



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 1717

14th January – 21st January 2017 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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| 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

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| Sunday 15th | Coffee Morning – One World Group |
| | Confirmation Session Hall 6pm |
| Monday 16th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm | Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am |
| | Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am |
| | First Holy Communion Hall 8pm |
| Tuesday 17th Scout Hall Scouts 7.15-8.45pm | Morning Prayer Church 9.30am |
| | Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm |
| | Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm |
| | Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30pm |
| | Choir Practice Church 8pm |
| | UCM Meditation & AGM UCR 8pm |
| Wednesday 18th | Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am |
| Thursday 19th | Italian Club Hall 1pm |
| | Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm |
| Friday 20th | Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am |
| Sunday 22nd | Coffee Morning – Cancer Hair Care |



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.

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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 49:3.5-6, Cor 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will

Intercessions: Lord, hear our cry!

Response: **We come to do your Will!**

Next week Is 8:23-9:3, Cor 1:10-13.17, Mat 4:12-23

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 7 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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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

What better way to enter a New Year than with the Grace and Peace of God sent to us by St Paul! This week being Peace Sunday it is even more appropriate. Isn't it strange that when we think and pray for Peace, our focus is often on the places of war, hostility, places of injustice, terrorism i.e. places where peace is absent, instead of thinking and praying about what we can do to further peace, working against injustice, working for reconciliation, promoting mercy, supporting the vulnerable . . . Let us create environments where war, injustice, oppression has no possibility of setting foot; where differences are seen as riches; where problems and barriers are seen as possibilities of strengthening hope and good will. In other words let's change our vision: A very wealthy man was bothered by a severe eye pain. After consulting many physicians and medical experts, consuming loads of medicines and injections, the ache persisted with even more vigour. At last, he approached a monk considered an expert in treating such patients. The monk told the wealthy man that, for some time, he should concentrate only on green colours and not let his eyes fall on any other colour. Although this seemed a strange prescription, he was desperate and decided to try it. The millionaire hired painters, purchased barrels of green paint and directed that every object his eye would fall on be painted green. When the monk came to visit him after a few days, the millionaire's servants ran and poured green paint over him since he was wearing red, lest their master see another colour and his eye ache return. The monk burst out laughing "If only you had purchased a pair of green spectacles, worth a few dollars, you could have saved these walls, trees, pots and other articles and saved your money. You cannot paint the world green." Let us change our vision and the world will appear accordingly. **It is foolish to try and shape the world, let us shape ourselves first!!**

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Message from Charmaine Rogers of Hitchin Family Matters - To Greg & All of our friends at Hitchin Catholic Church. Thank you all so very much for your generous gifts to the families at the community group "Family Matters". We were all completely overwhelmed and when I took them along yesterday morning our first day back after the Christmas break. There were lots of very excited and delighted children and parents as well of course. We all very much appreciate your thoughtfulness; every child was able to have a book and an individual gift; there really was something for everyone - including some delicious

biscuits, which were handed round at snack time. We wish you all a very Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year. Please remember if you ever wish to drop by and visit "Family Matters" you are all assured of a very warm welcome. The group meets every Friday 10-12noon at Oughton Children's Centre, Mattocke Road, Hitchin. We run throughout all school holidays when older school age siblings come along to join in the fun. ††††††††††

Dates for Diary

Sunday 15 January

Peace: There will be a retiring collection after Masses this weekend to support the work of Pax Christi, the international Catholic organisation which works for world peace. Proceeds from the One World Group coffee morning after Sunday morning masses will also be donated to Pax Christi.

Monday 16 January

8pm First Holy Communion session in the Hall for parents only.

Tuesday 17 January

2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All are welcome
7.15pm Eucharist service in church focused on the theme of Peace
8pm UCM Meditation and AGM in the Lower Committee Room.

Wednesday 18 January

6.30pm Meeting for those interested in pilgrimage to Lourdes in the committee room.

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Message for key holders to the Parish House – The lock will be changed on **Tue 17 Jan** After this date, please call into the Parish Office Mon-Thur between 10am and 1pm to collect and sign for a new key.
cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 15

Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)

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 God has done for us.



The treasury of Mary's heart contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of our experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families..