

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 1733

6th May 2017 – 13th May 2017 4th 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

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 7th	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club
Monday 8th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9.30-11am
	Christian Meditation Group LCR 11.45am
	No Eucharistic service this week
Tuesday 9th Scout Hall Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 10th	Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
	Praise Group LCR 10.30am
	RCIA UCR 7.30pm
Thursday 11th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 12th	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2-3pm
Sunday 14th	Coffee Morning – Flower Group

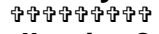
This week: Acts:2:14.36-41, 1 Pet 2:20-25, Jn 10:1-10

Entrance Antiphon The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.
Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Alleluia!
Intercession bidding: Let us hear your voice!
Response: **Help us follow you!**

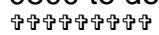
Next week Acts:6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 3



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



Peter Robbins wishes to thank everyone who came and supported the coffee morning last Sunday. A total of £144 was raised which will be divided between St Elizabeth's and Caldecote Church Friends. Many thanks

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

The ways in which the word *Vocation* is used can be confusing. “*Amoris Laetitia*” of Pope Francis teaches that each vocation makes a unique contribution to the body of Christ, the family of God, the Church, be it marriage, religious life, priesthood, or the single state. But the common element they share is Service, bringing life, goodness and love to those around them. The Good Shepherd model inspires trust, confidence and security which leads to people feeling valued, loved and precious. The Shepherd is unafraid to accept danger, hardship, suffering and sacrifice for the good of others. We can all model ourselves on this kind of service whichever vocation we choose. Religious and priests believe they have received their particular call of service from God and are conscious of responding to God’s call. Yet, the nurturing of this call takes place not only in the family but also in the wider community of the faithful. There is something communal about the calling since the individual feels called to serve the whole community. There is an onus on the community, therefore, to create an environment that helps those God has chosen to hear that call and to encourage and support those who respond. Maybe the question today should be: *How willing are families ready to do this! . . . “For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfil our own destiny, according to God’s will, to be what God wants us to be.” — Thomas Merton*

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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 Saturday 7th October

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WALSINGHAM. Shefford and Hitchin Union of Catholic Mothers are running a coach to attend the UCM National Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Tuesday 4th July 2017. There are some seats available on the coach which will leave Shefford at 8am returning at approx. 8 pm. For further information please contact Ann Cook on 01462 453893.

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Today’s second collection is for the annual Priest Training Fund. The Fund helps pay for the training of seminarians (we currently have 39), the education of priests for special ministries, and

ongoing enrichment to strengthen priests. Your gift helps ensure we can provide training for these men responding to Christ’s call to dedicate their lives serving the Church. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations; please take home a prayer card for vocations. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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To help raise funds for **PHASE** we are holding a **Jazz ‘N’ Curry** evening on Saturday 17th June in our parish hall with music provided by the **Mike O’Neil Jazz band** (Mike our organist at the 8.30 Masses)

Tickets will be available shortly please save the date for this fun and fundraising event which we want to have packed out so please put it in your diaries now.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9 May

8pm Shefford Catholic Church

Union of Catholic Mothers, reminder of the joint celebration of W.U.C.W.O (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation) day with Shefford UCM.

Wednesday 10 May

After 10am Mass Praise Group meeting in the LCR.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All are welcome

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Future Dates

May 8 7.30pm at Holywell Lodge in St Albans, AL1 1HE the *Interfaith St Albans* invitation to their next event entitled: *The Arrival of Faiths on these Shores*, art of a series of fascinating and informative talks. We will hear the stories of how three different faiths original came to this country: Bahá’i, Muslim, and Judaism. Light refreshments available beforehand from 7pm. Space is limited, so book by simply emailing interfaithtim@gmail.com

May 15

7-8.30pm Mark's Gospel: A basic handbook for discipleship with Fr John Hemer 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.

May 20

Westminster Interfaith 32nd Annual Multifaith Pilgrimage for Peace

Come and experience something different. Each year, we visit different places of worship in the Diocese. This year, we are in North London and Hertfordshire, where we will visit a Baha'i shrine, a Jain Temple, a Hindu monastery, a Mosque, a Sikh Gurdwara, and a couple of churches. Book a seat on the coach for a fun, enlightening and spiritual day-out including meals for just £15.

Details from Jon Dal Din:
jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk

May 23 8pm The Council of Churches

Together in Hitchin (CTH) at St Faith's Church on the corner of Woolgrove Road and Cambridge Road in Walsworth. As part of a series of presentations this year on the church's links with the community, there will be a talk first by Dr Sandra Williams, a member of Walsworth Road Baptist Church and a GP in Shefford, on the challenges of being in general practice. Then there will be an update on the North Herts Sanctuary and an opportunity to reflect on meeting the needs of the homeless in Hitchin. Between the two presentations, there will be a few items of Church Together business. CTH Councils are open to all and members of all churches are welcome.

