



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 1715

31st December 2016 – 7th January 2017 Solemnity of Mary

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: 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: 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 1st	Happy New Year!
Tuesday 3rd	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-3.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
	UCM LCR 8-10pm
Wednesday 4th	Rosary Group Church 9.30am
Thursday 5th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Upper Committee room 6.30pm
Friday 6th	Parent and Toddlers Hall 9.30-11am
Sunday 8th	Coffee Morning - KISS



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.

Parish Prayer Bless this parish, Lord. Let our community reflect your own communion of love. Help us to live peacefully and humbly, attending to the call of your Spirit and mindful of our duty to everything you have created. Strengthen the bonds of our families and friendships with patience and kindness. Make us joyful messengers of your kingdom and a source of comfort for those in need.

Readings: Is 35:1-6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Psalm: O God, be gracious and bless us

Intercessions: Lord, you chose Mary as Mother of your Son.....

Response: May we follow her example always

Next week Is 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 1

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

NO Coffee after Mass this Sunday

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

Mary the Mother of God 2017

The Face of God! We are always searching for the Face of God in everything. In our search for greater goodness and love, in our caring and our gentleness, in our good will and generosity, in our virtue and our choices, it is the Face of God that we seek. This feast of Mary the Mother of God reminds us that she is also our Mother and that she cares and loves and watches over us as much as she did for Jesus; because she sees the Face of God in us just as she did in Jesus! It is because of Mary that we can believe that we, too, are heirs to the Kingdom of God, that we are truly Jesus' brothers and sisters. Remember when Moses went up the mountain and into the presence of God on Sinai that after this encounter his face shone; shone with the beauty and radiance of his encounter in which he came face to face with God. This is why we seek the Face of God. That, like Mary and Moses, the beauty and radiance of the goodness and love of God will be reflected in our lives: in all that we are, in all that we say and in all that we do!



There is a large box under one of the tables in the Church Porch full of lost property. There may be a long lost item of yours in there. Please check the box for any items that may be yours. It will be emptied and recycled in the New Year. Thank you.

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Building work will commence on the Grove Road House Project on 9 January 2016 and there may be some parking restrictions for the duration of the work. Thank you for your understanding and patience

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URGENT Masters of Ceremony (MC) at Mass We need more adults (young and old) to help with the Mass and support the Priest in setting things up before Mass and helping our altar server team during the Masses. Full training is available. Please do think about helping in this way. Please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more

URGENT Church Cleaning We have an urgent 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 Trish or email Hannah Granger at steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk

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URGENT Counters on a Monday

We have a need for someone to help count the non-offertory money on a Monday morning as part of a team of two people. This happens once every 4-5 weeks and takes about 1½ hours. Training is provided. If you are able to help please speak to Trish or one of the Priests.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 3 January

8pm UCM meeting in the LCR

Future Dates

Jan 18 6.30pm Pilgrimage to Lourdes

in 2017 If you are interested in finding out about a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes during this year please come to a meeting in the Upper Committee Room where there will be talk given by Adrian from Northern Star Travel. Please do come along.



AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 13

Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)

Every family may look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless. Like the Magi, our families are invited to contemplate the Child and his Mother, to bow down and worship him (cf. Mt 2:11). Like Mary, we are asked to face our family's challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in our heart the great things which God has done (cf Lk 2:19).

