



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 1737
3rd-10th June 2017 2017 Pentecost Sunday

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 4th	Coffee Morning – Diapalante
Monday 5th	PPC meeting Lounge 7pm
Tuesday 6th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
	UCM Hall 8pm
Wednesday 7th	Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
	RCIA UCR 7.30pm
Thursday 8th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 9th	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2-3pm
	JHN School disco hall 4-10pm
Sunday 11th	Coffee Morning – Live Simply
	First Holy Communion 2pm

This week: Acts: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7.12-13, John 20:19-23

Entrance Antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.
Psalm: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.
Intercession: Come, Holy Spirit!
Response: Fill our hearts with your love.
Next week: Ex 34:4-6.8-9, Cor 13:11-13, John 3:16-18



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.

The Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come
 Almighty God,
 Your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 3
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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Our next **baptism course** is on Sundays 9th July from 3-4:30pm and 16th July from 3:30-4:30pm and then into 5pm Mass for the first anointing of the children. Both sessions must be attended. Please sign up on the sheet in the Link.

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 & 40th Anniversary Year A 2017

An anniversary is a celebration of thanksgiving for life in all its glory, pain and suffering, and its joy and achievement. And we owe it all to the Spirit who renews his commitment of love to us today. Oh Holy Spirit, we thank you. A Ruby anniversary reminds us that this life was won for us through the death and resurrection Christ; a blessing received and lived time and again in so many ways in the life of this great parish family. Red the symbol of lives offered, lives nourished, formed, motivated, and energised by the Holy Spirit. Far from perfect, maybe, but as real as the love that beats so strongly within it that we can say with Macrina Wiederkehr OSB: *"I am aware of the many ways the Church has failed me, and I have failed her. Yet in the midst of these mutual failures, I claim this Church as mine. She is my Church, my home, my mother. I will not run away from her, for I have seen through the cracks of her frailty her tremendous splendour, her littleness and her greatness, her poverty and her wealth. I feel more fed than failed. Not everyone can say this, however, and so we are called to great sensitivity in this area. Together we have to accept both the burden and the grace of being Church. The Church is us. She is mine and she is me. She is yours and she is you. She is home, a broken home, yes! Broken, because you and I are broken."* God loves us in all our brokenness and in all our brokenness we love God. This is the love we celebrate today!!

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The Archconfraternity of St. Stephen is a guild for altar servers begun in May 1905 by Fr. Hamilton MacDonald at Westminster Cathedral in London, England with the permission of Cardinal Francis Bourne. In November 1905, Pope St. Pius X gave his approval to the Guild and his permanent apostolic blessing. In 1906, he raised it to an archconfraternity. The following year, the Guild's first handbook was published.

The Guild spread very quickly throughout Great Britain, but World War I saw the death by military action of many of its members, which nearly caused its extinction. It survived the Great War though, and afterwards, Fr. MacDonald laboured hard to ensure its successful re-establishment. In 1925, Cardinal Francis Bourne established a Central Council for the Archconfraternity, thereby ensuring its continuity. He set up the Guild in our Parish in February 1934.

In 1933, Fr. MacDonald died. Less than a year later in 1934, Pope Pius XI had extended the Archconfraternity to the entire British Commonwealth; Father had indeed lived to see his idea firmly established. In 1955, the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen made a Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome, which included an audience with Pope Pius XII. Only a few short months earlier in 1954, he had canonized St. Pius X, who had done so much to forward the Guild's apostolate. With this fresh in the pontiff's mind, he suggested that the Guild also adopt St. Pius X as a patron, a suggestion taken up by the Guild.]

To bring us up to date, for our own parish, we celebrate 85 years of the Guild. We must give pride of place to Ben Smith, who since the early 70s has kept all the records of who has been a server and when they received the medal up until the present day. Anyone interested can browse the book and find themselves and their friends from that time onwards! Ben has kept the Guild going through his dedication and desire to help our young people "help people to pray" as the Guild prayer goes. Fr Michael did the training for several years and handed it on to William Warren when he took over from Ben several years ago. William took over for several years and worked with Fr Michael to develop how the Guild functioned in our parish. The three of us worked to build up a structure to enrich the way of developing our servers to take on responsibilities and look to becoming junior MCs. This allowed us to have a more informed team of servers. The Guild medal is given after a year of service on a regular basis at Mass or other services. After five years, the server is given the thick red cord and those who go on to take on more responsibility, the thick blue cord. The crowning glory is to become an MC, who receives the gold thick cord. The Guild chaplain is Fr Michael, who has a thick green cord and gold medal. William has had to retire, so at the moment we are creating a system of parishioners who set up the various Masses, and we are training new senior MCs, who together with Chris and Anne-Marie Warren, give dedicated service in the background, guiding the servers during the main Masses of the Church's year. Anne-Marie has also been giving encouragement and guidance to our servers when she is available, Chris does the same too, when work commitments allow.



Derek Shipman is another of our stalwart MCs who have been with us over many years but is ready to retire! Philippe James, is a long-standing MC at the 10.30am Mass and it is great to feel his commitment!

Nicola Sylvester has kindly taken on the administration side of the Guild's life, for which we are very grateful. We are still looking for more people to be involved, anyone who has been a server elsewhere in other parishes is welcome return and have a "refresher course". Full training is available for those who have never served in the past. Young people are more than welcome to join us too. Do make yourselves known to the MC on the Mass in which you share. We want to see a return to the 40 to 50 servers we did have a few years ago. Here's to our journey to our centenary!
Fr Michael aa

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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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17th June 7.30pm in our church hall. Music by the Mike O'Neill Big band. Tickets £15 are still available. Speak to Trish. All money to PHASE who support faith development of the young people in our town. Bring your own drink.

