



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 1722

18th February – 25th February 2017 – 7th 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/Counselling Spiritual Direction	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 19th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
Monday 20th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
Tuesday 21st Hall Scouts 7pm-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm RCIA LCR 7.30pm Eucharistic service Church 7.15pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 22nd	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am Italian Club Hall 1pm
Thursday 23rd	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 24th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Sunday 26th	Coffee Morning – EDAID Healing and Wholeness Service Church 3pm Confirmation Session Hall 6pm

Readings: **Lev 19:1-2,17-18, Cor 3:16-23, Matt 5:38-48**

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Intercessions: In your Mercy!

Response: **Help us to love our neighbour!**

Next week : Is 49:14-15, Cor 4:1-5, Matt 6:24-34



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.

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 4
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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CAFOD just one world collection will be taken after all Masses this weekend. Gift aid envelopes are available from the collectors or in the porch.



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:

We are called to be Holy; being made in God's image means that our whole being is Holy. God told Moses that he was walking on Holy ground as he approached the burning bush in the desert but all creation is Holy, since anything the Creator forms is Holy. Holiness begins by recognising God's presence within us as St Paul emphasises this week. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. Our baptism gives us the graces to let this Holy Spirit work within and shine through us. But Holiness, like love, comes in many flavours and disguises. Expressions of Holiness are found in virtues like gentleness, kindness, caring, loving our neighbour (even the difficult ones!) Jesus tells us that holiness seeks the well-being and goodness of others and expresses itself in mercy and forgiveness. In fact, it seeks more than the common good; it seeks the greater or greatest good for others. Being Holy helps us recognise the Holy in others which, in turn, uplifts, inspires and strengthens our holiness. We become more aware of the presence of God whose air we breathe, whose sun we feel, and whose presence guides us. Being perfect, therefore, means letting the Holiness, the Holy Spirit, shine in us and through us!—*"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! . . . You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more."* said St. Augustine.

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The charity 'Sight Savers' will receive the proceeds from Sunday morning's One World Group coffee morning. This charity works to eliminate preventable blindness in developing countries. More information in the Hall.

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This Wednesday 22nd February is the feast of the Chair of St. Peter.



3pm Next Sunday (26th Feb), we are holding our next Service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.

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Baptism Preparation Course comprises two sessions (both must be attended) 26th February 3pm–4:30pm and 5th March 3:30pm–4:30pm. The second session is followed by the 5pm Mass for the Rite of first Anointing. At this Mass you will receive a Sacramental Passport for your child for you to store all future sacramental certificates. To book your place please sign up on

the sheet on the board in the link between the porch and the hall.

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Marriage Preparation course is on Saturday March 4th 2017 9.30am – 4pm. To book a place please email Susanna Hawksley with your full names (both parties). We are only able to take 25 couples on each course; places are limited. We ask you to bring food for a shared lunch on the day.

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Parish Visitation by Bishop Paul McAleenan 12th March and 18th March Bishop Paul will be at all Masses on 12th March and is looking forward to meeting as many parishioners as possible. He will be in the hall after the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses for you to chat to. He will then meet more formally with the

Pastoral Parish Council and any other parishioners who wish to come at 3.45pm to the hall for tea and a Q & A session with the Bishop. People coming to the 5pm Mass may wish to attend this as the Bishop needs to leave straight after Mass. He will also be visiting some housebound parishioners in the afternoon and will be meeting with the Finance Committee and Safeguarding representatives. The 10.30 Mass is a Fun Sunday Mass so it will give the Bishop a chance to see all the wonderful things being done by the Youth Ministry team and meet all the families in the parish too. So please mark this in your diaries. He comes back again to celebrate 6pm Mass on Saturday 18th March after which we will have a bring and share supper in the hall after Mass at 7ish. So for many of us a chance to see him a second time in a more social setting. Please do come and bring a dish. (See sign-up sheet on the blue board in the porch.)

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Church Cleaning We have a particular 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 an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish

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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will



remind you to bring things when you come to church. Please note re collection of old pens that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that EDAID collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or EDAID have a coffee morning.



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Choir members needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Tuesday evening for the practices and the first

Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

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As many of you know, St. Elizabeth's Centre, in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire is run by the nuns of the Daughters of the Cross of Liege, helped by lay staff and volunteers. It cares for children and adults who are severely affected by epilepsy. The government pays for 'basics', but the Centre is dependent on donations and fundraising for what are termed 'extras'.

Peter Robbins will be busy from now on, collecting items for his white elephant stall at the St. Elizabeth's Summer Fayre on **Saturday June 24th 2017**. He does not want clothing or large items – just saleable bric-a-brac. All items can be put in a bin in the church porch, or delivered to 89 Old Hale Way, Hitchin. If necessary he will collect. Please phone him on 01462 433773 to arrange this.

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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.

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Ron and Wanda would like to thank everybody for their prayers and support during the recent months.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 21 February

UCM - Outing to "Jackie's Drop In"

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2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All are welcome.

Wednesday 22 February

7.30 - St. Albans Inter-faith Network invites us to an evening looking at: Objects of Faith - at Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 HE (£5 per person) there is a poster in the porch.

