



# 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 1718

21<sup>st</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
<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 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Cancer Hair Care
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>  Scout Hall Scouts 7.15-8.45pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm <b>No Eucharistic Service</b> Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm Exposition in the church 7-8pm
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Diapalante

Readings: **Is 8:23-9:3, Cor 1:10-13.17, Mat 4:12-23**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**Psalm: The Lord is my light and my help.**

Intercessions: **We ask this of the Lord!**

Response: **The Lord is our Light and our Help!**

**Next week : Zeph 2:3;3:12-13, Cor 1:26-31, Matt 5:1-12**



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.



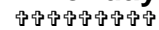
**If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.**



**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.

## This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 1 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

As the bills for Christmas roll in, freezing and wet weather descends upon us, it is encouraging to hear Isaiah speak of gladness and rejoicing, of light overcoming the darkness that oppresses us, because he lifts our spirits. Something exciting is happening! We are always more positive when our expectation of good things are high. St Paul presses the point home by reminding us that the Gospel is GOOD NEWS, a gospel that unites. So, when we hear Jesus calling for repentance, of course we want to shake off the darkness, the depression, or any isolation we may feel. Optimism, joy and happiness call us towards something new and good in our lives that we want to share with others; which, after all, is what repentance is all about. It is a medical fact that if we are positive, optimistic, upbeat about ourselves and our lives that we heal far more quickly from illness. Not only is it good for us but it inspires others, with hope and goodness and the message they preach will also be good news. Jesus' call for repentance is not so much a command rather than the permission that we have been waiting for to renew our lives, even start over, and make our lives light up with hope, or love, with care and compassion for others, which is contagious. (Even if we are not very good at fishing . . .) *"How far that little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world."*

— [William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice](#)

††††††††††

Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony for couples celebrating 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>+ wedding anniversaries, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 3pm at Westminster Cathedral with Cardinal Vincent. Please book with Cheryl, parish administrator by 24<sup>th</sup> March. She will need details of names, wedding date, full address and email address or telephone number. Couples from the parish who have been in the past have said what a wonderful occasion this is.

††††††††††

**Youth Ministry news:** Thank you to all the children and parents who joined the Youth Ministry Group at the Epiphany Fun-day on Sunday 8th January. We had 56 children enjoying the Fun-day plus the confirmation candidates who came to help us for the morning. There was a lovely atmosphere and we hope you enjoyed our devotion of Jesus' Christmas Party by Nicholas Allan after communion. Our next event is the Children's Mass on Sunday 22nd January during the 10:30 mass where the children of our parish will lead and participate during the mass.

## Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2018 - A group



of us met with Adrian from Northern Star Travel Ltd on Wednesday and discussed organising a parish pilgrimage to

Lourdes in 2018 which will give us plenty of time to advertise and recruit people to come and for us all to save for it. Adrian is looking at dates in June of next year and will approach the hotels to see what is the best deal he can get for us, flying from Stansted for 5 days Monday-Friday. He thinks it will be ~£550 per person. As soon as he gets back to us with dates and a price we will put out more detailed information. Owen McFarlane, member of the Pastoral Parish Council, has agreed to be the link between the parish and Northern Star Travel. If we get 15 people then our priest's costs will be covered by the company. He suggested a maximum of 40 people. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for further announcements.

Northern Star Travel are also offering a Pilgrimage to Fatima (100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady this year) from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Please look for the green sheet on the tables in the porch for more details.

††††††††††

## Helen Bailey Hair chop for Little Princess Trust



Helen Bailey is cutting over 30 cms / 12 inches off her hair on **Saturday 21st January**. The hair is then sent to the Little Princess Trust to be made into wigs for children who have lost their hair due to ongoing

chemotherapy during cancer treatment. She is also hoping to raise awareness and accepting donations for the Little Princess Trust through her Just Giving page;

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Bailey23>. If you would like to donate, please go directly to the page or contact Helen via email [hbailey@talktalk.net](mailto:hbailey@talktalk.net) or 07771 552058.

††††††††††

A family new to the area needs to rent a 2/3 bedroom property in the Hitchin/Letchworth area. If anyone has or knows someone with this type of accommodation please contact Freddy North on 07435-967433

An additional Foodbank Driver is required for Tuesday mornings, ideally two sessions per month to suit personal availability between the hours of 9.45 and 12 midday.



Joining the friendly Hitchin Foodbank team based at the parish Scout hut, driving involves collecting donations from the supermarkets, taking donations to and collecting supplies from the Foodbank warehouse in Letchworth and occasionally making deliveries accompanied by another volunteer to clients homes. If interested please contact Anne Collins Email: amc113@gmail.com Mobile: 07810483533.



**Thank you** for your offers of help following last week's appeal by Fr Tom. We now have counting on a Monday and candle wax removal from

the carpet covered. **We still have an urgent need for the following help.**

- ✦ MCs at Sunday and weekday Masses
- ✦ Someone to oversee the Guild of Altar servers
- ✦ Candlestands cleaning
- ✦ Children's liturgy support at 10.30 Mass
- ✦ Church Cleaning on a Monday and Saturday
- ✦ DIY people to maintain the church and hall.

If you have not yet filled in your volunteer form given out last week please do so and pop it in the box in the porch. You can find a copy at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin> by clicking on the volunteer opportunity page to the left of the screen. Or email Trish letting her know what you would like to offer to do.



A Parishioner is looking for part time work possibly in a school, 2 days a week. If you can help at all, please contact Bessie Dias on 07597702719. Thank you.