June 7

7pm for 7.30pm Healthcare Chaplaincy: A Catholic understanding

St Dominic's Priory Haverstock Hill, Camden, London

Wednesday 7th June 2017

Register free on

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/healthcare-chaplaincy-a-catholic-understanding-tickets-6495848257>

Other items of interest

Studying in the sixth form at The John Henry Newman School – Due to the consolidation of numbers in the Sixth Form 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 our school such a wonderful community then please contact Mrs W Howard, Director of Sixth Form on 01438 314643 or email howardw@jhn.herts.sch.uk

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The Friends of Holy Saviour Church are organising a Spring outing to Papplewick Pumping Station and Southwell Minster on **Saturday 13 May**

Papplewick, near Nottingham, is Britain's finest Victorian water pumping station, and has recently been restored to full splendour - combining outstanding engineering with stained glass windows, decorated columns and polished mahogany and brass.

In the afternoon we will visit nearby Southwell Minster- one of England's finest medieval churches, designated a Cathedral in 1884.

This will be an all-day coach trip (approx 9.30-7pm): The ticket price of £30 covers coach fare, admission and tours of both Papplewick & Southwell Minster.

For more information and to book a place contact Gill Chidgey 01462 423603, or email alan.fleck@ntlworld.com

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GOOD NEWS Herts Welcomes Syrian Families HWSF)

<http://www.hwsf.org.uk/> The application to the Charity Commission has been

approved and HWSF is now a registered charity No 1172687. They hope this will make working in partnership with other organisations easier and also facilitate their fundraising efforts. There are now 23 families settled in Hertfordshire under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme with more due to arrive later in the year so they hope to be able to continue to support future families with goods and social events in the same way



The good news is that the arrival of a family of 5 is still on for early May. They have asked if they can be provided with:-

- Garden toys suitable for a 6 and 8 year old - any sandpits, slides or other toys in good condition that you no longer need?
- Garden tools and equipment.

They are still appealing for any of the following for families in the rest of the county:-

- Bikes - any condition.
- Bike locks, pumps, high-viz jackets or helmets - these must be new or good as.
- Volunteers to examine and possibly repair bikes or at least advise on their condition. (We have three so far but no-one in Wel Hat area yet)
- Volunteers to collect/deliver bikes. (Ditto)
- Storage space.

They are also concerned about road safety/cycling proficiency, especially for the children. They are talking to HCC re this but does anyone have experience of providing this?

If you can help with any of this please contact **Vicky Woodcraft** at woodcraftvicky@gmail.com

Across Herts families continue to arrive - about 25 now with more expected soon - and are mostly settling in well.

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Pilgrimage to Jordan We have a few places left on our eight-day pilgrimage in Jordan. Travelling from the 30th October to the 6th November 2017 and flying direct from the UK we will be based in Amman and will visit the most amazing places. Petra, Jerash, Nebo, Wadi Rum and Madaba all feature on our itinerary. This pilgrimage will support the local Christian community as we will stay in Amman in the very modern and comfortable guest house of the Rosary Sisters in Fuheis. This pilgrimage includes all meals and is fully guided. You will be able to ride into Petra on horseback (optional) and our visit to Wadi Rum includes a two hour Jeep safari. The cost for eight days is £1650 with a single supplement of £170.

Please contact us for more information or to book your place. Email Elizabeth on office@pilgrimagepeople.org Call us free on 0800 6123423

Hitchin Christian centre are looking for a suitably qualified volunteer to manage the CAP job club at HCC from September. The club has been running for 2 years and they have built up a good relationship with the local job centre who refer most of the clients to them. The aim is to give the long term unemployed hope, through helping them with writing CVs, interview techniques and the ability to to job searches and they have been successful in seeing several of their clients find the work that they have been looking for. They have a good team of volunteers, but need someone to manage the club, that is to undergo three days of training at CAP headquarters in Bradford, to help present the sessions, to maintain contact with clients in and out of the sessions, to liaise with the Job Centre, to report progress to CAP HQ and to Phil Jackson as line manager and to have a heart for evangelism, because they also want to introduce clients to the faith that motivates them in the task. At present the club runs three times a year for 9 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon, but this is open to change- for example an evening session might work equally well. Ideally the manager should have had some background in HR, education or careers advice, although this is not necessary. Please contact Phil to discuss the matter further. phil.jackson@hcc.org.uk

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AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 30

The Vocation of the Family continues:

“This brief chapter, then, will summarise the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family. Here too I will mention what the Synod Fathers had to say about the light offered by our faith. They began with the gaze of Jesus and they spoke of how he “looked upon the women and men whom he met with love and tenderness, accompanying their steps in truth, patience and mercy as he proclaimed the demands of the Kingdom of God”. (Relatio Synod, 2014, 12.) The Lord is also with us today, as we seek to practice and pass on the Gospel of the family.”

