



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 1707



5th November – 12th November 2016 32nd 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 6th	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club
	Baptism Course in Hall 3-4.30pm
	Confirmation Course in Hall 6pm
Monday 7th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
	Reconciliation Session 2 Hall 8pm
Tuesday 8th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
Wednesday 9th	Choir Practice Church 8pm
	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30-9pm
Thursday 10th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 11th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Saturday 12th	Reconciliation Session 3 Hall 9.30am
Sunday 13th	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club
	Baptism Course Hall 3.30-4.30pm



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.



Readings: Macc7:1-2.9-14, Thess 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Psalm: I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.

Intercessions: We pray to you....

Response: **God of the living.**

Next week: Mal 3:19-20, Thess 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 1



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

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: The after-life has been very much on our minds this past week. *All Saints*, when we remembered all the unnamed saints, believing that our loved ones are among them and *All Souls*, just in case some of our loved ones haven't reached there yet(?) Of course, we also remember those souls on their way to heaven who have no one to pray for them. Whatever our understanding and beliefs about heaven, whatever our misgivings, doubts and struggles, it cannot be described in tangible ways. Simply, heaven is beauty, goodness and love at their best. Its existence speaks of peace, wholeness, perfection and the radiance of God. For the first time we will be totally in the present: instinctively knowing this is where we have always wanted to be. That welcoming embrace of God we received in the white garment at baptism will be so real that our presence will radiate the light of God that has been our guide, sustenance and protection throughout our life on earth. No wonder the brothers in the Maccabees story couldn't wait to get there. No wonder Paul called for perseverance and trust in God before we pass through the doors of death. No wonder Jesus says it will be our greatest experience beyond anything we can ever imagine. It will take our breath away, (which is why we will no longer need to breathe there). *"Love seeketh not itself to please, nor for itself hath any care, but for another gives its ease, and builds a Heaven in Hell's despair."* William Blake

This weekend

This Sunday Session 1 of the Baptismal Course takes place in the Hall 3-4.30pm. also Session 1 for Confirmation Candidates will take place in the Hall at 6pm.

Next Weekend

Session 2 of the Baptismal course will be on **Sunday 13 November** in the Hall 3.30pm-4.30pm.

There will be a second collection next weekend in aid of Sick and Retired Priests. Please give as generously as you can. Thank you.



Sunday 6.15pm In Memoriam we will be having our **Annual Service of Commemoration** for our relations and friends and those who have died over the past year in our Parish. All are welcome to come along and light a candle for their own deceased loved ones.

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School has a vacancy for a part time D&T/Art Technician. Further information and Application Pack are available on the School's website www.cvms.co.uk Closing date is 8 November.

St Richard Reynolds Catholic College is seeking Maternity Cover for a Teacher of Religious Education and a Teacher of Languages. Further details can be found on their website strichardreynolds@srrcc.org.uk

JHN will be having a whole school Christmas party on Saturday 26th November 4pm-8pm.

Monday 7 November

Session 2 in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be in the Hall at 8pm

7.30pm **ONE WORLD GROUP AGM LOWER COMMITTEE ROOM** All parishioners are warmly invited to the group's 34th AGM. A business meeting at 7.30. will be followed at 8.00. by a speaker who is working locally to welcome and help settle refugees from Syria. There will be an opportunity to find out how we can help in this most essential work. A discussion will follow along with attractive refreshments. **ALL ARE WELCOME**

Tuesday 8 November

Concert in Aid of The Passage The music includes Bernstein: *Candide Overture & Mambo* from *West Side Story*; Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue*, *I Got Rhythm & Summertime*; Barber: *Adagio for Strings* and Rodgers: *Some Enchanted Evening & You'll Never Walk Alone*. The performers include Simon Trpceski – Piano, James O'Donnell – Organ, Mark Stone- Baritone & Rebecca Evans – Soprano. The presenters are Petroc Trelawny, Armando Iannucci and Jon Culshaw. Prices start at £12. For more details visit <http://www.anightunderthestars.co.uk/>, email tickets@passage.org.uk , tel. 020 7592186

Wednesday 9 November

There will be a Praise Group Meeting after 10am Mass. All are welcome

There will be Mass at Foxholes at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

Thursday 10 November



Admissions Open Evening Our Lady's School 7.30pm

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 - 31 August 2013, they will be due to start school in reception class in the academic year 2017/18.

