



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 1721

11th February – 18th February 2017 – 6th 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 12th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 13th	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
Tuesday 14th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
Wednesday 15th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
Thursday 16th	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
	Eucharistic Adoration Church 7-8pm
Sunday 19th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

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

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Psalm: They are happy who follow God's law

Intercessions: Help us to keep your Law!

Response: To keep it in our hearts!

Next week: Lev 19:1-2.17-18, Cor 3:16-23, Matt 5:38-48

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 4 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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There is a second collection this weekend in aid of Racial Justice.

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A big thank you for all the donations made to the KISS collection last weekend – a total of £805.73 was raised!

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Mary Hollingdale completed her Walk on Coals last Sunday and she would like to thank everyone for their sponsorship. A grand sum of £480 was raised which will be split between the Garden House Hospice and the Keech Cottage Children's Hospital.

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.



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:

Wisdom is hard to explain without mentioning understanding, knowledge and making choices; three other gifts of the Holy Spirit. But Wisdom is not knowledge or understanding, nor is it our choices or judgements, although it involves them all. So, what is wisdom? How to explain this gift for which we all yearn? Simply, wisdom brings together knowledge, understanding, choices and decision-making in such a way as to see beyond the mix to something deeper. Wisdom is aware of what is unsaid, unknown even unrealised and makes a choice that enriches all who are present to it. In other words, wisdom helps us see reality and unreality as God sees them and enables us to act on that vision in a way that highlights, sanctifies and enhances the value of everything that it touches for it reveals the presence of God, the sacredness of things, of people. In some famous Art Gallery lies a completely black painting. Underneath is written "A black cat in a coal cellar that has no windows and whose door is shut." Wisdom is aware of the black cat! Good paintings like good stories always hold a deeper message than the sum or position of the colours and elements portrayed within it. Wisdom recognises the significance of that hidden message which is always more than what we see, read or hear. Wikipedia adds experience, common sense and insight to Wisdom. It is one of God's greatest gifts!

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CAFOD just one world collection will be held after all masses next weekend (18/19th February.) Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors.

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CTH Lent Groups Sign Up Sheet 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. 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.

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Mass at Westminster Cathedral, 25th March 2017. The Union of Catholic Mothers in the Parish are running a coach to attend their Annual Diocesan Mass on this day at 2pm. The coach will leave the church at 10.30 am and leave London after the Mass at around 4pm. There are a few seats available if members of the parish would like to join us. For further details telephone Ann Cook on 01462 453893 or Kath Shell on 01462 851341.

Future Dates

Feb 13 7:15 for 7:30pm - 9:30pm the Welwyn and Hatfield Inter Faith Group, Inter-faith Matters extends an open invitation to an evening "**Exploring Spirituality**" at the Friends Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SP, doors open at. See: www.whifgroup.co.uk - poster available in the porch.

Other Items of Interest

Youth Worker needed to promote peace and social justice concerns in schools and parishes across the diocese. Energy and enthusiasm to encourage young people to make a difference in the world around them is key. See diocesan website for details. Closing date Feb 21st 2017 <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/youth-worker--westminster-justice--peace-commission-1/>

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Catholic Staff at the Lister Hospital - Deacon Anthony (Catholic chaplain) is very keen to hear from Catholic staff at the Lister about what provision they would like to see on offer for them from the Catholic chaplain.

Please contact Deacon Anthony about any pastoral or spiritual support for Catholic staff that you would like to see in the hospital. Please email Deacon Anthony with your ideas or thoughts – Email: anthony.curran@nhs.net

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 19

The experiences and challenges of families today

"Today we encounter widespread uncertainty and ambiguity. For example, we rightly value a personalism that opts for authenticity as opposed to mere conformity. While this can favour spontaneity and a better use of people's talents, if misdirected, it can foster attitudes of constant suspicion, fear of commitment, self centeredness and arrogance."



"Freedom of choice makes it possible to plan our lives and to make the most of ourselves. Yet this freedom requires noble goals and personal discipline in order to develop the ability to give oneself generously to others. Indeed in many countries where the number of marriages is decreasing, more and more people are choosing to live alone or simply to spend time together cohabiting."

"We point to a praiseworthy concern for justice; but if misunderstood, this can turn citizens into clients interested solely in the provision of services."