



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 1723

25 February – 4 March 2017 – 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Diary

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)	

Sunday 26th	Coffee Morning – EDAID Healing & Wholeness service Church 3pm Baptism Course Hall – 3-4.30pm Confirmation Session Hall – 6pm
Monday 27th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am Readers Meeting 8pm - Church
Tuesday 28th Scouts (Hall) 7pm-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm RCIA LCR 7.30pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 1st	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am Italian Club Hall 1pm Ash Wednesday Masses at 7.30am 10am and 7.30pm
Thursday 2nd	Padre Pio Group Hall – 10.30am Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 3rd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
Saturday 4th	Marriage Prep Hall 9.30am-4.30pm
Sunday 5th	Coffee Morning – Parent & Toddlers Baptism Course (2) Hall 3.30-4.30pm



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.

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

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Psalm: In God alone is my soul at rest.

Intercessions: Lord, we take refuge in you.

Response: **Our hope comes from you!**

Next week : Gen 2:7-9.3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 6 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 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 famous violinist André Rieu, once said, "We should make decisions in life with our hearts, not our brains, not only in music but in daily life." This week Jesus is asking for a decision. What is yours? All too often we make decision with our heads, weighing up the pros and cons as far as we understand them when, in fact, our best decisions are made with our hearts. André Rieu delights people with his music, his energy, his humour and his joy because he wants to bring joy and delight into their lives. After all, without an audience, this would be impossible. He lives his life for others. Too often, today, the value of materials AND people is equated with money. Is a footballer, who is paid £600,000/week, worth more than a mother who loves her children and will do anything for their happiness?? In an economic crisis, money is important, but, if we let it make our decisions for us, we are doomed. We value friendship, care for people less fortunate, help those in need, out of love and compassion, because of a heartfelt desire for their well-being and knowing we will never be truly happy until they are. This is what choosing God means. A mother values her children for who they are (and they are all different). Ultimately, we choose God because God values us for who we are far more than any sum of money; the God who helps us see the true value of ourselves and more especially the true value of others!!

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Baptism Preparation Course begins this Sunday 3pm-4:30pm and the 2nd session is 5th March 3:30pm- 4:30pm followed by the 5pm Mass for the Rite of first Anointing

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There is a **pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent** this weekend and copies are available in the porch and on the website

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Parish Visitation by Bishop Paul McAleenan



12th March and 18th March If you have questions for Bishop Paul at the Q & A session at 3.45pm please email them to Trish Bonnett by 6th March. Please do not forget to sign up in the porch for the bring and share supper in the hall after Mass on 18th March at 7ish.

A chance to see the Bishop more informally and have a chat

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Walk with me Lenten books are available in the porch for £1. Please leave the money in the pamphlets box between the doors inside church. There is a children's Lent calendar which is free.

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John Murfet thanks you for your prayers and good wishes. See his card on the notice board.

Proceeds from last Sunday's Coffee Morning will go to EDAID, a small charity which supports schools in Gambia. EDAID collects goods to be sent to schools in Gambia all year round. Pens, pencils, paper etc. are always needed, also material, wool and fabric of all kinds. Small garden tools are needed for use in secondary schools. Please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) if you have goods and would like them to be collected.

Dates for diary

Monday 27 February

11am Mass at Stagenhoe. If you need a lift please be in the car park at 10.35am

Wednesday 1 March

Ash Wednesday Masses at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm. Eucharistic service and distribution of Ashes at Elmside at 11am.

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12.30 Ash Wednesday lunch to support Christian Aid will be at The New Testament Church of God on the corner of Hampden Road and Willian Road. Simple but nourishing fare and a Traidcraft stall. All are welcome.

Thursday 2 March

10 am St Pio Mass followed by a meeting in the Hall. All are welcome.

Friday 3 March

1pm - 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 the women in Christian Churches in the Philippines.

Saturday 4 March

9.30am – 4pm Marriage Preparation course

To book a place please email [Susanna Hawksley](mailto:Susanna.Hawksley) (address on front of newsletter) 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.

March 11 10.30-12.30 FREE TRADE AND

FAIRTRADE: Towards Trade Justice in the Post-Brexit Era a discussion led by Mary Milne, Traidcraft Campaigns Manager in our hall. A Fairtrade stall will be available on the day. Register at: <https://fairfretrade.eventbrite.co.uk>

March 18 2pm The Bereavement team

invite you and your family, to come and share an afternoon in the Parish Hall. There will be time for prayers and reflection and refreshments. We look forward to meeting you.