



# 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 1702

1<sup>st</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time Year C



<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 E-mail: <a href="mailto:frtomaa@gmail.com">frtomaa@gmail.com</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Pastoral Support	07958 575442 <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Susanna Hawksley <b>Catechetics</b>	<a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 <a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

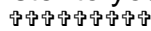
## Diary

<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	Coffee Morning – Gainsford Group
<b>Monday 3rd</b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
<b>Tuesday 4th</b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30-9pm
<b>Thursday 6th</b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
<b>Friday 7th</b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Michaelmas Fair 10.30 – 3pm
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	Coffee Morning – KISS
	Confirmation Inscription Mass 10.30am

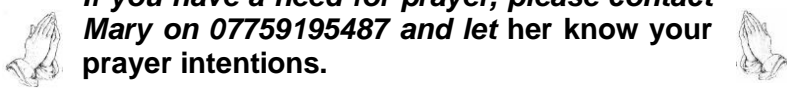


If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**  
Via text message: **07876 526935**  
Email: [chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net)

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.



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

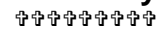
**Entrance Antiphon:** Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.  
**Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Intercessions: Lord, as servants, we pray  
Response: **Increase our faith**

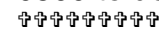
**Next week : Kings 5:14-17, Tim 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19**

**This week's counting teams:**

**Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 4**



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



### 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:

All of us, without exception, want to be valued and believe we are of value to others. Faith is a gift that reinforces this belief which is possibly why the apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith. What is most reassuring is that, however small or fragile our faith (mustard seed size), Jesus says we will be able to do things way beyond our capabilities. Doesn't this imply that we are valued and empowered to do great things even if our relationship with Jesus appears to be tenuous? This is true affirmation and a sign that that we are lovingly valued. . . Mother Teresa said: *"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."* . . . "SOMETIMES someone says something really SMALL but it FITS right into that EMPTY PLACE in your HEART." . . . "One small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day." . . . "Maturity is not when we start speaking big things . . . but actually it is when we start understanding SMALL things!" . . . Pope Francis said: *"No one can grow unless he accepts his own smallness!"* . . . "The feelings of my smallness and my nothingness always kept me good company." ([Pope John XXIII](#)). Maybe what St Paul meant, when he said that was that we should be mightily proud of our Faith (however small), only in this way will the power and might of the Spirit be able to work through us, its servants!!

††††††††††††

**PROMISES AUCTION** The items promised for the auction are on display in the Hall this weekend. Do go and have a look as we have some original artwork and valuable china as well as a wide range of goods and services. A full list is attached.

††††††††††††

**Young ministers of the Word.** Children who are in Year 4 and above who have made their First communion are invited to join our team of young readers who read at Sunday Mass and on other occasions such as the annual carol service. There will be a training course on Thursdays 13th and 20th October from 4-5pm in the church led by Bridie Duffy. If you wish to attend please contact Bridie directly at [bridie\\_duffy@yahoo.com](mailto:bridie_duffy@yahoo.com) . Any adults who would like to train as Ministers of the word should please speak to a member of the pastoral team and training will be arranged.

††††††††††††

**October is the month of the Rosary** and in honour of this we are delighted to welcome back our refurbished statue of Our Lady and the Child Jesus. We are particularly grateful to Janina Woźnicka for her hard work in restoring this statue which focuses the prayers of so many parishioners.



**8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER** We are so grateful for the wonderful response we've had to our appeal for goods, helpers and raffle tickets over recent weeks. All we need now is your presence on Saturday. The fair will open at 10.30. and continue until 3pm. We have an excellent range of gift stalls, games, international and vegetarian food and, of course our popular Promises Auction which will be held at intervals throughout the day. Children are very well catered for this year with a balloon and bubble entertainer, a treasure hunt, toys, books and games, racing pigs as well as a chocolate tombola and an opportunity for parents to buy nearly new children's clothes. The Church will be open all day for a flower festival presented by our parish flower arranging group and our Brownie pack as well as an exhibition by the many talented artists in our parish. There will be live music in the Hall in the afternoon and an opportunity to buy plants and garden items just outside the porch door. Do come along and enjoy a great day with all your parish friends.