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Friday 23 June The Bereavement team are holding a service in the Church for the bereaved and their families and friends at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Hall. You are all very welcome.



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This Sunday evening (4th June) Taize service 6.30pm St Mark's is holding a service using prayer, reflection and music from the Taize Community. As it is happening in such a significant week, it will be a service at the time of an election' and will remember the important responsibilities and opportunities we all face in the coming days. Everyone is welcome.

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A French friend of parishioner, Pascal Valentin, is looking for a room to rent for his daughter from the

25th June & also would like some volunteer work locally to practice her English. If you are able to help, please contact Pascal on 07717723471.

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On behalf of the staff and special babies and children at Zoës place baby hospice, Coventry, we extend a huge thank you to all the members of the church of Our Lady's for your very kind donation of £165 raised from your recent coffee morning. This represents a wonderful contribution towards our work, for which everyone at the hospice is extremely grateful.

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This week 1st-7th June is **National Volunteers Week**. Why not use your gifts and talents to volunteer?

Visit www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer to register for a free Caritas Volunteer Service account, and to find the right volunteering role for you.

Dates for Diary

Monday 5 June

7.30pm Pastoral Parish council meeting in the Priest's lounge in the house.

Tuesday 6 June

7.15pm Eucharistic service with a special theme for **World environment day** which is today. All welcome

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8 pm UCM in the Parish Hall, Graham Storey will be joining us to talk about Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Future Dates

"Called to Serve the Sick Roadshows":

Three evening meetings have been arranged to allow clergy and laity an opportunity to discover and question.....

Wednesday 7th June 2017, 7pm for 7.30pm

What hospital chaplains do: St Dominic's Priory Haverstock Hill, Camden London

Monday 19th June 2017, 7pm for 7.30pm

How Catholics can realise their unique vocation of being of service to the sick: Our Lady and St Michael's, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire

Tuesday 27th June, 7pm for 7.30pm

How to think theologically about health: St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, London

For registration please email Fr Peter Scott: peterscott@rcdow.org.uk

June 18 7.30pm 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.

June 24 St. Elizabeth's Summer Fayre, Much Hadham is on June 24th, 12 – 4pm. See poster in porch.

June 24 2.30 - 5pm **LORETO REUNION 2017**. Once again the doors of the school are open to any past pupil and it is a wonderful opportunity to see how the school has changed, hear from the present head Mrs Marie Lynch about the future and to catch up on the news of your friends who you went to school with. We serve afternoon tea at 3pm(for which we ask a contribution of £5 per person). Come on your own to see who might be there from your year or why not use this as an opportunity to contact as many girls as you can and meet up for a chat. Please let us know if you are coming so that we can cater accordingly. Looking forward to seeing you. Eileen and Pat (01727 863431)loretoreunion@outlook.com

July 1 **Singing Workshop and Concert** Everyone is welcome to the workshop and the concert. Our special guest is Wayne Ellington singer and winning choir director of BBC Songs of Praise Gospel Choir 2016/17. Please share with your family & friends and on your social media platforms. Tickets are available for both the workshop and concert at David's Bookshop Letchworth, [facebook.com/cpcchoir](https://www.facebook.com/cpcchoir). Workshop 10am - 3pm, £20 at Strathmore School, Old Hale Way, Hitchin. Concert 7pm, £10, St. Christopher Theatre, Barrington Rd, Letchworth, SG6 3JZ

Other items of interest

The '**Herts and Beds Community Survey**' is an opportunity for adults and young people - living in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire - to help celebrate what is great about the area, and to help identify and explore challenges. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and will hopefully identify new opportunities to see the the community and most importantly the people, thrive. The survey,

which is sponsored by Hitchin Christian Centre, closes at the end of May and the results will be shared for the benefit of all local services, **community** groups, agencies, churches etc. (hopefully by early Autumn). Complete the survey at www.hcc.org.uk/survey

To be prayed on Friday 9th June **A Prayer for Peace in Syria**

Almighty eternal God, source of all compassion, the promise of your mercy and saving help fills our hearts with hope.

Hear the cries of the people of Syria; bring healing to those suffering from the violence, and comfort to those mourning the dead. Empower and encourage Syria's neighbours in their care and welcome for refugees. Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms, and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace.

O God of hope and Father of mercy, your Holy Spirit inspires us to look beyond ourselves and our own needs. Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies. Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria, and fill us with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

© This prayer is adapted from Catholics Confront Global Poverty, a collaborative effort of USCCB and Catholic Relief Services

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 34

The Vocation of the Family continues:

Jesus began his public ministry with the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana (Jn 2:1-11). He shared in everyday moments of friendship with the family of Lazarus and his sisters (Lk 10:38) and with the family of Peter (Mk 8:14). He sympathised with grieving parents and restored their children to life (Mk 5:41; Lk 7:14-15). In this way he demonstrated the true meaning of mercy, which entails the restoration of the covenant (John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 4). This is clear from his conversations with the Samaritan woman (Jn 1:4-30) and with the woman found in adultery (Jn 8:1-11), where the consciousness of sin is awakened by an encounter with Jesus' gratuitous love. (Relatio Finalis 2015, 41)

