



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 1727

25 March 2017 – 1 April 2017 – Fourth Sunday Lent Year A

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 thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
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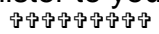
Parish Safeguarding Representative

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.



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.



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.

Diary

Sunday 26th Mothering Sunday	Coffee Morning – Gardening Group Confirmation 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
Tuesday 28th Scouts (Hall) 7pm-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm RCIA UCR 7.30pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 29th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am Italian Club Hall 1pm
Thursday 30th	Christian Mediation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 31st	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina LCR 2pm-3pm
Sunday 2nd	Coffee Morning – Zoe's Place

Readings Sam 16:1.6-7.10-13, Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Intercessions: Lord, open our eyes!

Response: **Let us follow the light of life.**

Next week: Ez 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, John 11:1-45

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 1



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

Ramblings for Reflection

When we look around us what do we really see? If we are feeling down and the sun comes out, our spirits are lifted and everything appears more vivid and energising. Think of the blind man this week. He had never seen anything and then, after washing his eyes, everything was revealed. What an uplifting, awe filled experience he must have had. It must have irked him that the Pharisees didn't want to believe he was ever blind and kept questioning him. Yet, at the same time, the questioning deepened his understanding of what had happened and, when Jesus finds him later on that day, he immediately wants to follow him. Lent offers us the opportunity to reflect on our faith, on what we see and believe, to talk about our faith with others, so that, like the blind man, our faith will grow deeper and we will see more clearly the importance and value of our faith and want to follow Jesus more closely. Jesus wants to enlighten our lives, and, if we let him, our spirits will brighten and we will see everything more vividly, more lovingly, more graciously. More in the way that God sees us. Knowing that Jesus thirsts for our faith and comes looking for us, it encourages us to make even more effort to invite his light into our lives. *Christ be our light, shine in our lives, shine through the darkness!* (Bernadette Farrell)

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Please see the news item on the parish website about the blessing of the gravestone for Peter Wolff. Thanks to Peter Robbins for making this happen. May Peter Wolff rest in peace and rise in glory.

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There will be a second collection this weekend for the humanitarian crisis in East Africa to aid the work of CAFOD's church partners and Caritas in these areas. Bishop John Arnold (Chair of Trustees of CAFOD) has also asked us to keep the region's people in your prayers.

Please pray too for our local Catholic Church and our other partners who are working against the odds in the worst-affected areas across, and for CAFOD as they work with them to address this widespread crisis

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Dates for Diary

Monday 27 March

11am Mass at Stagenhoe with Fr Christopher from the Transfiguration, Stevenage. Trish can give a lift. Please be in the car park at 10.35am.

Tuesday 28 March

7.15pm our Eucharistic service will focus on praying for those who were injured and killed last Wednesday at Westminster. We will pray that as

Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man that he will open the eyes of the world to his message of peace and love for our fellow beings and senseless killings will cease. The churches of Hitchin have also been invited to this service

Thursday 30 March

There is **no Mass at 10am today**. The Funeral Mass of **Marie Boyle** is celebrated at 2pm and all parish members are welcome to attend.

Other items of interest

April 14 GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS AND UNITED SERVICE

Churches Together in Hitchin is organising its annual Good Friday Walk of Witness and United Service. Assemble for prayer in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30 and to walk along Bancroft and High Street for a service in Market Place .

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Administration needed for Hitchin Christian Aid. An area in Hitchin has 13 voluntary door to door collectors but the person who was in charge of them has retired. A new person is needed or we lose the money they collected. This job is to count out the envelopes and distribute to each collector in April. After Christian Aid Week in May to then count the envelopes back.

If you could do this, or would like to know more please contact Helen Richardson, Hitchin Christian Aid Organiser 07880 682681 helenwrich@btinternet.com

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 24

The experiences and challenges of families

(cont) We (the Synod) must

be grateful most people do

value family relationships that are permanent and marked by mutual respect. They appreciate the Church's efforts to offer guidance and counseling in areas related to growth in love, overcoming conflict and raising children. Many are touched by the power of grace experienced in sacramental Reconciliation and in the Eucharist, grace that helps them face the challenges of marriage and the family. In some countries, especially in various parts of Africa, secularism has not weakened certain traditional values, and marriages forge a strong bond between two wider families, with clearly defined structures for dealing with problems and conflicts.

