



# 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 1726**  
**18 March – 25 March 2017 – 3<sup>rd</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 <a href="mailto:thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk">thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling 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

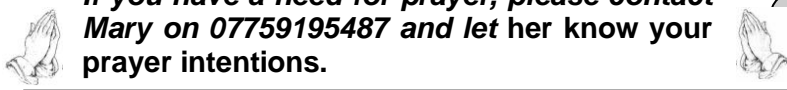
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Scout Hall</b>  <b>Beavers 6-7pm</b> <b>Cubs 7.15-8.15pm</b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	LCR UCM Committee Meeting 10am
	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
	Meditation in Church 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>  <b>Scouts (Hall)</b> <b>7pm-9pm</b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	RCIA UCR 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Choir Practice Church 8pm
	UCM – LCR at 8pm
	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Mediation Group UCR 6.30pm
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2pm-3pm
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	First Holy Communion Session Hall 9.30am
	UCM – 10.30am - Westminster
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	Coffee Morning – Gardening 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](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.

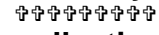
## Readings Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42

**Entrance Antiphon:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.  
**Psalm:** **O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts'.**  
**Intercessions:** Saviour of the world.  
**Response:** Give us your living water!

**Next week: Sam 16:1-6-7.10-13, Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41**

## This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 4**



**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** There is talk of a hosepipe ban this summer, and we will be reminded of the importance and value of water. Our consciences will become more sensitive to areas of the world enduring drought and we will be more welcoming of those rainy days we have. Jesus, the water of life, will have more significance for us. We will understand better that we cannot live without him and that our climate will teach us about Jesus and about our Creator. Cleansing and life-giving water leads us to reflect on our baptism in which we are opened to the presence of God in our lives and the mission we are given to share and spread this God given gift. Like all God's gifts, the more we share it the stronger it becomes. This week Jesus again breaks cultural and social norms by speaking to a foreign woman (and an enemy) of ill repute alone. Jesus opens her to the life he offers with the result that the whole town becomes believers – the power of sharing the life received. He offers his life to all whatever their background or however terrible their past. A life that we learned last week transforms and sets free. We love the sun for it brightens our day and our spirits. Let's give the same love and positive welcome to the rainy days ahead, however dull. Let them speak to us of Jesus, the water of life. The water that flowed from his side that Good Friday was a sign that he gives himself and his life completely to us – to be shared.

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**MERCY SHIPS**, a charity which provides medical care to the world's poorest people, will receive the proceeds from this Sunday's One World Group coffee morning. More information in the hall.

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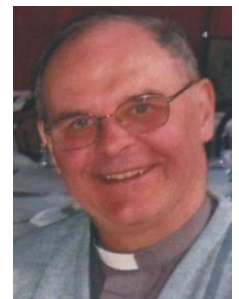
**CAFOD** just one world There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD. CAFOD have launched an appeal for East Africa in view of the news that starvation is imminent in South Sudan, Kenya and other countries. Our regular CAFOD collections can be used in whichever way CAFOD chooses so this weekend's collection after masses will be used to relieve famine in these countries. Giftaid envelopes are available in the porch or from the collectors.

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Boxes of Offertory Envelopes for the coming year will be available for collection in the Hall after each of the Masses this weekend. If you have not already signed up to make your offering to the Church using Offertory Envelopes, you can do so at this time and members of the Finance Committee will be on hand to explain how the scheme works and to provide any other information you might require.



**Message from Fr Michael** "I would like to clarify what I am doing in the Parish now that I have retired, as Parish Priest. I will still have a sacramental presence and will be part of the Pastoral Team, celebrating Mass and if asked and available, be happy to offer a range of Sacraments, from Baptism to Anointing of the Sick – but with the agreement of Fr Tom. I will start once I have settled into my new home in Christopher House. My aim is to be more available to serve the Parish. I will also be available for chats, support, guidance or simple spiritual direction and counselling and you are more than welcome to contact me on my Mobile: 0795857544 or by email: [michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk) We can then arrange to meet up at a mutually agreeable time. I will also visit when I can and also I will be working in John Henry Newman School as a counsellor.



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**URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:** Even with the incredible amount donated we are always urgently in need of some items to

make the food parcels nutritionally balanced as possible and to provide extras such as toiletries. Here are the most urgent needs. Please put any goods into the tub in the porch.

- Tinned meat & Tinned Fish
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- UHT Milk & Dried Milk
- Jam
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Shampoo/ shower gel, particularly for men
- Shaving Foam
- Strong carrier bags

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**Monday 10th April 7.30pm  
Passover Meal in the Church Hall.**

To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper.

It is a chance for us to understand more deeply our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome.

We hope to welcome people from St. Mary's Church again this year.

You need to bring: a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep



warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person. Roast lamb is provided. [You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.] It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up on the board in the porch as we need to know numbers by 3rd April so that we can order the meat.

