



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 1725

11 March – 18 March 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

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)	

Diary

Sunday 12 th	Coffee Morning – KISS
	Tea with Bishop – 3.45pm
	Confirmation Hall 6pm
Monday 13 th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
	Tuesday 14 th
Tuesday 14 th Scouts (Hall) 7pm-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	RCIA LCR 7.30pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
Wednesday 15 th	Choir Practice Church 8pm
	Wednesday 15 th
Thursday 16 th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
Friday 17 th	Thursday 16 th
	Christian Mediation Group UCR 6.30pm
Saturday 18 th	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Church 7-8pm
	Friday 17 th
Sunday 19 th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2pm-3pm
Saturday 18 th	Bereavement Meeting Hall 2pm
	Bring & share supper with Bishop Paul Hall 7pm
Sunday 19 th	Coffee Morning – One World Group



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

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.


Psalm: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Intercessions: The Lord is our help!
Response: We place all our hope in you!

Next week: Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 3

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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

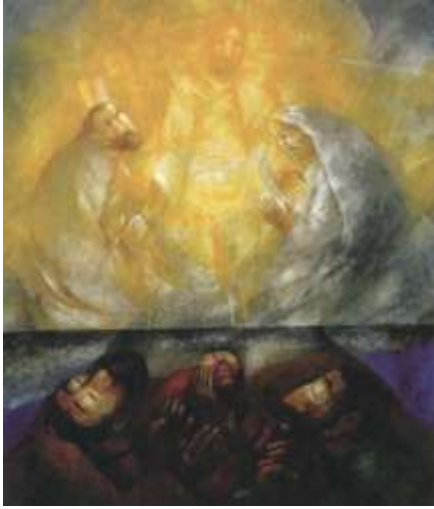
Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.

Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself



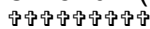
If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.

Ramblings for Reflection

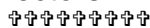


Do we live knowing that we are graced with salvation and with holiness as St Paul says? All the gifts we are given from God (which are many) come with an inbuilt yearning to be shared. But we develop a way of looking at our lives that hides this

yearning and often hides our true gifts from us. Then, something happens in life and a gift is revealed that changes everything for us. The truly talented artist always wants to share their gift with others more than anything and is always seeking more and better ways to do this. Jesus often used a kind of shock tactic to open others to their gifts, in his miracles as well as his preaching. This week he shows himself in all his glory; that he is much, much more than what his disciples see and think of him. Transfiguration is an uncovering and revelation of the beauty and reality of an inner truth, which is a reflection of God. Lent provides us with the shock tactics to see the true value and richness of God in our lives: prayer, fasting and caring for others and creation. When we do this, we see those around us, especially those closest to us, in a deeper and enriched way. "God places us in the world as his fellow workers - agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world." (Desmond Tutu)



CAFOD just one world Collection will take place after masses next weekend (18/19th March) Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors.



Please have a think about someone who is housebound or in care that you think might be willing to join a group to pray once a month for people to return to the faith. We want to get together at least 31 names of people who would like to be part of this group. We will devise a prayer or set of prayers that could be used and arrange for everyone to be visited. If you would like to be part of this please give your name to Trish, Mike Edwards or Father Tom.

Parish Telephone We have been experiencing difficulties with our telephone system. Please accept our apologies if you have tried to contact us and have been unsuccessful. The engineer is aware and will attend to fix the problem as soon as possible. Many thanks for your patience and understanding.



Boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes for the coming year will be available for collection in the Hall after each of the Masses next weekend (**18/19 March**). Parishioners who make their offering by Standing Order and would like a supply of Envelopes to use when making an additional offering during the collection at Mass can also collect Envelopes at this time. If you have not already signed up for the Planned Giving Scheme – which plays such an important part in financing the operation of the Parish – you can do so at this time and David and Elizabeth, our Planned Giving and Gift Aid Organisers, will be on hand to provide any information you might require.



