



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 1701

24th September – 1st October 2016 26th 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 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 25th	Coffee Morning – Gardening Group
Monday 26th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 27th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 28th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30-9pm
Thursday 29th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 30th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 2nd Oct	Coffee Morning - Diapalante

Readings: : Amos 6:1.4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Psalm: My soul, give praise to the Lord.
Intercessions: Lord when we see those in need..
Response: **Help us to reach out to them with love**

Next week : Hab 1:2-3;2:2-4, 2 Tim 1:6-8.13-14, Luke 17:5-10

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.

Thanks for the one volunteer who has offered to escort **Linda Budd** to the 10.30am mass on the 1st Sunday of the month. Linda has a driver but Sue Ryder policy says there must be an escort on the ambulance. She needs another volunteer to share the job. 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:

One of the dangers of storytelling is to examine the clothes, colours and people of the story and miss the picture. A picture full of wonder, beauty, mystery and filled with riches that will really inspire you in ways that even the storyteller may never have meant or intended. A story has its own power. Helen Keller wrote, *“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”* What does your heart feel on hearing Jesus’ story of the rich man and Lazarus? My heart wants to reach out and offer Lazarus something from my table, to do something to restore him to better health. I want to know his story. How did he come to be at that gate in the first place? I remember the times I have passed people begging on the streets of London and offered nothing to them, my conscience squeezing my heart!! I recall the stories of the first Assumptionists who came to London in 1901 (at the request of Archbishop Vaughan), with little English and no money. They established a chapel of ease in a *stable* in Bethnal Green - echoes of a similar story some 2000+ years before. Through the generosity of the people, mainly the “poor”, they grew and developed in the East End. My heart yearns and prays for the courage, commitment and perseverance of those early bearers of God’s graces and blessings to inspire me to be at least half the men they were. The inspiration of a story – and I haven’t even reached the heaven part yet . . .

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Help needed with cleaning candle stands. We need a team of people to help clean the candle stands – removing the drips from the outside and removing the wax from the inside.

Ideally 2 people per stand and fortnightly and then the job is easily done in 30 mins. If you can help please speak to Trish.

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Bag of small wood for burning available at the church in front of the garage, please help yourself but we would appreciate the bag to come back please.

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Urgent help needed at Bethany Club for afternoon teas. This would be from 2.15 till 3.15 help will be given with washing up etc. Please contact Jeannie Sherriffs on 07796 831335 if you are able to help even once a month

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Michaelmas

Fair

8TH OCTOBER

Many thanks to all those who signed the helpers chart in the porch last week. The chart will remain until the fair on 8th October so do consider sparing an hour of your time before (or after) you enjoy the many delights of the fair

LOOSE CHANGE COLLECTION to provide floats for the stalls will be held after all weekend Masses next weekend (1st/2nd October) This is a great help to all our stallholders.

BOTTLES, JARS AND TINS are still needed for the bottle tombola and produce stall. Non alcoholic bottles can be placed in the red basket in the porch. Anything stronger should be taken to the office.

RAFFLE TICKETS are still available from Trish. Many thanks to those who have already returned stubs and cash to the office. We have some delightful prizes donated by parishioners as well as the cash ones listed on the tickets.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD was extremely popular last year so we hope to offer an even wider range of food this time. If you can offer a dish either hot or cold please contact Carol Masceneras (carolmasc@yahoo.co.uk)

CAKES AND PRODUCE is one of our most popular stalls. Non-perishable produce can be placed in the red baskets next weekend (1st/2nd October.) Cakes and perishable produce should be brought to the Hall by 10.am on the day or on the Friday afternoon (7th October) between 3 and 7pm.

If you would like your goods to be collected please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

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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



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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 !!

Dates for Diary

Monday 26 September

11am Mass at Sue Ryder Chapel at Stagenhoe celebrated by Canon Danny Cronin of Knebworth. If you need a lift please be in the car park by 10.35am.

Tuesday 27 September

8pm The Baptised Life in the hall for all parents presenting their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation in the coming year.

