



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 1728

1st April 2017 – 8th April 2017 – Fifth 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
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 459126 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)



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 2nd	Coffee Morning – Zoe's Place
Monday 3rd Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
Tuesday 4th Scouts (Hall)	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm UCM Hall 8pm
Wednesday 5th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Reconciliation service Church 7.30pm
Thursday 6th	Padre Pio Group Hall 10.30am
	Christian Mediation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 7th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2pm-3pm
Sunday 9th	Coffee Morning – UCM

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

Entrance Antiphon Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.
Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Intercessions: Father, you always hear us!
Response: Put your spirit within us.
Next week: Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Matt 26:14-27:66

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 2
 +++++
No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
 +++++



There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of Church Flowers for Easter.

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

I am not an art or book critic and do not always ask



why someone has written a story or created a picture or even what the author (painter) wants to say. But I do ask what this story, picture or event says to me. The Lazarus story speaks of the importance of love and friendship for Jesus and of his ultimate desire that all his friends experience life, not death. The cloths in which Lazarus had been swathed speak of the habits and practices that clutter life and prevent us from living fully. This powerful event in Jesus story reveals that only faith leads to true life, to being fully human, and that faith is integral to who we are. Faith makes everything possible. Which is why Jesus asks us, as he asked Mary and Martha, do you believe? As much as we value life, it is only when someone dies that we come to understand its true value in all its awesome beauty and richness and in all its successes and failures. We discover more of the wonder, strength and mystery of life that continually draws us into a deepening appreciation of the gift. And maybe, just maybe, that is why Jesus accepted to die the way he did on Calvary, because only in this way would we truly recognise and cry out for the life he offers us and for which we all crave. *Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and life? Oh yes I do!!*

††††††††††

Bishop Paul has sent a letter of thanks for his recent visits to our parish. It is worth reading and is on the noticeboard on the left as you come out of the church. It is also in the news section of the parish website.

††††††††††

Watching and Waiting at the altar of repose
After the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday we will have a vigil at the altar of repose

until midnight. Please sign up on the sheet for a slot to be with the Lord after the Mass.

††††††††††

Please take a copy of the Timetable for our Holy Week services which is available this weekend in the porch.

††††††††††

Tea and coffee this morning is in aid of **Zoe's Place Baby Hospice** in Coventry, which the grandson of one of our parishioners attends, to give his parents some much needed respite from caring for him.

††††††††††

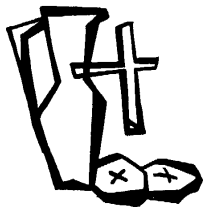
News from the Lister Catholic Chaplain – Anthony Curran

- **Called to Serve the Sick** Every week at the Lister & Mount Vernon there is a time of prayer for patients, family and staff to support this diocesan initiative.
- **Anointing of the Sick during Holy Week:** On Wednesday of Holy Week, a priest will be invited to visit the hospital to anoint the sick with the new Oil of the Sick, which has been blessed by the Cardinal at the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral.
- **Good Friday** – the Catholic chaplain will provide a short bedside service of Veneration of the Cross-for any patients who request it.
- **Easter Sunday** – Holy Communion will be given to any Catholic patients who requests it along with a short service of renewal of baptismal promises and a blessing with the Easter Waters.
- Please be reminded that parishioners may request the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted to hospital from one of the priests in the parish and that they or a family member should request a pastoral visit from the Catholic Chaplain as soon as they are admitted to hospital. Catholic patients may not always receive a visit from the Catholic chaplain unless it has been requested.
- **HELP NEEDED!!** We are still in need of Extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion to assist with the Sunday Holy Communion round at the Lister Hospital – we only require volunteers to cover one Sunday a month. If anyone might be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Anthony Curran, Catholic Chaplain, Lister Hospital. **Tel: [01438 285138](tel:01438285138) Via text message: [07876 526935](tel:07876526935)**

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

This is your final chance to sign up for this fun evening.

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. Maximum 100 attendees.



††††††††††

We have some needs in our parish to ensure that our Masses are set up and delivered smoothly and reverently. Please take some time to look at our needs below:



1. Due to a number of our Senior servers retiring from the role we need to build up a group of people to help at key services. We are looking for at least four people who will shadow the senior servers this Holy week on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil. You will not be expected to do anything on these occasions but watch and note what goes on. Full training will be offered for the future. This is an invaluable service to ensure that the dignity of our Holy Week services is maintained for the future.
2. We need volunteers for Pre-Mass support at weekday and all weekend Masses to help set up the altar and be on hand during the Mass to direct the altar servers if required. This is not a difficult task but is really important to ensure the Mass goes smoothly. With enough people volunteering it will be possible to have a limited commitment.
3. **Administrator for the Altar Serving Guild of St Stephen** Someone is needed to maintain the records for this wonderful parish group which is 85 years old this year. It is not a time consuming job but very important to ensure these young people's years of service are recorded accurately.

