



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



4th February – 11th February 2017 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Newsletter No 1720

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: 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 5th	Coffee Morning – Parents & Toddlers Confirmation Session Hall 6pm
Monday 6th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Bethany Club Meeting LCR 09.45-11.45am Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am CTH Council Meeting Hall 7pm
Tuesday 7th Hall Scouts 7pm-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Thinking about Life and Faith UCR 7.30pm UCM Meeting LCR 8pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 8th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am Praise Group Hall 10.30-12 noon Italian Club Hall 1pm
Thursday 9th	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm Eucharistic Adoration Church 7-8pm
Friday 10th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 12th	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 58:7-10, Cor 2:1-5, Matt 5:13-16

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

Psalm: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Intercessions: We call upon you Lord!

Response: **Make us a light in the darkness!**

Next week: Ecc 15:15-20, Cor 2:6-10, Matt 5:17-37

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 2

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

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:

We have just celebrated the feast of the purification when we carry candles symbolising the light of Christ we carry in our lives. The light that Jesus brought us this Christmas still shines and we are missioned to share this light with others and with integrity. Integrity implies that we are honest, upright, noble, honourable, of good character, principled, ethical, moral, righteous, virtuous, decent, fair, sincere, truthful and trustworthy. Not to let our light shine would mean that we would have to make a great effort to conceal it, to hide it away. Who wants to do that? Wherever we go, our light shines; a light that receives its energy from what Paul calls the Power of God. The light of faith we received in our baptism is a light that, like salt, brings out the true flavour in people's lives as well as our own. It is as though letting our light shine gives permission to others to let their lights shine, a light that uncovers and reveals the true beauty of peoples' lives. *A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.* (Denis Waitley). *Give Light and people will find the Way.* (Ella Baker). So, wherever you go this coming week, keep humming: *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine . . . !*

Next Weekend

There will be a second collection next weekend in aid of Racial Justice.

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CTH Lent Groups Sign Up Sheet

These are now in your church for you to choose a group to attend. These small groups are an opportunity to meet with people from other churches to follow a particular part of the Bible just during the weeks of Lent. Those who have joined one in past years have seen well know passages in a different light and made new friends too! This year we are looking at Philippians using *Centred on Christ* by Michael Baughen. Please put your name and a contact number next to the group you wish to attend. Make a note of the address and date of the first one. Any queries to Helen Richardson helenwrich@btinternet.com

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Would anyone be able to assist with accommodation for a couple arriving here from South Africa in late Feb/early March? Toné has a new job as a physiotherapist at the Lister and seeks short term accommodation whilst she and her husband look for a permanent property. They are happy to pay rent and would be grateful if anyone in our community would be able to assist. If you feel you can assist, or if you have any further questions, please contact Jenny on 07790-472049. Many thanks.

We still need volunteers for the following areas in the church:

1. **MCs at Sunday Mass** to help set up and support the priest and direct the altar servers. We particularly need help at 10.30 and 5pm Mass and occasionally at 6pm and 8.30am. You do not need to have been an altar server in the past to do this. Full training will be given.
2. **Administrator for the Altar Serving Guild of St Stephen** Someone is needed to maintain the records for this wonderful parish group which is 85 years old this year. It is not a time consuming job but very important to ensure these young people's years of service are recorded accurately.
3. **Children's Liturgy Team** need helpers and leaders at the 10.30 Mass. You do not need to be a catechist or teacher but you do need to feel comfortable about talking to children about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Training for being a part of the team is 'on the job' and materials for the liturgy are all provided.



Please do consider volunteering for these vital elements of our liturgy. We need your support to ensure everything continues to run smoothly and our liturgies are focused on our praise of God.

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Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2018

Following our meeting about this Northern Star Travel have put together a 5 day Pilgrimage for our parish on **18th – 22nd June 2018**. We will be flying from Stansted and staying at a 4 star hotel within easy walking distance of the Basilica. Fr Tom will be leading our Pilgrimage. The price is £575 and includes:

- Return flights and airport duties from Stansted to Lourdes
- 4 nights full board at 4* Hotel Padoue shared room (single supplement £115)
- Half day excursion to Bartres
- Lourdes city tax
- Northern star travel representative

We will also arrange a coach from the church to Stansted which will have an additional charge. We need to have a minimum of 20 people. To book your place please sign up on the sheet in the porch. Take a booking form and complete this with your deposit of £200 by **September 8th**

2017 and send to Northern Travel. If you have any questions about this please contact Owen McFarlane (a member of our Pastoral Parish Council) on 07982640187. There are still spaces available on other trips they have planned to Lourdes for this year. Please take a brochure from the porch if you are interested

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 6th

9.45 am **Bethany Club Meeting** in the LCR

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8pm **CTH Council Meeting** in our 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.

Tuesday 7th

7.30pm **RCIA** – Please note the meeting this week will be in the UCR.

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8pm **UCM Business meeting**, and Bookmarks in LCR

Wednesday 8th

After 10am **Mass Praise group meeting** in the LCR. All are welcome.

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2.30pm **Mass at Foxholes**. All are welcome

Friday 10th

Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting; www.goodcounselnetwork.com

Saturday 11th

9am The gardening team will be kicking the new year and season off. Everyone is welcome to join the team and tea, coffee and biscuits are always on offer!



