



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 1742

8th July – 15th July 2017 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

Diary

Sunday 9th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 10th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent and Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
	Sacramental Prep Hall 7pm
Tuesday 11th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	No Eucharistic Service tonight Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 12th	Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
	Praise Group LCR 10.30am
	RCIA Emmanuel Centre 7.30pm
Thursday 13th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 14th	Parent & Toddlers Hall 9-11.15am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2-3pm
Sunday 16th	Coffee Morning One World Group

This week: Kings 4:8-11.14.16, Rom 6:3-4.8-11, Mat 10:37-42

Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your Right hand is filled with saving justice.
Psalm: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

Intercession: Help us trust you, Lord.
Response: **And find our peace in you!**
Next week: Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9.11-13, Mat 11:25-30

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 4
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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There will be a **second collection** this weekend in aid of The Apostleship of the sea.
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The new **readers rota** is available 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:

Like Jesus, St Augustine spent his active life among friends; neither of them was ever alone. They shared their thoughts with their companions, had discussions, probably argued, shared good times and bad times, successes and failures. Both Jesus and Augustine would have used these conversations to clarify how to speak to the people. It would have been the questions, the misunderstandings, the comments of his disciples that would have helped Jesus understand how best to preach his message. Jesus never went anywhere without them, even when he spent long hours in silent prayer with his Father alone, his disciples would have been ever present in his thoughts, his silence and his prayer. When Jesus says his yoke is easy and burden light, he means it. After all, the yoke was necessary if the work was to be done. What Jesus guarantees is that he shares our yoke with us and that this is much easier than going it alone. But, the yoke of Jesus also has the support and therefore the help of all those who journey with us, just as we help them with theirs. When we have good friends around us and the best of friends to boot, how on earth can the yoke of Jesus ever be a burden??

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Michaelmas
Fair

Michaelmas Fair Saturday 7th October 10.30.- 3pm

A group of parishioners met recently to plan the Michaelmas fair and we hope that this year will be as enjoyable and profitable as ever. As usual, two thirds of the proceeds will go to support parish activities and one third to Diapalante's Education Centre in Senegal. Our theme is 'Around the World' which reflects the diversity of our parish and indeed of our Catholic Church. We won't be collecting goods until the late summer but there are a few things we would like you to bear in mind.

FOOD This year the Scout Hut will become a 'Food Hall' where lunches and other refreshments will be served all day. We hope to have food from all the continents, a cuisine which reflects the wonderful meals you have at home. If you will be able to contribute a dish please contact Carol Mascenerhas (carolmasc@yahoo.co.uk)

BOTTLES This stall is very popular but does depend on your donations. Perhaps if you have a 'local' or dine out regularly you could ask the licensees if they would like to contribute a bottle (or two) for the stall.

VASES Our talented flower arranging group have offered to provide vases of flowers which will be on sale at the end of the day. We shall be requesting all sorts of bric-a-brac in September so if your

summer clear out includes vases we will be delighted to have them.

MUGS The UCM run a delightful 'Christmas Mugs' stall. If you have more good quality and attractive mugs than you need please put them aside for the fair.

AUCTION Our Promises auction is a highlight of the fair. In past years parishioners have offered a wide range of services including gardening, Will writing, cooking, labouring, hairdressing and a range of beauty treatments. There are many talented people in the parish.

All offers to Liz Rice (liz.rice@metrobroadcast.com), TOYS, GAMES, BRIC A BRAC, GIFTS, NEW ITEMS, CAKES, PRODUCE, JEWELLERY, RELIGIOUS GOODS, RAFFLE PRIZES. We plan to have stalls for all of these so do look out for the requests for donations which will begin to appear at the end of August. For more information, contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) or pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com

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CAFOD just one world There will be a second collection next weekend July (15th/16th July) in aid of CAFOD.

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KISS - A group of John Henry Newman students with staff are going to Uganda in 3 weeks time! **KISS** - Excess Baggage - following last year's successful appeal, if you have suitcases or holdalls that you no longer use or need, the KISS charity would love to take them from you to take out clothing and musical instruments to Uganda. Just bring them to the Parish Hall and leave them in a corner on the stage or contact Greg Hewitson by text - 07850 273234. **KISS** - Musical Instruments - music again is a focus for this year's venture to Uganda - if you have instruments (woodwind / brass / guitars) in the cupboard under the stairs or in the loft and would like to donate them, then please contact Greg.



