

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 1744

22nd July – 29th July 2017 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Diary

Sunday 23 rd	Coffee Morning – Cystic Fibrosis
Monday 24 th	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 25 th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 26 th	Rosary Group Hall 9.30am
	RCIA Emmanuel Centre 7.30pm
Thursday 27 th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 6.30pm
Friday 28 th	Lectio Divina UCR 2-3pm
Sunday 30 th	Coffee Morning Diapalante

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)

This week: Wis 12:13.16-19, Rom 8:26-27, Matt 13:24-43

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Psalm: O Lord, you are good and forgiving

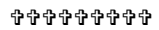
Intercession: Listen to our prayer

Response: **For You alone are great!**

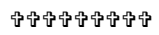
Next week: Kings 3:5.7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-52

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 2



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



There were a number of sacred statues left in the parish this week and we are not sure where they have come from and if they are a donation. If you were the person who kindly left them could you just let us know please.

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

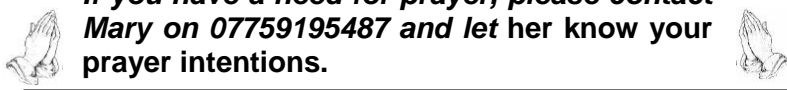


If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**
Via text message: **07876 526935**
Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net

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:

What is the true power of a story? We often ask what a story means as though it has only one explanation, one purpose. If we do this, we do the story a great injustice. A good story can challenge, invoke many different feelings, stir emotions, teach, inspire and motivate, inspire hope, open us to the wonder of our lives, of our world, of God! Let's think of the Darnel and the Good Seed as two different forms of life: one bears an abundance of fruit, the other has nothing to offer, leads to nothing and emptiness. In its early life, the darnel looks like wheat, making it difficult to root out. The story could be speaking to us about choices, that our choices can either bear fruit or be empty, producing nothing. We know that we make both good and bad choices in life but that God accepts us as we are with both our fruitfulness and our emptiness and, at the end of life, God will gather up the fruit we have to offer and leave or remove all that has been empty and fruitless. Isn't that reassuring! On the other hand, this week's parable may well mean something very different to you. Why not share your understanding with someone!

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Garden help needed. The next church gardening morning is **Saturday 5 August** from 9am to keep the church gardens under control. All are welcome to help. There is an ongoing need for people to just pop in and do an hour or so whenever they feel like it. We have a garden manual which shows the various areas of the church grounds and what needs to be done when. If you can give an hour or two even monthly then please let Helen Bailey know on 07771 552058 who will show you where the sheets and gardening equipment is kept. This is important work which makes our church grounds look lovely and also helps keep our costs down by not having to employ a gardener.



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Next weekend there will be a **display of furniture** in the hall that is no longer needed from the newly converted flats in **Christopher House**. Parishioners are welcome to take any items they would like and the rest will be recycled appropriately. We hope to have pictures up on the parish website before the end of the week.

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KISS - Excess Baggage - 15 suitcases and 5 holdalls have been given for KISS. Thank you so much for the great response. There are being used to take out clothes and a range of musical instruments. This weekend a Group of Students from John Henry Newman School and a group from the Coptic Church at Stevenage are flying to Uganda to spend 2 weeks with the charity. Your support to them has been immense. The KISS Coffee Morning in July raised £140.00 - thank you all so much

Dates for Diary

Monday 24 July

11am Mass at Stagenhoe. All are welcome

Thursday 27 July

We pray for Michael Duffy whose funeral is on **Thursday 27 July** at 12pm here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at Hitchin Cemetery.



May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

Future Dates

The John Henry Newman School will have its Open Evening on **Thursday 28 September**. Tours start at 5.30pm and the Head Teacher's address is at 7.30pm. The last tour of the school on the Open Evening will be at 7.00 pm.

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New Foundation Degree for Catholics working in Healthcare and those seeking to be Chaplains.

Starting in October, St Mary's University Twickenham offering a new foundation degree in Healthcare Ethics, Theology and Care. This is a part time two year programme for those seeking to be hospital chaplains and for people working in care homes, hospices and hospitals. Lectures and seminars take place at St Mary's one evening a week and additional lectures and resources are available online. If you are interested in applying or finding out more please contact matthew.james@stmarys.ac.uk

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 41

The Family in the Documents of the Church: "Guadium et Spes emphasizes 'the grounding of the spouses in Christ. Christ the Lord 'makes himself present to the Christian spouses in the sacrament of marriage' and remains with them.