Future Dates

Feb 11 10am-12pm CAFOD - Tackling Poverty and Injustice All are welcome to join us for a first-hand account on CAFOD's long term development work in Zambia at the CAFOD volunteer centre, 1st Floor, Catholic Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, London N14 4HE. Coffee served from 9.30am. For further information regarding our supporters day or to book a place contact us on 0208-449-6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk

Feb 11 Divine Mercy Retreat 11am-4pm

St George's Cathedral, Southwark, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HR

Programme:

- 11:00 am Enthronement of Image of Merciful Jesus
- 11:30 am Talk on Divine Mercy
- 12:30 pm Holy Mass
- 1:15 pm Lunch (please bring packed lunch)
- 2:00 pm Praise and Worship
- 2:15 pm Divine Mercy Talk
- 3:00 pm Hour of Divine Mercy
- 3:45 pm Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus and Relic of St Faustina
- 4:00 pm Departure

All welcome - Bring your family & friends to the Merciful Jesus. No advance booking or registration is required

Feb 22 Westminster Cathedral

Choristers and their conductor Martin Baker welcome the Chœur d'enfants of Notre Dame de Paris. The choirs will give a joint concert at Westminster Cathedral, singing French and English choral music. Tickets (£15, seating unreserved) are available from the Cathedral Gift Shop, or on www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

Feb 24 7pm Catholic Singles Evening

for the over 50s £15 per person. Lebanese food tasting experience courtesy of Mandaloun Restaurant of Westfield and Fulham Road, Chelsea. Cash bar. Register with claire@austin-forum.org or call 020 8748 3254. Austin Forum, Augustinian Centre W6 8AU. All proceeds go towards funding our free English Lesson programme. Find out more at www.austin-forum.org

Other Items of Interest

The Marriage Course

Built on Faith are hosting a 7 week Marriage Course on **Sunday Evenings 19th Feb -2nd April 2017** at the Westmill Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin, SG5 2PG.

This is for couples considering marriage and for those who have been married for any length of time and looking to invest in their marriage. Some of the topics covered will include Building Strong Foundations, The Art of Communication and the Impact of the Family-Past and Present. For more information or to book please contact Leigh Smith on 07931833838 or email bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk or go to Eventbrite.

Our Lady's Parish

Faith Development Helpline

Problems or doubts about your faith?
 Are you feeling a bit lost?
 Do you know someone who might be feeling this way?

Try ringing
07582 648433

Tues, Weds, Thurs
8pm – 10pm



This is a confidential service and follows Parish Safeguarding Policies

Some while ago one of our parishioners went to Mass in Norfolk when visiting relatives. Reading the Parish newsletter this



parishioner noticed that there was a special prayer group that had been set up to make sure that every day of every month there would be someone in the Parish who would pray for those family members or friends who had for any reason fallen away from the practice of the faith. The prayers would be that somehow and at sometime these people who had fallen away would find their way back or would be led back by the Holy Spirit. It was then thought that we in Hitchin should try to set up a similar prayer group.

In this Norfolk Parish many of the people on the rota were housebound or carers of those that were housebound. There may be elderly people in old people's homes or nursing homes who would love to still be part of the whole Parish in this way and would love to take part in this very important task.

Please have a think about someone who you think might be willing to join this important rota or even put your name forward yourself. People can even work as a couple or as a small team too. What we will do in this Parish is to try to get together at least

31 names of people who would like to be part of this group. We will then decide how we think the rota members could carry this out and devise a prayer or set of prayers that could be used and arrange for everyone to be visited. If you would like to be part of this please give your name to Trish, Mike Edwards or Father Tom. For the moment we could call it the **Comeback Prayer Group**.

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The LiveSimply team would like all parishioners that last year received a Green Heart badge on **14th Feb** as the parish took part in the " For the LOVE of ..." event to please find their badges and get ready to bring them to the parish on the weekend of 11/12 Feb when we will get ready to once again make Valentine's day when many would declare the love of their lives, to again this year, wear the green hearts on their sleeves, our chance to tell everyone that asks or we talk to of each reason and all that we love and care so much for in ALL Creation that we are already doing the most we can for it ! Extra hearts will be ready to be handed out, but we would love to see as many of last year's resources re-used as well.

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You are invited to join the 7th Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Bishop John Sherrington. **31st October to 7th November**. Price: Full board £1535 pp sharing; £370 single room supplement. Contact Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666 or Elizabeth Uwalaka Pilgrimage Administrator 020 7798 9173 for information and booking form

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 18

The experiences and challenges of families today

'Consideration needs to be given to the growing danger represented by an extreme individualism which weakens family bonds and ends up considering each member of the family as an isolated unit, leading in some cases to the idea that one's personality is shaped by his or her desires, which are considered absolute' (*Relatio Synodi 2014,5*). 'The tensions created by an overly individualistic culture, caught up with possessions and pleasures, leads to intolerance and hostility in families' (*Relatio Finalis, 2015,8*). Here, I (Pope Francis) would also include today's fast pace of life, stress and the organisation of society and labour, since all these are cultural factors which militate against making permanent decisions and commitments.