Wednesday 28 September

Vigil of St Michael, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting; www.goodcounselnetwork.com

Thursday 29 September

The John Henry Newman School Open Evening. Tours start at 5.30pm and the

Headteacher's address is at 7.30pm. Invitations for your child are available at the exit from the Church.

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Livesimply #LiveLaudatoSi Creation Time Creation Rosary, Start time 9:15

Join us to answer Pope Francis' call to Care for Creation. We will pray a 'Walking Rosary'. Walking in some of Hitchin's most beautiful countryside we will pray the Mysteries of Light. We will reflect specifically on care for creation in light of Pope Francis' "Laudato Si". Meet at 9:15 at the junction of Westmill Road & Swinburne Ave, Hitchin. To arrive by public transport, take number 81 bus from Bancroft at 9:05 and get off at the 'Westmill Lane' stop. We finish in the town centre, Market Square at about 10:45. Email Ann at oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk to register.

Future Dates

Oct 3 7pm Year of Mercy talks at **Saint Patrick's Soho** Dr George Weigel will be talking on Radical Evangelicalism: The Real Saint Francis and the Church of the 21st Century. Contributions at the door. More details to be found on our website: <http://stpatriksoho.org/year-of-mercy-talks/>

Oct 15 9am-1 pm **Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation Conference**, keeping yourself and your family safe, at Letchworth Garden City Church, The Icknield Centre, Icknield Way, Letchworth. Please confirm attendance by **September 30th** by emailing heather.mcdonald@herts.pnn.police.uk or call 01438 757501 and leave a message

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.

Oct 28/29 **Celebrate Family Conferences St Albans** The weekend is aimed at families but all ages are welcome; as individuals, couples or groups, there is plenty for all to do

and take part in. An informal gathering with praise and worship, prayer ministry, workshops and great speakers, allows those attending to experience another dimension to their Christian faith. Online booking is now open at

www.celebrateconference.org/weekends/stalban

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan on Sunday and the theme for this year is *“what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God”* Micah 6:8 (NIV) is an invitation to ask what faith really means in these times. Our speakers will unpack this theme during the talks giving insight and teaching. Visit the website and watch the short video which will give you a flavour of the weekend and what you might expect to gain from it.

Nov 9

Concert at Westminster Cathedral Faure Requiem. For booking details go to <http://www.westminstercathedralchoir.com/concerts.php>

Other items of interest

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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Job Vacancies

1. Communications Officer
2. Assistant Chaplain

See notice board for details

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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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Pope Francis invited EVERYONE in the Catholic church, from all over the world, to think about (to ponder) life in our families: what makes our families happy?, what makes it difficult?

Pope Francis asks us to remember God made each one of us. He is our Creator and He is IN our family. When we are thinking about our families, we are doing this WITH God. He is ALWAYS with each one of us. We don't have to ask, He is there. We only need to remember He is.

We can't see God the Father so He sent Jesus who teaches us to think of God as our loving Father. When Jesus went back to God, He sent the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love who is our Teacher, our Encourager, our Guide. The Holy Spirit guides the Church so the wisdom of the Church is also our guide.

Pope Francis and the Bishops of the Catholic Church around the world have been having big meetings (Synods). They have been listening and talking about the things that help families and what makes things difficult for families. They have looked at Scripture and teachings of the Church which might help families. Most importantly, they have prayed together, and they ask us to talk and listen and pray together about our families.

When the Synods were over Pope Francis spent more time thinking and praying and listening to the Holy Spirit. Only then did he start to write down what was said so all of us could read it. This guide is called AMORIS LAETITIA, THE JOY OF LOVE.

When you buy something new, like a phone, there is a guide. It helps you learn how to use your phone. First, you learn how to use it simply. And when you understand the basics, you can go back to the guide and learn another function of the phone. You can practise that and go back to the guide again. This guide ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY is like that.

We will be putting some of the basics from this guide in our parish newsletter each week for you and your family.

May we create deeper and deeper love within our families Lord. May the work of the Bishops and the work we do in our families become a living part of the wisdom and teaching of the Church. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

AMORIS LAETITIA

