



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 1732

29th April 2017 – 6th May 2017 3rd Sunday of Easter Year A

Mass Times

Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition

Contacts

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| 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

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| Sunday 30th | Coffee Morning – St Elizabeth's Centre & St Mary Magdalene Church Caldecote |
| Monday 1st | Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 2nd Scout Hall Scouts 7-9pm | Morning Prayer Church 9.30am |
| | Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm |
| | Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm |
| | RCIA UCR 7.30pm |
| | Choir Practice Church 8pm UCM Hall 8pm |
| Wednesday 3rd | Rosary Group Hall 9.30am |
| | St Pio Group Hall 10.30am |
| Thursday 4th | Local Elections Hall 6.15am-10pm |
| Friday 5th | Parent & Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am |
| | Lectio Divina LCR 2-3pm |
| Saturday 6th | Second Reconciliation after Mass |
| Sunday 7th | Coffee Morning – Bethany Club |

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

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Psalm: Show us, Lord, the path of life. Alleluia!

Intercession bidding: **Lord, give us counsel!**
Response: **Be at our right hand!**

Next week: Acts:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 2

No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.

MICHAELMAS FAIR PLANNING MEETING

You are warmly invited to a planning meeting for this year's Michaelmas Fair on **Monday 8 May** at 8pm at 1, Abbis Orchard, Ickleford. New ideas very welcome for this entertaining event which will take place on Sat 7th October.

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 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.



Ramblings for reflection

Just think about it! We are always on one journey or another, even if only to the corner shop for milk or a newspaper. When we have a clear purpose, we often fail to notice those that pass by on the journey. Not so for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, for them life had come to an abrupt halt. Jesus, whom they believed to be the Messiah, had died, rejected by their leaders. Even if he had risen, where did that leave them? Maybe they were only too happy to meet a stranger on the road, someone to talk to, to share their tale of woe. What happened? This stranger took real interest in their story and appeared to understand their situation to such an extent that their hopes and dreams appeared much more real than they first thought. They would have to rethink! As if to thank the stranger and for the uplift they felt, they just had to invite him to stay. And, as they ate together, their eyes were opened. Jesus was not dead, he was alive! Their journey took on a whole new meaning and they had to share it with others, with their friends. Having left Jerusalem in despair and a sense of loss, they would return full of hope and joy and new purpose. However long or short your journey, do not miss the stranger you meet along the way, who will open you to a new vision, new purpose, new hope, new joy! Easter Joy! Alleluia!

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Help Yourself to Free Food from Our Lady's vegetable garden

Last autumn volunteers from GSK constructed 3 deep raised vegetable containers in the garden at the front of the church. These were planted with winter salad and green vegetables. They grew exceptionally well and are ready for harvesting. In a short while they will be replaced by summer crops. Please feel free to sample the variety of crops available. Nothing beats freshly picked green vegetables. Some have gone to flower now but the flowers can also be eaten or the plants used to make nutritious smoothies. Please help yourselves and enjoy. The Live Simply team.

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Next weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for vocations, especially vocations to the Priesthood and the annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place. The fund helps pay for training seminarians (currently 39), further studies of our Priests for specialised ministries and for ongoing enrichment to strengthen Priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support those who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the Church. Please taken one home, read

the information and bring it back next weekend (5/6 May) with your donation. Please also pray for vocations, please take home a prayer card for vocations and pray it daily. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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Christian Aid volunteers are needed to deliver and collect typically 50 envelopes per street in the Wymondley Road/Benslow Lane area (14-20 May). Any prospective collectors, please call Colin Blake on 07980 934491. Many thanks.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 2 May

8pm UCM - A talk by Mark Paterson on Preparing a garden for Hampton Court in the Hall.

Wednesday 3 May

10am St Pio Mass followed by a meeting until 12 noon in Hall. All are welcome.

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11am Mass at Elmside. All welcome.

Saturday 6 May

9am next monthly gardening session. We will mostly be weeding, tidying and filling the brown bins up. Everyone very welcome no matter your ability, experience or age. We meet at 9am in the church car park.



May 10 10am-12.30pm *The Daily Call to Truth* with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Sr Teresa O'Donovan OP. A necessary virtue today. Suggested donation £6. Venue: Niland Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. For information 020 8950 4000 or www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 29

The Vocation of the Family continues:

"Our teaching on marriage and the family cannot fail to be inspired and transformed by this message of (God's) love



and tenderness (for each of us); otherwise, it becomes nothing more than the defence of dry and lifeless doctrine. The mystery of the Christian family can be fully understood only in the light of the Father's infinite love revealed in Christ, who gave himself up for our sake and who continues to dwell in our midst. I (Pope Francis) now wish to turn my gaze to the living Christ, who is at the heart of so many love stories, and to invoke the fire of the Spirit upon all the world's families."