Future Dates

Feb 24 7pm GENTLEMEN NEEDED - 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 / 020 8748 3254. Almost 20 people registered so far, mainly women - we need more men! Austin Forum, Augustinian Centre W6 8AU. All proceeds go towards funding our free English Lesson programme. Find out more at www.austin-forum.org

Feb 25 9.30 for 10am– 3pm *Christian Mindfulness II: Putting it into Practice*— Mindfulness is useful for nurturing well-being and growth, and has deep Christian roots. Fr Michael Heap MAfr will lead practical exercises for integrating mindfulness into daily life and deepening our relationship with God. Please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £14. Niland Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD 23 4EE (020 8950 4000 or bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk)

Registration suggested but not essential.

March 3 1pm - Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St. Mark's church on Lancaster Avenue, SG5 1UR, Hitchin - this year's theme "Am I Being Unfair to You?" was devised by Christian Churches in the Philippines. There will be a crèche for the little ones, and the service will be followed by refreshments. For some background information, see: <http://worlddayofprayer.net/philippines-2017.html> WDP Philippines is composed of women representatives from nine women organizations of member churches of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. These are: Episcopal Church Women, Federation of Baptist Women's Missionary Unions, Inc., Kalipunan ng

kababaihang UNIDA Ekyumenikal, Philippine Lutheran Women's League, Salvation Army Women's Ministries, National Christian Women's Association of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Kapisanan ng mga Kababaihan ng IEMELIF, Women of the Philippine Independent Church, and United Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service.

March 6 7pm Thanksgiving for the Holy Year of Mercy. The last of 6 talks organised by St Patrick's, Soho in thanksgiving for the Holy Year and also to mark the proposed stained glass windows for the Church. Dr. Gabriele Finaldi, who is a Director of the National Gallery, is giving the talk on "The Crucifixion, icon of love and mercy". All are welcome.

March 11 2.30pm The Mass for bereaved parents at Westminster Cathedral. It's a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks, and to entrust deceased children to the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

March 11 10.30-12.30 FREE TRADE AND FAIRTRADE: Towards Trade Justice in the Post-Brexit Era The Westminster Catholic Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission invites members of all churches in Hitchin to join them for a discussion on this important theme led by Mary Milne, Traidcraft Campaigns Manager (refreshments from 10.00) in our Church hall. Free but register at: <https://fairfreetrade.eventbrite.co.uk>

Feb 9 - Apr 6 **Scripture from Scratch—Praying your way to Easter with John's Gospel.**

Alternative Thursdays (7 for 7.30 – 9.00 pm) with Sr Anne Walsh OP. Suggested donation £5 per session.

Other items of interest

Faith Matters: Lent 2017 'Faces of Mercy'

7th Mar'17, 'When I was in prison...' by Mgr. Roger Reader, Prison Adviser, Catholic Bishop's Conference

14th Mar'17, 'When I was a sick...' by Fr Peter-Michael Scott, The Cardinal's Advisor for Healthcare Chaplaincy

21st Mar'17, 'When I was a stranger...' by Sarah Teather, Director, Jesuit Refugee Service UK

28th Mar'17, 'Seeing Mercy' by Fr Geoffrey Wheaton, SJ, Jesuit Priest

Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

When: 7.00-8.30pm. Registration is required. Email at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk and indicate your name and the date of the event. If you do not have an access to the Internet, please leave a voice

message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £4 per talk.

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Statement on the Crisis in Climate Action triggered by the US President. As Donald Trump takes up office as the President of the United States of America, we in Justice and Peace wish to flag up our concerns for global action on climate.

While both scientists and Pope Francis are calling for dramatic action against the climate crisis, it is most alarming to know that President Trump is determined to do the opposite. As leader of the most powerful country in earth, which happens to have contributed the most to the climate crisis (considering historical and per capita pollution), he has the moral obligation to accept climate science and take action accordingly.

What he is doing instead is to appoint a climate sceptic, Scott Pruitt, to be head of the US Environmental Protection Agency. This is hardly encouraging, and we are invited to participate in a petition organised by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, urging President Trump to take the climate crisis seriously. The GCCM was instrumental in collecting more than a third of signatures for the Interfaith Climate Petition at the Paris talks. We encourage everyone to support and publicise this important movement, and to continue to hold our own government to the UN Climate agreement it signed at the end of last year.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/asease>

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 20

Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)

The experiences and challenges of families con't

When these factors (mentioned in Newsletters1718-1721) affect our understanding of the family, family life can come to be seen as a way station, helpful when convenient, or a setting in which rights can be asserted while relationships are left to the changing winds of personal desire and circumstances. Ultimately, it is easy nowadays to confuse genuine freedom with the idea that each individual can act arbitrarily, as if there were no truths, values and principles to provide guidance, and everything were possible and permissible. The ideal of marriage, marked by a commitment to exclusivity and stability, is swept aside whenever it proves inconvenient or tiresome. The fear of loneliness and the desire for stability and fidelity exist side by side with a growing fear of entrapment in a relationship that could hamper the achievement of one's personal goals.