Hertfordshire Police have asked that we do not park in their visitor's car park on the side of Hitchin police station at any time. It is in constant use during the week and often at weekends. If you park on the yellow lines (on Sundays only) around the police station please ensure that the police can access their car park behind the main building. They often have to leave at high speed when there is an incident they are called to. Because of the state of high security alert our country is presently at, they need to know that all the vehicles parked in and around the police station are on police business. Anyone parking there who is not on police business will have a polite notice put on their car warning them not to park there in the future. If they continue to park there they will be prosecuted. We will also be notifying all groups using the hall to refrain from parking there also. We do notify the police whenever we have a funeral so they understand when we have large volumes of cars expected and they do try to accommodate us when they can. We will also be contacting the day centre to ask if we can park in their car park at the weekends. We do appreciate that our parking space in the church is limited for some Masses. It would be good if we can bear in mind that our parishioners with mobility issues and parents with young children need to park as close as they can. Those of us who can walk, more easily, can perhaps consider parking slightly further away. As it is Lent maybe we could consider doing this as a

positive action rather than 'giving up something'? Thank you for your consideration and patience.

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Single, Divorced or Widowed who find they don't want to cook a Sunday lunch for one, then please join me at various venues, mainly Hitchin for a nice meal and company just once a month. So far we have been to the 3 Moorhens and Millstream and now want to extend the invitation further. Please let me know if you would like to come along on Sunday April 9th. We have chosen the Angels (Reply that was)

Contact Mary on 0775 9195487 for further details.

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GIFT AID TAX REBATE 2016 = £23,000

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who Gift Aid their Mass offerings and other donations to the Parish.

We have now received the tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of: £23,000.00 which, in practical terms, will help keep the Parish running for nearly 8 weeks!! The return also reflects great credit on the fact that so many of you signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations during last Appeal back in 2013 and have continued to do so since then and it also includes the rebate on your other Gift Aid donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which are welcome additions to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to commit to making an offering ...

AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY !! To sign-up or to check whether or not you have already signed up or to get more information, please speak to one of the members of the Finance Committee who will be in the Hall after each of the Masses next weekend and the weekend after; alternatively, please contact David Wilson or Elizabeth Wills our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organisers on tel: 01462-627784 or by email through the Parish account: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

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Peter Wolff memorial Many parishioners generously donated to the fund for a headstone for a young man who used to go to St Michael's College and our church who was buried in an unmarked grave. The stone is now in place and Peter Robbins, who arranged this, invites you to the blessing of this stone and a plaque, which will go in front of a rosemary bush in the parish gardens. We will meet at St John's Cemetery by the chapel in the 'old' section on **March 22nd at 11am** and return to the church for the blessing of

the plaque. Refreshments will follow in the hall. If you are able to come can you let Trish know so we have an idea of numbers for catering.

Dates for Diary

Thursday 16 March

10 am Day of Prayer and Reflection for Lent with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Sr Anne Walsh OP (- Holy Mass 2.30 pm). Please bring a packed lunch; hot drinks provided. Suggested donation £12. Registration suggested (020 8950 4000

bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk

Saturday 18 March

2pm The Bereavement team would like to invite you and members of your family, to come and share an afternoon together in the Parish Hall. There will be time for prayers and reflection. Refreshments will be served during the afternoon. We look forward to meeting you.

Monday 20 March

8pm LENTEN MEDITATION led by Father Michael will take place in the church

Tuesday 21 March

There will be Mass at Milford Lodge at 2.30pm. All are welcome

Future Dates

March 22 7 for 7.30pm Herts Welcome Syrian Families invite you to some important discussions:

To enable HWSF and other volunteer groups supporting refugees and asylum seekers around Hertfordshire to describe what they do, To explore ways of increasing collaboration toward improving the overall effectiveness of all organisations. To provide an opportunity for those wishing to become more involved in HWSF and other volunteer groups to understand better where the gaps are and how they can contribute to helping HWSF and others fulfill their objectives. Everyone interested is welcome to attend at Quaker Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SP

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March 24 7.30pm **Catholic Speed Dating**

Suggested age range: under 50. £10 entry and cash bar available. All proceeds go towards our free English lesson programme. Address: Austin Forum, Hammersmith W6 8AU. Must register with Gabriella@austin-forum.org. Limited spaces!