††††††††††

CTH Church service cards for distribution in the roads of Hitchin are once again in our porch. Please do take a pile and enjoy a walk whilst popping them through the doors. This is a wonderful way



of Christian witness leading up to Easter. We rely on you to help.

††††††††††



Many thanks to all those who supported the Gardening Group coffee morning last weekend. We raised £92.52 and will use this to purchase some more plants for the gardens. The next gardening session will be on Saturday 8th April and our main aim will be to prepare the gardens for the Easter weekend. We meet from 9 am in the church car park. Everyone is very welcome.

††††††††††

Churches Together in Hitchin is organising its annual **Good Friday Walk of Witness and United Service** on 14 April. Members of all churches are invited to assemble for prayer in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30 and to walk along Bancroft and High Street for a service in Market Place led by our ministers and a group of singers and musicians drawn from different churches*. Hot cross buns will be distributed in the town centre. All are welcome to take part in this important act of witness and worship on this sacred day.

***A request:** Harold Liberty of Walsworth Road Baptist Church is organising the music and would welcome a few more singers and musicians. If you would like to offer, please contact him on 01582 881344 or harold.liberty@btinternet

††††††††††

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD Invites you to the induction of Bishop Paul Thomas this evening Sunday 2 April, 5.30pm at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. We will be delighted to welcome anyone who is able to join us on this significant occasion.

††††††††††

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 once a year in April to count out the envelopes and distribute to each collector. 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

††††††††††

Work needed A parishioner is looking for work cleaning and ironing. If you can help please contact Anne or Thusara on 07572284360.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 4th

10am No Mass as all priests are away. Instead there will be a Eucharistic service.

††††††††††

8pm UCM - Stations of the Cross and Business meeting

Wednesday 5th

11am Mass at Elmside. All welcome

††††††††††

7.30pm Reconciliation service our chance to receive the sacrament before the start of Holy week.

Thursday 6th

10am St Pio Group Mass and afterwards in the Hall.

Other Items of Interest

Parish plumber advice needed – we have a problem with part of the heating in the parish house (details available) The Maintenance team could do with some advice on their plan to resolve it. The proposed repair involves considerable effort and expense. They would like to discuss it with a competent tradesman before starting work.

††††††††††



Recycling news: It is with regret that the **All Brands Coffee Packaging** waste streams we have been collecting to raise funds for PHASE has come to an end. Terracycle have informed all collectors of general coffee packaging

that Kenco (the company funding the recycling) will in future only fund the recycling of their own brand packaging and no one else. So we will no longer be collecting the coffee bags, and plastic lids from coffee jar and tins, so the red cardboard bin will be removed. Thank you to all supporters for the support received so far over the last three years. However, **all other recycling streams are still running**, that is the writing instruments, sweet biscuit wrappers, mobile phones, Tassimo discs, milk bottle tops, and for the period of this Lent the item suggested for CAFOD recycling.

††††††††††

'I'm Glad You're Back by Eddy Selby of Christchurch, is a Christian song of how he came to Christ, so it's fantastic for the Easter message. It's a jolly, uplifting, catchy tune with ALL profits going to Phase. Search for it on Amazon for 99p (please download and not stream). Enjoy! For more info contact: eddy@edlights.co.uk

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

††††††††††

CLEAN UP OUR CASH-a Christian Aid Petition to the CEO's of Barclays, RBS,HSBC & Lloyds. Please look at the Petition in the Bradbury Welcome area at Christchurch (from March 26 onwards) which is asking these four banks to commit to end financing coal & investing more in renewable energy-this is a simple but important step to encourage "big business" to do the right thing to help restrict damaging the earth by climate warming etc. It needs signing over the next few weeks' as we need to return it before the end of April. Thank -you -Christchurch Eco group

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 25

The experiences and challenges of families (cont)

We (the Synod) are grateful too for the witness of marriages that have not only proved lasting, but also fruitful and loving. All these factors can inspire a positive and welcoming pastoral approach capable of helping couples to grow in appreciation of the demands of the Gospel. Yet we have often been on the defensive, wasting pastoral energy on denouncing a decadent world without being proactive in proposing ways of finding true happiness. Many people feel the Church's message on marriage and the family does not clearly reflect the preaching and attitudes of Jesus, who set forth a demanding ideal yet never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery.

