



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 1735

20th May 2017 – 27th May 2017 6th 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)	

Diary

Sunday 21st	Coffee Morning – One World Group
Monday 22nd Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9.30-11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
	Tuesday 23rd
Scout Hall Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm NO RCIA
Wednesday 24th	Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
Thursday 25th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
	Exposition Blessed sacrament 7-8pm
Friday 26th	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2-3pm
Sunday 28th	Coffee Morning – Live Simply
	Healing service Church 2.30pm

This week: 8:5-8, 1 Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.
Psalm: Cry out with joy to God all the earth. Alleluia!
Intercessions: Hear us as we pray
Response: Help us to keep your commandments.

Next week Acts: 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Matt 28:16-20

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 1



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

H Hospital
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.

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

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.



Don't you just wish you were there at the Last Supper with Jesus and his friends? To listen to him speaking in person, feeling his presence, breathing the same air, feeling loved and cared for. Each would have received his words differently and the significance of his words would only be truly assimilated later, after his passion and Resurrection. Jesus promised to be with us always, is here with us now, so how does he speak to us, to you, today? Jesus is present in all those who believe (as well as the unbeliever). Among our daily encounters, there are times we are struck by the beauty, goodness, love and/or some other virtue or quality. These encounters reinforce the belief deep within our hearts that there are very good people in our world and that God most certainly exists, that miracles still happen, and this encounter is further proof of it. These sacred moments speak of the presence of God, of Jesus. Reflect on these words of Macrina Wiederkehr OSB: *"O Tree of God—Tree of Life, in the gift of your shade, I stand, my heart raised to your Creator. Your branches call me to reach out in all directions to many people. Your branches remind me of the sheltering arms of God. Your roots call me to be rooted in all that is good and nourishing. Teach me, like you, to praise God in the silence of my being. Help me to surrender unnecessary words. Draw me, like a magnet, into the abiding love of God."*

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CAFOD just one world collection will take place after Masses this weekend 20/21 May. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the porch or from the collectors.

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We are tremendously proud of our 23 young people who received the gifts of the Holy Spirit in confirmation this weekend. The parish and the church is truly blessed. We thank the catechists and families who have supported them to reach this stage in their faith journey.



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Proceeds from Sunday's **One World Group coffee morning** will go to 'Action for the Homeless' a charity which helps people to find accommodation. More information in the Hall.

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Next Sunday 28th May 2.30pm, we are holding our next Service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.



Pentecost weekend is a time of Celebration for our parish. We are celebrating the 40th birthday of our church building (the new one) and 85th birthday of

the Guild of altar servers. To mark these occasions, we are having a series of events at all the Masses as follows

- **3rd June 6pm Mass** We are offering a special blessing for all those who are married to echo the celebration that happens at the Cathedral that afternoon for significant anniversaries. All married couples are invited for a blessing at this Mass. Rolls and other refreshments will be available in a social time in the hall after this Mass.
- **4th June 8.30am Mass** Three of our altar servers will be enrolled into the Guild after having prepared and served for over a year. We will also have a special blessing for the guild. All servers are invited to this Mass (whether or not you are formally enrolled in the guild) Tea, coffee and cakes will be available after this Mass. If you have any pictures from the past of altar servers please bring them next weekend so we can make up a display.
- **10.30am Mass** Diane and Francesca Aquart will be Baptised at this Mass and Diane and Alison Doke will be confirmed. We look forward to welcoming them to our community. We will also have a blessing for our church at this Mass. After Mass as well as coffee and tea we will have our Parish Bring and Share Picnic (hopefully in the garden) with fun and games for the children. Please sign the sheet in the porch to say what you will be bringing.
- **5pm Mass** There will be a special blessing for all the sick of the parish. If you know of someone who is unable to come please take this blessing back to them after this Mass.

May 24th is the feast of Our Lady of Sheshan and Pope Francis has asked us to pray for China. Attached to the newsletter is a special prayer card to help you do this on the day.

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Marriage Preparation 3 June 9.30am-4pm in our church. There is still space available for couples who are planning to get married in the next year in the Catholic church and need to undertake a course of preparation. If you would like to attend this course please speak to Trish or trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk.



17th June 7.30pm in our church hall. Music provided by the Mike O'Neill Jazz band. Tickets

£15 are available after all Masses this weekend. All money to PHASE who support faith development of the young people in our town. Bring your own drink.

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Tutor Doctor Hitchin & Stevenage will be holding a two day GCSE Maths Boot Camp at Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew during half term (Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 May.) The sessions will run from 9am to 12pm and will cost £25 per hour (10% of this will be donated to the Church.) There will be a maximum of six spaces available so sign up quickly to avoid disappointment. To book email Roger Kennedy at rkennedy@tutordocor.co.uk

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Tutor Doctor Hitchin & Stevenage are recruiting graduates for tutoring roles. **Tutor Doctor Hitchin & Stevenage** All subjects, all years. To apply contact Roger Kennedy at rkennedy@tutordocor.co.uk

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Lift needed to 10.30 Mass for a parishioner who is no longer able to walk to Mass. There is already another person who is able to help so this commitment would be no more than twice a month. If you are able to help even occasionally, please let Trish know.