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**Shortage of MCs** We now have a critical shortage of MCs to help us for Sunday Masses to help set up and support the priest and direct the altar servers. You do not need to have served on the altar in the past. We can give you full training on what is required to help in this way. It is not difficult but we do appreciate that you are in full view of the parish at Mass. Please do not be reluctant to give this a try at least.



In particular what we would like is someone (or preferably more than one person) who will shadow the MCs at our Holy Week services this year so that we can be assured that we have someone who knows what to do in the future.

If you would be willing to give this a go in the first instance that would be wonderful. Please speak to Fr Tom, Fr Michael or Trish if you are willing to help the parish in this way. Many thanks in anticipation of your positive responses!

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Help needed during Holy Week For The Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 13th at 8pm we like to have parishoners who serve us, to come forward during the gospel to

have their foot washed and wash the feet of others when sent out by Christ. Are any of you willing to witness on the night in this way. There is a practice for the service on Wednesday 12th April at 8pm which is particularly useful for anyone who has not participated in the Gospel in this way before.

We also need 8 people in the congregation to have one foot washed by the disciples sent out by Christ. You may prefer to offer to be one of these.

Could you let Trish know as soon as possible which way you are willing to help so she is certain that we have the people (and feet!) required.

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**Studying in the sixth form at The John Henry Newman School:** A small number of places have become available to study from September 2017. If you would like the opportunity to achieve your very best at Level 3 study **whilst** being fully prepared

for Higher Education or employment and enjoy the vast array of enrichment opportunities that make JHN such a wonderful community then please contact Mrs W Howard, Director of Sixth Form on 01438 314643 or email [howardw@jhn.herts.sch.uk](mailto:howardw@jhn.herts.sch.uk)



Items for sale or for free in the parish. We have set up a page on our website for parishioners who have items they want to

offer for free or for sale. If you have any item that you want to 'recycle' in this way please give details to Trish Bonnett

Details required:

Your name

Contact details (email and / or telephone number)

Item for offer (full details and photo if available)

Price or FREE

Date to be collected by

Please ensure you let Trish know if the item has been taken so it can be removed from this webpage.



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Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from

your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

**1. Go to:**

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladyrcchitchin>

**2. Sign up for free**

**3. Get shopping-** your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

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Cleaner required for a parishioner off Ninesprings Way to Hoover, clean and dust in a small bungalow. Change bed linen and iron. approx £30.00 per visit. Days and times by arrangement. Please contact Michael Mansi 01462 438325





**The Comeback Prayer Group**

Some while ago one of our parishioners went to Mass in Norfolk when visiting relatives. Reading the Parish

newsletter this parishioner noticed that there was a special prayer group that had been set up to make sure that every day of every month there would be someone in the Parish who would pray for those family members or friends who had for any reason fallen away from the practice of the faith.

The prayers would be that somehow and at sometime these people who had fallen away would find their way back or would be led back by the Holy Spirit.

It was then thought that we in Hitchin should try to set up a similar prayer group.

In this Norfolk Parish many of the people on the rota were housebound or carers of those that were housebound. There may be elderly people in old people's homes or nursing homes who would love to still be part of the whole Parish in this way and would love to take part in this very important task.

Please have a think about someone who you think might be willing to join this important rota or even put your name forward yourself. People can even work as a couple or as a small team too.

What we will do in this Parish is to try to get together at least 31 names of people who would like to be part of this group.

We will then decide how we think the rota members could carry this out and 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. For the moment we could call it the Comeback Prayer Group.

### Dates for Diary

#### Monday 20 March

**Lenten Meditation** All parishioners are warmly invited to a meditation on Lenten themes led by Father Michael in the church at **8pm**.

#### Tuesday 21 March

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

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Please note this week's **RCIA meeting** will take place in the **UCR**.

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**Message from the UCM** - Mrs. Wilshire from Chapel Preserves at **8pm**. Reminder to bring items for the hamper.

#### Friday 24 March

**Day for the Lord** – for 24 hours St Patrick's, 21A Soho Square will be open with continual Eucharistic Adoration and the availability of the Sacrament of Confession. It starts at midday on Friday 24 March and finishes on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> March at 12noon with Mass for The Annunciation of the Lord. Please take an opportunity to come and visit and to pray.

#### Saturday 25 March

**UCM Mass at Westminster Cathedral**; there are a couple of seats still available on the coach to their annual Mass at **2pm**. Coach leaves the church at 10.30am and the Cathedral at 4pm. For further details please telephone Ann Cook on 01462 453893.

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**Divine Mercy Retreat: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm**, RC Church of St Scholastica  
17 Kenninghall Road, London E5 8BS

### Future Dates

**June 3 3pm Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving** for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral. Reminder of the deadline for couple names to be submitted for an invitation from the Cardinal is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 23

*The experiences and challenges of families (cont)*

We (the Synod) have long thought that simply by stressing doctrinal, bioethical and moral issues, without encouraging openness to grace, we were providing sufficient support to families, strengthening the marriage bond and giving meaning to marital life. We find it difficult to present marriage more as a dynamic path to personal development and fulfillment than as a lifelong burden. We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations. We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.

