



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 1731
22nd – 29th April 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

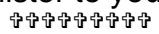
Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling 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)	

Diary	
Sunday 23rd	Coffee Morning – Diapalante
Monday 24th	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9.30-11am
Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
Tuesday 25th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
Scout Hall Scouts 7-9pm	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	RCIA UCR 7.30pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 26th	Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
Thursday 27th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 28th	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2-3pm
Sunday 30th	Coffee Morning –

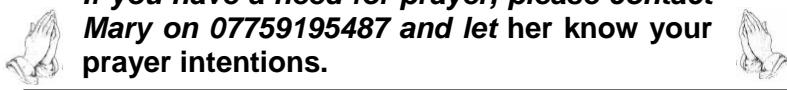


If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**
Via text message: **07876 526935**
Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net

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.

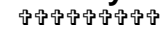
Readings Acts:2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Entrance Antiphon Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.
Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Intercession bidding: Lord, give us your peace
Response: **Send us to do your work**

Next week: Acts:2:14.22-33, 1 Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 7 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



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

If you are wondering how you have been renewed this Easter or what changes you have experienced, if any, as Easter gradually unfolds, you are in the world of the Apostles of Jesus. They took 50 days before coming to understand the resurrection more clearly and breaking out into action, and they still needed the Holy Spirit to give them the push. And these apostles had met the risen Jesus a number of times. Isn't it interesting that we seem more interested in those who fail than those who succeed? We feel more at home with Peter denying Jesus, Judas the betrayer, and 'Doubting Thomas'. After all, it is much easier to identify with those who fail (only we would never have gone as far as they did??) than with the heroes and those who succeed. And, how often do we need something tangible before we fully believe something? Love is about being touched, kissed, embraced, and physically comforted, not just words and promises. Shaking hands always adds strength and offers reassurance to a greeting or a parting. Notice, too, that Jesus revealed himself to Thomas through the marks of his suffering. In this season when we focus on the care of the sick, we learn that the sick have a special role of opening us up to Jesus. Their touch draws us into placing our hands into their woundedness, and, therefore, into the wounds of Jesus. They will help us recognise God's presence in them, and both of you will be transformed. And, in recognising Jesus' presence, proclaim with Thomas: "My Lord and my God!"

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We have a **Coffee Morning** going spare on the 30 April. Any taker's, please contact Cheryl in the Office. Many thanks

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A retired carer (a friend of a Parishioner) is looking for some light housework, cleaning and cooking position. If you know anyone who would be interested, please contact Evelyn direct on 01462 454143. Many thanks

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DIAPALANTE Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support the education centre in Senegal. Diapalante trustees Liz and Ian Chandler recently spent some weeks at the centre and Liz sent us the following update.

Why drink coffee after mass?

I have recently returned from the Diapalante Community Education Centre in Senegal, West Africa. This drop in centre is free and open to everyone who wants to learn. It has a small library, a computer room, and many resources we would consider everyday including a stationery cupboard with paper and colouring pencils, a world map, board games In the early evening the Centre is crowded with enthusiastic children, eager to gain skills and use resources not available at school or home. After dark the children are replaced by adults, still studying for their school exams in their mid-20s, or gaining skills that will help them in the workplace, often computer skills or English (I watched many role plays about Nelson Mandela or Youss Ndour, a musician turned politician). Slowly around the overwhelming buzz of this large group small groups become visible: the adult beginners who want to learn French because it is the national language, someone needing a specialist English lesson so they can read instructions or can buy and sell better, or taking their first steps in computer programming, children learning for a test, reading quietly, researching homework, playing scrabble. One day I spent the morning making playdough with small groups of children who had no idea what playdough was. That evening there was a class of 150 (mostly) children all eager to try out their modelling skills! Other mornings I taught a very basic electronics course to three youngsters who are now teaching the course themselves! Without doubt the money raised for Diapalante within the parish does make a difference. Parents stopped me in the street to tell me how important the Centre is to their children and I met adults who have their jobs thanks to skills they learned at Diapalante. The outreach of our parish is so much greater than we realise!
Liz Chandler.

Dates for Diary

Sunday 23 April

Today 3pm. St Augustine's Church Baldock is holding "The celebration of the Divine Mercy of Christ." All are welcome

Monday 24 April

11am Mass at Stagenhoe. All are welcome. Trish is **not** able to give a lift

Saturday 29 April

Race Night with Fish and Chips supper at Our Lady's School. Doors open 7 for first race at 7.45pm. £10 per ticket which are still available. You can get your tickets from Hannah after the 10.30 Mass this Sunday or contact her at steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk

Other Items

Mindfulness in the Christian Tradition—for those who find Saturdays difficult, Father Malachy Keegan returns on **Wednesday, 26 April** for his introduction to Mindfulness. What is it? How does Christian mindfulness differ from secular or Buddhist mindfulness? How does it relate to our Catholic Faith and one's prayer life?

When: **Wed 26th April**, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Where: Where: The Niland Conference Centre Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey, Herts WD23 4EE

Suggested donation £14. Please bring a packed lunch; teas and coffees are provided (available from 9.30 am).

Registration is required. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call to our automated service at 02079316078 and leave your contact details.

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Mark Gospel: A basic handbook for discipleship with Fr John Hemer

Date Mon 15th May 2017 Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Venue: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

Registration is required. Email at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk and indicate your name and the date of the event. If you do not have an access to the Internet, please leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £4.

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Christian Mindfulness II – Putting it into Practice—also for those who are available weekdays. Fr Michael Heap M.Afr. will explore mindfulness in practise with time for personal reflection.

When: **Wed, 24 May**, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Where: The Niland Conference Centre Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey, herts WD23 4EE

Suggested donation £14. Please bring a packed lunch; teas and coffees are provided (available from 9.30 am). Registration is required. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call to our automated service at 02079316078 and leave your contact details.

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A Scripture Retreat with Brian Purfield

When: **24th June 2017**

10.00am - 2.00pm

Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P Suggested donation £14. Please bring a packed lunch; teas and coffees are provided (available from 9.30 am). Registration is required. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call to our automated service

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 28

Chapter 3 Looking to Jesus:

The Vocation of the Family begins:

"In and among families, the Gospel message should always resound; the core of that message, the kerygma, (*"the initial ardent proclamation by which a person is one day overwhelmed and brought to the decision to entrust himself to Jesus Christ by faith"* – St John Paul II) is what is 'most beautiful, most excellent, most appealing and at the same time most necessary'. The kerygma 'we must hear again and again in different ways'. Indeed, 'nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful and wise than that message'. In effect, 'all Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the kerygma'.