The school will be holding an Open Evening for parents interested in applying for their child to join Our Lady School in September 2017. The Head teacher will give a short presentation and then there will be an opportunity to look around the school and speak to staff and governors.

If you would like to attend this event please contact the school office to book a place on 01462 622555 Following our Open Evening we have arranged some dates for you to look around our school during the day. Your guide will be one of our Y6 pupils. If you would like to book a place on one of these tours please contact the school office.

These dates are:

Wednesday 16th November at 9.30am

Thursday 17th November at 2pm

Tuesday 22nd November at 9.30am

Wednesday 23rd November at 2pm

Monday 5th December at 9.30am

Tuesday 10th January at 2pm

Thursday 12th January at 9.30am

Saturday 12 November

Annual Catholic, Pro Life Ball. It will be a wonderful evening for all who attend, and will include a 5 star 3 course meal, a live band, a silent auction with some amazing prizes and great company. Starts at 6 pm at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, London. Tickets this year are £95 per person. We are also offering a 50% discount for all table hosts tickets. So if you can fill a table of 10 people, the table will cost £900.00 in total. Contact Conor to book; 07886000882 email; GCNBall@gmail.com"

Future Dates

Nov 17 8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Annual General Meeting

at St Mark's Church in Lancaster Road (tea/coffee from 7.30 pm). First part business then from 8.45pm a session on the work of Hope UK, the charity that provides education about alcohol, drugs and tobacco among children and young people throughout the country. All are welcome.

Nov 18 7.30pm END OF JUBILEE YEAR

Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, 141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7. This Mass will mark the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and it is hoped that priests and people from the parishes of Stevenage Deanery will attend to give thanks to God for the blessings of this Jubilee Year. Afterwards there will be a gathering in the Hall and we will celebrate Fr. Frank Leonard's 80th birthday. All welcome.

Nov 19 2.30pm 'Way of Mercy' for the whole diocese to mark the end of the Holy Year.

This celebration will take place in **Westminster Cathedral** the day before the solemnity of Christ the King when Pope Francis will close the Jubilee. Our event will be presided over by Bishop Nicholas Hudson and will include live images of the Way of the Cross, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, such as projects led locally by Caritas

Westminster, and music by the renowned composer and performer Edwin Fawcett and his singers.

Nov 30 7.30pm Tackling Poverty and Injustice across the World- An evening with CAFOD in Fortescue Hall at the Parish of St Hugh of Lincoln, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3TP.

This will be a chance for us to come together as a community to discuss the issues that we are hearing about in our world in this Year of Mercy; from the refugee crisis to 'Laudato Si' the Pope's encyclical on caring for our common home. We shall explore what we can do in response, and to see how we may already have the tools to do so as part of our faith. It will also be an exciting opportunity to see how your support for CAFOD is already making a difference. All are welcome - do let friends from other churches know if they may be interested in exploring these themes with discussions, resources and presentations over a warm beverage.

Dec 9 3pm-5pm Our Lady School

Christmas Fayre There will be food/drink/music/games and Santa's grotto. All welcome.

Dec 9 Single Mingle Christmas Party 2016 - From the Creators or Catholic Speed Dating We are hosting a Christmas party for all single Catholics.