March 25 10am to 12 Come and See - becoming a Permanent Deacon. Men wanting to know more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a two hour meeting at St Edward the Confessor, 700 Finchley Rd, Golders Green, NW11 7NE. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact details Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548

March 26 The Friends of Holy Saviour Church invite you to the next Talk & Tea.

"Saving our County's Heritage - the work of the Hertfordshire Heritage Fund". Dorothy Abel Smith will tell us about the aims and achievements of the fund, with illustrations of many of the items it has helped local museums to buy and make available to the public. There will be a good tea afterwards as well! Tickets £8, from Clare Fleck ([01462 646257](tel:01462646257)) or the Town Centre Initiative office churchyard.

April 8 2pm-4pm Book signing Jane Litchmore-Grant, a former chair of Churches Together in Hitchin, has written a book about her spiritual journey, entitled *It All Makes Sense Now*. You are invited to the Book Launch at the Tilehouse Street Baptist Church Hall, . It will culminate with a recognition of her 50th birthday (belated). Book signing available.

Other items of interest

Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests: For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers. Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? From 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful and it might be you in that bed, wondering how to cope If you are at all interested, please contact Revd **Jane Hatton** **01438 285138... or jane.hatton@nhs.net**

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A Retreat with a Difference

A Foyer de Charité Retreat will be held at the new Retreat Centre in Walsingham, from **Sunday 30 April (6pm) – Saturday 6 May (2pm)**. The theme is God's Plan for the Fullness of Time, and the preacher will be Mgr. Keith Barltrop, with help from Foyer members and past retreatants. Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day, and offer a holistic way of deepening our faith in the Church's teaching and our life in Christ. The Foyers are communities of consecrated lay people living with a priest in order to help others grow closer to Christ and live the Catholic faith more fully. For further information or to book a

place, contact Mgr. Barltrop: keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk; 07879 953953; St. Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London W2 5DJ

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Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2018

Northern Star Travel have put together a 5 day Pilgrimage for our parish on **18th – 22nd June 2018**. We will be flying from Stansted and staying at a 4 star hotel within easy walking distance of the Basilica. Fr Tom will be leading our Pilgrimage. The price is £575 and includes:

- Return flights and airport duties from Stansted to Lourdes
- 4 nights full board at 4* Hotel Padoue shared room (single supplement £115)
- Half day excursion to Bartres
- Lourdes city tax
- Northern star travel representative

We will also arrange a coach from the church to Stansted which will have an additional charge.

We need to have a minimum of 20 people. To book your place please sign up on the sheet in the porch. Take a booking form and complete this with your deposit of £200 by September 8th 2017 and send to Northern Travel. If you have any questions about this please contact Owen McFarlane (a member of our Pastoral Parish Council) on 07982640187.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 22

The experiences and challenges of families (cont)

We (the Synod) need to be humble and realistic, acknowledging that at times the way we present our Christian beliefs and treat other people has helped contribute to today's problematic situation. We need a healthy dose of self-criticism. Then too, we often present marriage in such a way that its unitive meaning, its call to grow in love and its ideal of mutual assistance are overshadowed by an almost exclusive insistence on the duty of procreation. We have not always provided solid guidance to young married couples, understanding their timetables, their way of thinking and their concrete concerns. At times we have also proposed a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families. This excessive idealisation, especially when we have failed to inspire trust in God's grace, has not helped to make marriage more desirable and attractive, but quite the opposite.

