

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 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday 5th

Thursday 9th

Friday 10th

Saturday 11th

Sunday 12th

Mass Times
Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition

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Contacts	
Parish Priest	07547 171570
Fr Tom O'Brien	E-mail: frtomaa@gmail.com
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647
	eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert	07958 575442
Pastoral Support	michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants	Tel: 01462 455577
Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetics	
Parish Administrator	Tel: 01462 459126
Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Office Tel:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
E-mail:	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)

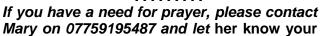


If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: 01438 285138

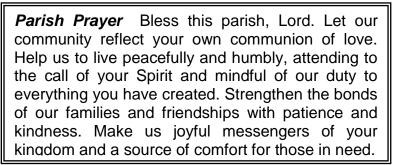
Via text message: **07876 526935**

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. **ተተተተተተ**



prayer intentions.



Coffee Morning - Confirmation Grp Baptism Course Hall - 3-4.30pm Monday 6th Parent & Toddler Group **Scout Hall** Hall 9.30 – 11am Beavers 6-7pm **Christian Meditation Group** Cubs 7.15-8.15pm LCR 11.45am Parish Council Meeting LCR 7pm-9pm Tuesday 7th Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm RCIA UCR 7.30pm Scouts (Hall) 7pm-9pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir Practice Church 8pm UCM - LCR 8pm-10pm Wednesday 8th

Italian Club Hall 1pm

Christian Mediation Group

Lectio Divina LCR 2pm-3pm

Parent & Toddler Group

Coffee Morning - KISS

Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am

Praise Group LCR 10.30am-12noon

Fairtrade Conference Hall 9am-1pm

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

UCR 6.30pm

Hall 9.30 - 11am

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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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 . . .

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://fairfreetrade.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.

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 helpmen and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them.