



# 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 1724

4 March – 11 March 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent



<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 E-mail: <a href="mailto:frtomaa@gmail.com">frtomaa@gmail.com</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Pastoral Support	07958 575442 <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Susanna Hawksley <b>Catechetics</b>	<a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 <a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

## Diary

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Confirmation Grp Baptism Course Hall – 3-4.30pm
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b> Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am Parish Council Meeting LCR 7pm-9pm
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>  Scouts (Hall) 7pm-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm RCIA UCR 7.30pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir Practice Church 8pm UCM – LCR 8pm-10pm
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am Italian Club Hall 1pm Praise Group LCR 10.30am-12noon
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Christian Mediation Group UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina LCR 2pm-3pm
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Fairtrade Conference Hall 9am-1pm
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – KISS

**H** Hospital

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](mailto: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: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11**

**Entrance Antiphon:** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**Psalm: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Intercessions: Give us the joy of your help!  
Response: **Fill us with your Grace!**

**Next week : Gen 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-19, Matt 17:1-9**

**This week's counting teams:**  
**Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 2**  
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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

Let's get one thing clear. Temptation is NOT sin; otherwise, this week's Gospel would mean that Jesus was a sinner like us?? Jesus shows us that temptation is an intrinsic part of life and that evil, the devil, is stronger in our times of weakness, when we feel down and empty, at a loss or feel abandoned and vulnerable or alone just like Jesus after his lengthy sojourn in the desert. It would seem that Jesus had become aware of the power that he had and was being challenged how to use that power. Would he use it for himself, his own status, importance and aggrandisement or would he use his power for others? Clearly Jesus decided to use his power in service of his Father's will and therefore for others, for us. And this was a choice that he made not because of a command but out of love: love for God and love for us, all of us. Lent is the very special and precious time to welcome and accept this invaluable and consoling love of Jesus for us. Lent is the time to taste and experience that love which can reshape our lives, move us, and guide us into making choices that reflect this love of Jesus. Temptations are opportunities to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and make the right choices knowing that Jesus will support and strengthen us every step of the way. Roll on Lent . . .

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**Lectio Divina.** a slow contemplative praying of the Scriptures, which enables the Bible, the Word of God, to become the means of union with God. (Luke Dysinger osb). During Lent a small group of parishioners will be meeting in the Lower Committee Room every Friday afternoon between 2-3pm for lectio divina using the Sunday Gospel. All are welcome.

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The Live Simply group have provided us with a guide to a **Live Simply Lent**, wrapped around your newsletter, with ideas for us to consider. Please keep the sheet handy throughout Lent.

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**Lenten Alms** during Lent any money put in the poor box will go as our Lenten Alms which is supporting the Cardinal's work for the needs of the poor in the Diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

### Dates for Diary

#### Tuesday 7 March

There will be a UCM games meeting in the LCR at 8pm. Please bring deposit for the meal and Annual Mass fare.

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Please note that this week's RCIA will take place in the UCR

#### Wednesday 8 March

**After 10am Mass Praise Group** Meeting in the LCR. All are welcome.

**3pm Mass at Foxholes.** All welcome. Please note change of time for this month only.

### Future Dates

**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://fairfretrade.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Other Items of Interest

A polite reminder to all users of the Hall, and Committee Rooms Please ensure that all tables and chairs are stacked away at the end of your session. In addition to health and safety, the next group can start their session straight away rather than spend time on clearing the tables and chairs away first. Also, please do not take anything down from the walls in the lower committee room. Thanks for your cooperation.

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There will be a second collection weekend of 18/19 March in aid of CAFOD. CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. CAFOD traditionally holds an Appeal early in Lent. Lent Fast Day is on Friday 10 March when you could consider giving up a meal. Please take a Fast Day envelope on 4/5 March and return it with your donation on 18/19 March or make a pledge to give regularly. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 21

*The experiences and challenges of families (cont)*

As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities or out of a desire to be fashionable or from a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings. We (the Synod) would be depriving the world of values we can and must offer. It is true there is no sense in simply decrying present day evils, as if this could change things. Nor is it helpful to try and impose rules by sheer authority. What we (the Synod) need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them.

