course. How do you feel about those moments when you have to speak to a group of people? Excited? Terrified? Frozen? Join us for this 4 week course where we promise you'll have fun, grow in confidence and learn how to deliver a presentation or talk that people will want to listen to. To see the content of the 4 weeks and book your place go to <http://www.hcc.org.uk/events/confidence-public-speaking/>

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**LOVE HEALS
BODY MIND AND SPIRIT TEAM**
Welcome you to come to a one day Retreat of quiet Reflection
Saturday 24th September 2016
11:00am – 5:00pm
The Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory
Warwick Street, Piccadilly, W1F 9JR

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RISEN MOVIE - Fri 14 October 19.30 in Notre Dame de France. One of the best Christian movies of the decade! Tickets: £5 book online www.bit.ly/risen14oct or in person at the venue, Notre Dame de France (5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX), the movie is followed by Q & A. Advance booking is recommended

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Westminster Cathedral Organ Recital
The next Grand Organ Festival recital takes place next Wednesday, 21 September, at 7.30pm

Andrew Lumsden of Winchester Cathedral will be our recitalist this month, and he will play the following programme:
Reger Introduction and Passacaglia in D Minor
Alain Le jardin suspendu
Mendelssohn Prelude and Fugue in C Minor
Vierne Arabesque
Franck Choral No. 1 in E
Alain Deux danses à Agni Yavishta
Frank Bridge Adagio in E
Guilmant Sonata No. 1 in D minor
Tickets are £12 (£10), and are available on the door on the night. The recital will last around 75 minutes, and there is no interval.
www.westminstercathedralchoir.com

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MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY for The **Stevenage Deanery** will be on Saturday 24th September in Our Lady's Hall (141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP) starting with Coffee at 10am and ending at 4pm. There will be Mass at 12 noon with the Renewal of Marriage Vows. The Day will be led by Edmund Adamus from the Diocese. Please bring food to share. If you intend coming, please let Fr. Norbert Fernandes, the Dean, know on 01707 323234 or norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk; this will help Edmund know what resources to bring

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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. 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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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