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Would anyone be able to help take my mother to and from Mass on a Sunday morning? She has light dementia and attends Saturday evening mass but would very much like to attend Sunday morning too. She is able to take communion independently and would just need transport between church and home. For further information and more details, please contact Danny: 07875 249 107. Many thanks.



NOTICE FOR ALL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST There will be a morning of reflection for all Ministers of the Eucharist On Saturday 17 June 2017 – Eve of Feast – Corpus Christi. The morning will begin with Mass in the church at 10am. Coffee will be served in the hall before the session begins. Sr. Mary Crowley will then lead us into reflective time. We will close at 1pm with a shared packed lunch. Please come to be refreshed in thought and prayer for the awesome Ministry that we share. Contact: Teresa Lawrence-Hyde Mobile: 07751886525 Email: teresahyde@btopenworld.com

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Fundraising the long way! On 28th May 2017 Amanda Maylin, the Phase Office Manager, will be running in Edinburgh Marathon to raise funds for Phase. Amanda has a passion for running and for helping people improve their wellbeing. If you are able to support her in prayer or by donating she would be really grateful. To donate please contact the office on 01462 422940, or visit her fundraising page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AmandaMaylin> Thank you!

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Church Cleaning We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday or Saturdays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves.



If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email Hannah Granger at steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk

Members of the public are being reminded of the silent 999 calls procedure. There is a misunderstanding that police will always attend when a silent 999 call is received - this is not correct. When you call 999 in the UK, your call is answered by a BT or Cable & Wireless emergency operator, who will direct your call to the most appropriate emergency service. If the caller does not respond to the operator to indicate which service they require, they will be transferred to the automated Silent Solutions system. This uses a voice message to ask the caller to confirm they require an emergency service by pressing the digit '5' on their phone twice. If the caller presses the digit '5' twice they will be transferred to the originating emergency operator and the call will be dealt with as normal with enquiries made to try and find the caller. Police will not automatically have

details of where you are – particularly for mobile phones - so we can't automatically send police to your location. Every day the 999 service receives a large number of accidental 999 calls, particularly from mobile phones. Each call is assessed on the available information, such as any previous calls to the police, but will not necessarily mean we know where you are. If you are unable to speak, listen to the call operator who will ask questions and give instructions to help you. Our control room operators are skilled in seeking information from callers who may not be in a position to communicate fully. For example, they ask you to cough or tap the phone in response to specific questions in an attempt to pinpoint your location.

Dates for Diary

Monday

11am Mass at Stagenhoe led by Fr Vincent Dike. If you need a lift please come to the church at 10.35am

Tuesday

8pm The Council of Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH) meeting, at St Faith's Church on the corner of Woolgrove Road and Cambridge Road in Walsworth. 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.

Future Dates

June 2 7.30 pm General Election hustings at the Hitchin Christian Centre CTH has arranged a hustings at which the candidates in the Hitchin and Harpenden Constituency will set out their policies and values and answer questions. Questions should be sent by the end of Monday 29th May to John Richardson, CTH Secretary - by email to johnrichardson891@btinternet.com or post to 97 Grove Road Hitchin SG5 1SQ, or by text to 07505 426876. Please indicate if you will be present at the meeting to ask your question. All are welcome at what in the past has been a well-attended and much-appreciated meeting.

June 9&10 **Spirit in the City Festival**_Leicester Square. Discover world-class music, inspiring talks, uplifting performances, family activities, and

dancing crowds all spread across the gorgeous Leicester Square Gardens. Spirit in the City festival has something for all tastes and every age. Don't know where to start? Don't worry! Just start exploring and you'll soon find your favourite spot. Each stream has its own character and vibe for you to enjoy with your friends and family. You're most welcome!

June 18 7.30pm A Concert to celebrate the renovation of the Organ at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Hitchin. Singers from choirs in Hitchin and beyond combine to sing the Requiem, by Maurice Durufle. The programme also includes Handel's Organ Concerto in Bb major, and Double Concerto for, Organ and Strings by Douglas Coombes; soloists Trevor Hughes -organ & Gillian Hughes – clarinet, conducted by the composer, with the Gainsford String Ensemble. Admission : £11 ; Concessions £9 ; Students Free Proceeds in aid of the Holy Saviour Organ Renovation Appeal. For further information contact clarefleck7@gmail.com or 01462 646257

June 24 10-2pm A Scripture Retreat with Brian Purfield 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 32

The Vocation of the Family continues:

“The Synod Fathers noted that Jesus, “in speaking of God’s original plan for man and woman, reaffirmed the indissoluble union between them, even stating that ‘it was for your hardness of heart that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so’ (Mt 19:8). The indissolubility of marriage - ‘what God has joined together, let no man put asunder’ (Mt 19:6) - should not be viewed as a ‘yoke’ imposed on humanity, but as a ‘gift’ granted to those who are joined in marriage. God’s indulgent love always accompanies our human journey; through grace, it heals and transforms hardened hearts, leading them back to the beginning through the way of the cross. The Gospels clearly present the example of Jesus who proclaimed the meaning of marriage as the fullness of revelation that restores God’s original plan (Mt 19:3)”. (Relatio Synodi, 2014, 14)