### RAFFLE TICKETS

We are happy to accept stubs and cash up to 2.15pm on the 8th. The raffle will be drawn at 2.30pm in the Hall. We have been given some lovely prizes along with the ones listed on the tickets. Books of tickets are still available from Trish Bonnett or Pam Brannigan.

### PLANTS, CAKES AND PRODUCE

We hope these popular stalls will be well stocked. Please bring plants, cakes and produce to the Hall any time between 1 and 7pm on Friday 7th October or from 8am on Saturday 8th. if you would like your goods to be collected,, please contact pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

### LOOSE CHANGE COLLECTION

A loose change collection after all Masses this weekend will help to provide floats for the stalls at the fair. All contributions gratefully received. Many thanks.

††††††††††††

**Coffee Mornings 2017** Could the groups that host coffee mornings on Sundays after Mass, please let me know if you wish to continue next year. If so, please could you advise me which dates you prefer in order for me to start putting together a rota. Also, if there are any groups that wish to join the rota, please let me know. Many thanks. [cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk)

††††††††††††

**Your generosity needed.** A young man, also an orphan, Peter Wolff, was a pupil at St

Michael's College which was sited where the police station in Hitchin currently is. Peter died in 1946 whilst at the school and it has been discovered that he is buried in Hitchin cemetery in an unmarked grave. One of our parishioners, who is an old boy from St Michael's (as was Fr Christopher), is trying to raise the money to put a memorial headstone on Peter's grave. He has raised some of the money from other old boys he is in touch with. There is £220 shortfall. Would you consider donating to this cause? If so please put your donation in an envelope marked Peter Wolff and hand it to any member of the pastoral team. Thank you in anticipation.

††††††††††

**FUN SUNDAY** **feedback** Thank you to everyone who was involved or participated in the Funday Sunday. We have had wonderful feedback following the event and over 40 children attended. We are now planning the Children's mass on 23rd October during the 10:30 mass and then the All Hallows Eve fancy dress party on Sunday 30th October. More news to follow.



††††††††††

**15<sup>th</sup> October 10-11.30am**

Following the Michaelmas Fair we will have a jumble sale to clear items that are left over

from the Fair. You may have clothing or other items you would like to donate to this also. We are appealing for three things therefore:

1. Jumble to be brought to the parish on 14<sup>th</sup> October (as no where to store it before then) Before 12.30pm you can leave jumble in the porch. After that bring it to the Scout Hall.
2. Help from **2pm** on **14<sup>th</sup> Oct** to help sort jumble in the scout hall
3. Help from **9.45am – 12.15pm** on the 15<sup>th</sup> October to sell the jumble and clear up after 11.30.

We would be very grateful for any help you can offer.

††††††††††

### REBUILDING ENGLAND'S NAZARETH

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, and the Bishops had 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](http://www.walsingham.org.uk) Thank you for your generosity. This collection will take place next weekend.

††††††††††

### GSK Volunteer day

hopefully you will have noticed the new vegetable beds at the front of the Parish house. We were extremely fortunate to have over 25 volunteers from GSK for the entire day on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. They painted the inside of the Scout hut, the railings around the church grounds and made the vegetable beds. They worked extremely hard and went above and beyond in everything they did. We are all so grateful for their time, energy, expertise and team spirit. Following this mammoth event, we will soon be opening the Community Vegetable gardens where everyone can get involved with planting, weeding and reaping the rewards of the vegetable beds led by Aletheia Mashiri. Children will be helping Aletheia plant the first seedlings after the 10.30 Mass this Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> Oct)



### Dates for Diary

#### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

**8pm UCM meeting** to arrange mugs for Michaelmas Fair in main hall

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

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

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

**10am-12pm St Pio Mass & Rosary** followed by meeting in the hall

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

**2pm onwards Help is needed** transporting Michaelmas Fair items to the hall from Pam Brannigan's house. If you are able to take a car load please ring her on 07948 396998. This is really important so would be grateful for lots of volunteers so Pam can reclaim her house!