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livesimply A message from the Live Simply Team - A few weeks ago the livesimply team held a coffee morning to support the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT). This was in support of Pope Francis' June Prayer Intention calling on national leaders to put an end to the arms trade. We displayed some posters publicising a campaign urging Britain to stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia. These posters highlighted the damage Saudi

Arabia was causing by their use of UK manufactured arms. Some parishioners raised issues about the political nature of the posters and queried whether this type of activity fell within the remit of the livesimply group. As a group, we meet to discuss ways in which the parish can continue to uphold the livesimply principles, which are to live simply, live sustainably with Creation and live in solidarity with the poor. Living in solidarity with the poor does not only mean supporting good causes such as the Foodbank or donating money to charities such as KISS. It also means highlighting injustices and campaigning to bring about an end to those injustices. It means campaigning to highlight and remove the causes of poverty. We are fortunate that we live in a democratic country and it is imperative that we engage with the political agenda in order to fulfil our mandate from Christ to be prophets – to stand up and speak out for those who cannot. CAFOD recognises this and regularly mounts campaigns especially on environmental issues. Currently they have a campaign "Speak Up week of action" from 1st to 9th July asking their supporters to meet their Member of Parliament. It is in this sense that CAFOD is political. Movements such as CAFOD, the Foodbank and North Herts Sanctuary are political movements because they try to help those who are suffering from injustices but they also try to correct those injustices in our society. Each person is an individual and not all parishioners will agree with or support every campaign that the livesimply team promotes. God has given us free will and we each work to bring about the Kingdom of God in our own ways. The livesimply group will continue to try and identify new ways to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. For any further information, please email Ann at oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk

Dates for Diary

Monday 10 July

7.30pm Meeting for all Parents of children in Y3 from September 2017 If you have a child who will be in Y3 this September and you wish her or him to be enrolled on the programme of preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, you are asked to attend an information **in the church hall**. Details about application will be given at the session. I look forward to seeing you there, where I can inform you about the course and answer any questions you may have. Susanna Hawksley
(susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk)

Wednesday 12 July

10.35am Praise Group Meeting after 10am Mass in LCR. All are welcome.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes with Fr Euloge. All welcome to attend.

Future Dates

July 19 **2-3.30pm** Churches Together in Hitchin - meeting on healing ministry Churches Together in Hitchin has welcomed the idea of bringing together people in our congregations who are involved/interested in healing ministry. This will take place at Our Lady's in the upper committee room. The aim is to have a conversation in which we hear how this ministry is practised in our different traditions and learn from each other. All are welcome - and that includes those who are actively involved in healing services, those who lead prayers for healing in regular church services, those who are thinking about healing ministry but not sure what to do, and those who are uncertain, even sceptical. If you would like to attend, let John Richardson know - [07505426876](tel:07505426876) or johnrichardson891@btinternet.com - so that he has a rough idea of numbers, or just turn up on the day

Aug 6 **10am-5pm** There will be Hiroshima commemorations organised by Pax Christi in Westminster Cathedral Piazza, Victoria, London SW1P. Including a LITURGY VIGIL - Every year we have a stall, vigil and time of prayer to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima. Join us, to help give out leaflets, talk with people about what is happening today to ban nuclear weapons, and pray with us. Prayer times at 11.30 and 3.30. All are welcome. Leaflet here http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2017/06/August_-peaceevents.pdf

Aug 9 There will be Nagasaki Commemorations at the Westminster Cathedral Piazza Organised by Pax Christi. Every year we have a stall, vigil and time of prayer to commemorate the bombing of Nagasaki. Join us, help give out leaflets, talk with people about what is happening today to ban nuclear weapons, and pray with us. Prayer times at 11.30 and 3.30. All are welcome. Leaflet here http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2017/06/August_-peaceevents.pdf.

Aug 9 6.30pm To mark the anniversary of execution of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, martyr for peace in WWII. Resources on Pax Christi website <http://paxchristi.org.uk/> The annual service will start at 6.30 pm in the Crypt Chapel, of Westminster Cathedral. Access from Ambrosden Avenue, through car park. Followed by the annual interfaith peace walk to Battersea Park Peace Pagoda

Other Items of interest

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BEDWELL CRESCENT STEVENAGE – KS1 OR KS2 TEACHER VACANCY: The School requires either a KS1 or KS2 Teacher from September 2017. To arrange a visit or for further information please contact Sally Lorimer, School Business Manager at finance@stvincent.herts.sch.uk or telephone 01438 729555.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicssingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church. Please note re collection of old pens that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that EDAID collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or EDAID have a coffee morning.

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Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is:



1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladysrchitchin>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

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Text Giving If you have no cash at Mass for the collection just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you for your support of this scheme but please do not text during Mass !

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Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2018 Following our meeting about this Northern Star Travel have put together a 5 day Pilgrimage for our parish on **18th – 22nd June 2018**. Fr Tom will be leading our Pilgrimage. The price is £575 and includes:

- Return flights and airport duties from Stansted to Lourdes
- 4 nights full board at 4* Hotel Padoue shared room (single supplement £115)
- Half day excursion to Bartres
- Lourdes city tax
- Northern star travel representative

We will also arrange a coach from the church to Stansted which will have an additional charge. We need to have a minimum of 20 people. To book your place please sign up on the sheet in the porch. Take a booking form and complete this with your deposit of £200 by **September 8th 2017** and send to Northern Travel. If you have any questions about this please contact Owen McFarlane (a member of our Pastoral Parish Council) on 07982640187.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 39
The Family in the Documents of the Church:
 ““The Second Vatican Council, in its Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* was concerned ‘to promote the dignity of marriage and the family.’ It defined marriage as a community of life and love, placing love at the centre of the family.”

