



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 1719

28th January – 4th February 2017 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
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 29th	Coffee Morning – Diapalante
Monday 30th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
Tuesday 31st Hall Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm RCIA LCR 7.30pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 1st Feb	Rosary Group for All 9.30am Bethany Club Meeting LCR 10-12pm
Thursday 2nd	Padre Pio Group Hall 10.30-12 noon Italian Club Hall 1pm Exposition of blessed sacrament Church 7-8pm Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 3rd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 5th	Coffee Morning – Parent & Toddlers Confirmation Session 7 Hall 6pm

Readings: Zeph 2:3;3:12-13, Cor 1:26-31, Matt 5:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to
your holy name, and make it our glory to praise
you.

**Psalm: How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Intercessions: We seek you, Lord!

Response: **Lord, teach us your ways!**

Next week : Is 58:7-10, Cor 2:1-5, Matt 5:13-16

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 1
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**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 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.



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 Beati: We understand the eight Beatitudes of Jesus as blessings rather than “*happies*”. And, when we read them, we believe that people who are merciful, gentle, poor in spirit are blessed and so indeed they are. But, Jesus is also telling us that the bearers of these gifts are always a blessing to others. How can we be made in the image of God and not be a blessing? The beatitudes are the different ways (among many others) in which Jesus wanted to show us how we can bring blessings into the lives of the people we encounter each day. Maybe that is why the translation has been changed from Blessed to Happy because beatitude people bring happiness into other people’s lives. Wherever these Beati (bearers of beauty) walk, they leave people feeling happy, reassured, valued, affirmed; with renewed hope, courage and energy. Why did Jesus tell us this? Because we are often unaware of the true effects of our blessings. The Beati are the lowly, the humble, people of integrity, who seek to do no wrong, tell no lies and who speak the truth. People St Paul calls the weak, the insignificant, the least, who thus enable God’s wisdom, virtue, holiness, freedom, to shine through them. The Beati are reflected in creation. “*ALL things in Nature work silently. They come into being and possess nothing. They fulfil their functions and make no claim. (Lao-Tzu)* or as Camille Pissarro said “*they are the people who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing!*”

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday 29th January, Taize service 6.30 pm, at St Mark's, a quiet evening service with readings, prayers and reflections, and music. Members of all churches are welcome to this service.

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Thank you so much to everyone who has supported Helen Bailey with the Big Chop, through your kindness and generosity. To date she has raised £850 for The



Little Princess Trust which will enable them to make 3 wigs for 3 very deserving children. She will be closing the JustGiving page on Monday 30th Jan, so if you did still want to donate, there is still time <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Bailey23#>

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Mary Hollingdale is doing a **Walk On Hot Coals** to raise money for the Garden House Hospice and Keech Hospice on **February 5**. Mary would be very grateful for any sponsorship at www.justgiving.com or email on memholl@aol.com . Thank you.

Thank you to all the Parishioners who have purchased cards and other religious items on Sundays after Mass during 2016. We have made a small donation to the Gateway Club.

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Message from Jenny Routh. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the coffee morning and raffle held last week to raise money for Cancer Hair Care - we made £171! This small charity help women with hair loss due to cancer treatments. Based in Stevenage, they were amazingly supportive when I lost my hair four years ago. I raised money for them instead of having presents for my 50th birthday, and raised over £1000. Thank you so much to everyone for your contributions.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JennyRouth>

Dates for Diary

Wednesday 1 Feb

11am Mass at Elmside. All are welcome.

Thursday 2 Feb

10am Padre Pio Group Mass followed by a meeting in the Hall until 12 noon. All are welcome.

Future Dates

Feb 6

8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council (CTH) in our church hall tea/coffee from 7.30 pm. The agenda will include a presentation by representatives of Herts Welcomes Syrian Families on their initiatives and how Hitchin churches can help.. There will also be one or two reports and a conversation about how CTH is doing and how it might do better. CTH Council meetings are open to all so do please come along and encourage others to come with you.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 17

The experiences and challenges of families (cont)

Several decades ago (1979), the Spanish bishops noted families have come to enjoy greater freedom ‘through an equitable distribution of duties, responsibilities and tasks’; indeed, ‘a greater emphasis on personal communication between the spouses helps to make family life more humane’, while ‘neither today’s society nor that to which we are progressing allow an uncritical survival of older forms and models’. It is evident that anthropological-cultural changes are leading ‘individuals, in personal and family life, to receive less and less support from social structures than in the past.’ (Relatio Finalis 2015,5).