A parishioner is in need of a place to store her household items which she has just received from Ireland. If you have space in your garage to help her out can you contact Esther Dosu on 07449346366



Thank you for the generous donations collected last weekend for Pax Christi of £254.49 and thank you from the One World Group for the £62.24 raised for them from the sale of teas/coffees/cakes at the morning masses last week. A grand total of £316.73 raised in aid of Pax Christi.

*Thank you!*

## Future Dates

**Jan 25**

**8pm** Herts Welcomes Syrian Families will be holding their AGM at the Friends Meeting House, Handside Lane WGC AL8 6SP. The agenda is on the notice board in the porch with Membership leaflets. You are welcome to attend this meeting.

**Jan 29**

Railways in the Nineteenth Century : Connecting Town And Country - A talk by Carlos López Galviz, Lecturer at Lancaster University

Sunday on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd. The Friends of Holy Saviour launch their programme for 2017 with this Talk & Tea event on a subject very relevant to Hitchin's history and of the Triangle area in particular. The speaker will also touch on the work of Ebenezer Howard and the Garden City movement.

Ticket £8 Friends £7 (including tea and refreshments! ) are available from Clare Fleck (01462 646257) and the Hitchin Initiative Office, Churchyard.

**Feb 6**

**7-9pm** - meeting about how young asylum seekers are supported in Hertfordshire at Welwyn Garden City Friends Meeting House (109 Handside Lane, WGC, AL8 6SP) Georgina Egan, will talk about the Independent Visitors scheme, George Pendred, a Personal Advisor to young asylum seekers will be talking about working with over-18s, and Josie Elkin, a Practice Manager in the fostering team will be there also. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

**March 3**

**7pm Charity Fund raiser** Hitchin Christian Centre. You can pre book 15 minutes sessions: massage (back shoulder neck arms and legs, manicure, pedicure, facials, Indian Head, eyebrow shaping by waxing. Mary Kay makeover see flyer on noticeboard. Plus other complementary exhibitors. Light caribbean refreshments on sale.



## Other items of interest

**Beginning Experience** - There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or the death of a partner from 17th to 19th March 2017 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 Sandra 01293-783965 or John 01992-642443 email

[johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk)



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Churches Together in Hitchin is marking this international week of prayer with the following:

- Today and next Sunday, exchange of ministers at morning services

- **Next Sunday 22nd January 6.30 pm** at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church: united service, including the induction of the Rev Dr Jane Mainwaring of St Mark's as the Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin. At the end of the service, there will be a retiring collection for Herts Welcomes Syrian Families and tea/coffee will be served.

- **Sunday 29th January 6.30 pm** at St Mark's: evening service in the style of the Taize Community.

The theme of this year's Week of Prayer, chosen by the churches of Germany, is *Crossing Barriers* based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. If you would like to use the material personally, go to [www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer).

Further information about any of the above from John Richardson on 07505 426876 or [johnrichardson891@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrichardson891@btinternet.com).

††††††††††

**Lent Groups 2017** Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH) is organising Lent Groups. These can be in homes or churches. They can be groups arranged just for the weeks of Lent or existing groups who would like to use the study at the same time. The study this year is *Centered on Christ* by Michael Baughen and has six sessions but if you have less time can be combined to make five.

Ash Wednesday is 1 March and Good Friday is 14 April in between is the time to participate.

If you would be willing to Host a group or Lead a group, or are an existing group willing to invite a few folks from other churches to join yours, please contact Helen Richardson. Experience shows that people find this most beneficial and new friendships are made. Helen Richardson [helenwrigh@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrigh@btinternet.com) text or phone 07880 682681

††††††††††

“**Caritas Westminster** in partnership with Capital Mass are holding two events relating to the refugee crisis:

- Next Steps **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 7-9pm,**

Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN – A chance to hear more about the community sponsorship programme, and an update about the current situation in Syria

- After the Jungle, where next? **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7-9pm,** Christ Church Spitalfields, Commercial St, London E1 6LY – Hear from Br Johannes Maertens about what's now happening in Calais, and see two films made by refugees living in the camp.

Please RSVP to

[caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk) if you'd like to attend, or search for the events on Eventbrite”

††††††††††

## MARRIED COUPLES

You have been called by God to serve him in this great and complex calling: married life. Below are some details of courses that are available to help support married couples or give them a much deserved opportunity to take time to think about this great gift of self. All in lovely settings!

LOVING4LIFE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKENDS

<http://loving4life.co.uk/scheduled-weekends/>  
SMART LOVING BREAKTHROUGH WORKSHOP on 24th September and 15th October <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/events/>

And if you are anxious that your marriage might be in trouble...

RETROUVAILLE a lifeline for married couples <http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/>

††††††††††

**School Direct Recruitment Fairs** – Do you want to become a Teacher? This is an opportunity to meet with schools and alliances across London offering school direct teacher training and recruitment opportunities. For more details, please see notice on notice board in porch.

## AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 16

*Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)*

“The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church. We do well to focus on concrete realities, since ‘the call and the demands of the Spirit resound in the events of history’ and through these ‘the Church can be guided to a more profound understanding of the inexhaustible mystery of marriage and the family’ (John Paul II, 1982). The Synod Fathers examined the situations of families worldwide, and their pastoral insights are included in this chapter on the experiences and challenges of families (which will be published in the newsletter in the coming weeks), along with concerns derived from my (Pope Francis’) own experience. It is my hope that, in reading *Amoris Laetitia*, all will feel called to love and cherish family life, for families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity.”