††††††††††

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** This Harvest Fast Day we are invited to fast in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world and join 32-year-old Nicanora, from Bolivia, on her journey from poverty to abundance. We can stand alongside Nicanora as she learns new skills and receives materials and seeds that will

enable her to grow enough food to feed her family. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope and give what you can.

Thank you for your support for CAFOD's work during Lent. Your generosity helped us to raise: **£4.7 million**. £3.5 million of this was doubled by the UK government for a final total of: **£8.2 million**. This will go directly to funding our long-term development work and our humanitarian projects overseas, plus our Education, Campaigning and Fundraising work in England and Wales. We are working in these countries to increase their access to clean, safe water; reduce water borne diseases and child mortality; allow more children to attend school, especially girls; and increase the participation of these communities in their own governance.

### **Future Dates**

**Oct 11** 6-8pm Caritas Westminster will be holding an event to mark National Prisons week. This is a week dedicated to praying for prisoners, ex-offenders and their families, which has been occurring annually since 1975. The event will be an opportunity for people to meet prison chaplains, hear about the work that goes on within prisons and to sign up for volunteering opportunities. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided. Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London, SW1P 1QW Please RSVP to [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk) if you would like to attend.

**Oct 16** 12 noon **Speak Up with us** to ask Sir Oliver Heald MP to protect the people, places and things we love from climate change. Exhibition and Lunch Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, SG6 4DU Tickets £5, proceeds to Christian Aid, From David's, Christian Bookshop, Tourist Information Or <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/376412> Organised by Christian Aid

**Oct 22** 11am to 4.30pm The Columban Missionaries invite you to attend a one-day event called '**Sharing Gospel Joy: Perspectives on Mission Today**'. As you will know, the Columbans have been visiting parishes for the annual Mission Appeal and this event is being held in thanksgiving for the welcome, hospitality and generosity we have received. We are delighted that Bishop John Sherrington and Fr. Chris Vipers will be joining and taking part. This event will be at Maria Fidelis RC School NW1 1TA. Full details can be found on the website [www.columbans.co.uk](http://www.columbans.co.uk)

**Nov 11** 7:30pm "An Occasional Evening Talk: **On Recycling**" - by Lizzie Shepherd (Waste Awareness Officer NHDC) at the Upper Hall, Mrs

Howard Memorial Hall, Norton Way South, Letchworth, SG6 1NX. To register your interest to attend the talk Group Contact: Katka Kessler - phone: 01462 685645; or e-mail [katka.kessler400@gmail.com](mailto:katka.kessler400@gmail.com)

**Dec 9** On 9 December at St Aloysius Parish, Euston the Westminster Youth Service host their annual Youth Mass – Bishop Nicholas leading. The Mass begins at 6.30pm and the music will be led by Edwin Fawcett and the young music scholars; the evening is a celebration of youth throughout our diocese. Light refreshments will follow Mass – all young people and teenagers are encouraged to take this opportunity to meet their peers from across Westminster

### **Other items of interest**

**To local Herts Welcomes Syrian Families Supporters**, Catherine Henderson of HWSF is going to Calais on **Oct 7th** and has been asked to take **smart phones plus chargers** that anyone isn't using. These are to be given to the children who they are afraid may be scattered when the camp is demolished - any time now - and will be at risk from traffickers. If you have a working smart phone plus charger that you no longer need could you drop it into my house **by Wed Oct 5th at the latest?** at 106 Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SY - and they can be put through the letter box if we're not in, or email beforehand. Or I can collect from you. Thank you. Vicky Woodcraft [vicky\\_woodcraft@hotmail.com](mailto:vicky_woodcraft@hotmail.com)

### **AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 1**

Pope Francis writes: "I am grateful for the many contributions that helped

me to appreciate more fully the problems faced by families throughout the world. (I have prepared this Exhortation) as a help and encouragement to families in their daily commitments and challenges."

This Exhortation is especially timely in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. First, because it represents an invitation to Christian families to value the gifts of marriage and the family and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience.

Second, because it seeks to encourage everyone to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy.