Last year over 90 single Catholics from all over London, and a few from even further, came along and we hope even more of you will join us this year for what is guaranteed to be a great night. £10 includes entry, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Cash bar. Austin Forum, Augustinian Centre, Hammersmith W6 8AU. Be sure to register with claire@austin-forum.org

Jan 6-8 Epiphany Retreat Deserts, Journeys, Wise-men and Stars

Led by Sister Anne Dunne and Sister Melanie Kingston The wise men made their journey through the desert following a star and bringing their gifts. At the beginning of this New Year: What journey will you make? What gift will you bring? What will you need for the journey towards God? Arrive on Friday in time for supper at 7pm and leave on Sunday at 4pm. Cost £150 – Advance booking essential.

Please contact us on: 020 8941 2313 or e-mail: houseofprayer@hotmail.co.uk to reserve a place.

Other Items of Interest

New Recycling News:

Good News! The LiveSimply team are inviting all parishioners to bring their milk bottle tops of any colour for recycling. We will then deliver them to the nearest Lush Cosmetics shop in Luton. Since August 2011, Lush has been collecting plastic bottle tops from their customers. You can watch a video about their motivations on youtube:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ri25e8MwII>

Lush also raise money for various environmental charities, the web-site is: <https://uk.lush.com/> All High Density Polyethylene Plastic tops from milk or other bottles can be brought to the parish for this scheme. It is still possible to continue placing the coloured lids in the normal household recycling grey bin, but if you wish to help us support this campaign to help clean-up the UK environment and reduce the plastics that contaminate the beaches and get caught-up in the food chain of all fishes, then keep them aside and bring them to our recycling area, where a designated bin will become available soon. Very importantly, [please make sure that all residues of milk and sugary flavours are washed off,](#)



so that we will not have a smelly build-up of moulds and bacteria in the church porch that would develop into a health hazard for

us all that use it.

Let's do it, in response to Pope Francis appeal this month that we care for our common home!

Thank you for your cooperation and support. There is now a collecting box in the link between the porch and the hall.

END OF JUBILEE YEAR Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, 141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP on **Friday 18th November** at 7.30pm. This Mass will mark the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and it is hoped that priests and people from the parishes of Stevenage Deanery will attend to give thanks to God for the blessings of this Jubilee Year. Afterwards there will be a gathering in the Hall and we will celebrate Fr. Frank Leonard's 80th birthday. All welcome.

We have been given a Britax child's car seat in very good condition. Anyone who would like it please speak to Trish.

Tackling Poverty and Injustice across the World- An evening with CAFOD You are warmly invited to an information evening on **Wednesday 30th November** at 7.30pm in Fortescue Hall at the Parish of St Hugh of Lincoln, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3TP. This will be a chance for us to come together as a community to discuss the issues that we are hearing about in our world in this Year of Mercy; from the refugee crisis to 'Laudato Si' the Pope's encyclical on caring for our common home. We shall explore what we can do in response, and to see how we may already have the tools to do so as part of our faith. It will also be an exciting opportunity to see how your support for CAFOD is already making a difference. All are welcome - do let friends from other churches know if they may be interested in exploring these themes with discussions, resources and presentations over a warm beverage.

Understanding Islam. A course for Catholics working and living with Muslims" residential course, to take place in Welwyn Garden City from **13th-16th February** - it offers a solid foundation for a fruitful dialogue with Islam from a Catholic perspective, and has proved very useful for Catholics who serve the Church in different ways

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 5

This encounter (of man and woman as Beloved) relieves man's solitude, gives rise to new birth and to the family.



Significantly, Adam, who is also the man of every time and place, together with his wife, starts a new family. Jesus speaks of this by quoting the passage from Genesis: "The man should be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one" (Mt 19:5; cf. Gen 2.24). The very word "to be joined" or "to cleave", in the original Hebrew, bespeaks a profound harmony, a closeness both physical and interior, to such an extent that the word is used to describe our union with God: "My soul clings to you" (Ps 63.8). The marital union is thus evoked not only in its sexual and corporal dimension, but also in its voluntary self-giving in love. The result of this union is that the two "become one flesh", both physically and in the union of their hearts and lives, and eventually, in a child, who will share not only genetically but also spiritually in the "flesh" of both parents.