

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 1750

2nd September – 9th September 2017 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year A



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
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 3rd	Coffee Morning – Gardening Group
Sunday 3rd	Baptism Course Hall 3pm
Monday 4th	Meditation UCR 11.45am
Beavers 6-7pm	Bereavement Team LCR 10.30am
Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parish Council LCR 7pm
Tuesday 5th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
Scouts 7-9pm	Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
	UCM Hall 8pm
Wednesday 6th	NO RCIA
Thursday 7th	St Pio Group Hall 10.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
Friday 8th	Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.15am
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Sunday 10th	Coffee Morning - KISS
	Baptism Course Hall 3.30pm



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.

This week: Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Matt 16:21-27

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Psalm: **For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.**

Intercession: Lord, we lift up our hands
Response: **Your right hand holds us fast!**

Next week: Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 4

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

2.30pm Sunday is our service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners are invited to share in this time of prayer, which offers the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing.

Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring

07398821315

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

It is clear from the readings this week that Jesus was no media expert. He was upfront, clear and challenging with no let-outs or making things easy. You either follow him or not! The Cross, what does this mean? It is certainly more than suffering and humiliation, brutal cruelty and degradation. The cross was a sign of Jesus' great love for us and for the Father. A sign of his commitment and loyalty, of his trust and compassion. It was sign of his Passion, which, amidst all the suffering and rejection, was to win life for us to be with him and with the Father both now and for ever. Passion speaks of energy and purpose, commitment and perseverance, courage and single mindedness and in Jesus' case complete selflessness. Thinking of our cross in this way, why wouldn't we want to pick up our cross and follow him, since this is what we want to do in life anyway. To live a life with purpose, not just for ourselves but for others, to be valued and to make a positive difference to our world in terms of creating greater peace and harmony; a world in which the whole of creation is respected and sustained in all its beauty. Following Jesus, we are reassured of his never failing support, commitment, loyalty and friendship that will never fail us! Any other way is to walk alone!

Next Weekend

Next Sunday (10 Sept) is Education Sunday and Our Lady's school staff and pupils will be at the Mass to celebrate this occasion

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There will be a second collection next weekend (9/10 September) in aid of Catholic Education

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Livesimply Care for Creation Pilgrimage Saturday 9 September - Join us to pray for Creation with your feet. September is Care for Creation month. To mark this and in answer to Laudato Si there will be an All Faith Pilgrimage on the Hitchin Outer Orbital Path (the HOOP). We will pray using texts from different faith traditions. Come for a couple of hours, a morning or the day. Email Ann at oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk for more info - or call John 07966 800517.

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TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

The Traidcraft stall will be in the Hall on 10 September after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses.

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St Vincent de Paul Catholic School – KS1 Teacher Vacancy. Full time. Required for January 2018. The Governors of St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School wish to appoint a Key Stage 1

teacher for January 2018. We are looking for a teacher who is supportive of the school's Catholic ethos, committed, conscientious and enthusiastic, have high expectations of children's achievement and behaviour and able to demonstrate high quality teaching skills. In return we can offer you a welcoming school with children who have positive attitudes to their learning and care for each other, friendly, caring and dedicated staff, committed to school improvement, an attractive, financially secure, well maintained and well resourced school. The Governors and staff of St Vincent de Paul Catholic School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. All appointments made will be subject to satisfactory references, medical and DBS clearance. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. To arrange a visit or for further details please contact Sally Lorimer, School Business Manager at finance@stvincent.herts.sch.uk or telephone 01438 729555.

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The Foodbank needs the following items asap.

- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
- SPONGE PUDDINGS
- DRIED MILK
- DRIED POTATO
- PASTA SAUCE
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- SUGAR 500GM
- NOODLES
- UHT MILK
- TOILET ROLLS



URGENT NEED FOR STRONG CARRIER BAGS

Please add one of them to your shopping basket and drop it in the tub in the porch of the church.

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Allison Bannister would like to thank everyone who contributed to the coffee morning held in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust on the 23 July. £118 was raised on the morning, and an additional contribution was added to round the total off so a final sum of £150 was sent to the Trust which was greatly appreciated. Should anyone wish to find out more about this condition, or the work the Trust do, their website is: www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk.



MICHAELMAS FAIR 7TH

OCTOBER Many thanks for all the goods already donated for the fair.

We are delighted with the quality of

items received so far. This week we are collecting for our popular bric a brac stall. Goods may be left in the red baskets in the porch which are emptied every day. If you would like to have items collected please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

PROMISES AUCTION Several parishioners have offered their services for this part of the Michaelmas Fair. These include gardening, general labouring, cake baking and dog walking. Many thanks and we hope more will be forthcoming. All offers should be sent to liz.rice@metrobroadcast.com

RAFFLE PRIZES In addition to the three valuable cash prizes in previous years we have been able to offer a range of gifts for the Grand Raffle. These have included festive hampers, wine and spirits, crystal tumblers and collectible china. If you can donate a raffle prize please contact trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



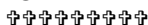
The Dowry of Mary day pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place soon:

- Sunday **10 September 2017** ...shortly after the Feast of the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**.
- **Coaches** from Westminster Cathedral, **Victoria** (depart 7:30am prompt). And from **Golders Green**.
- **Programme** includes... Welcome. Reception of flags. Holy Mass. Procession to Priory Grounds. Benediction and prayers at the original shrine site.

To book your ticket, please contact The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes by telephone on **020 8848 9833** or via e-mail, enquiries@soll-lourdes.com.

- Pre-paid tickets preferred but there may be stand-by on the day (subject to availability).

£20 adults, **£10** children.



Romero, El Salvador & Harvest Fast Day - Meetings this September. "We plant the seeds that one day will grow"

You are invited to join CAFOD on either **Saturday 9 September** in Lambeth or **Saturday 16 September** at Oakwood for an inspiring meeting. Both meetings will give first hand our work in El Salvador from Clare Dixon from our Latin America team. Clare has been playing a major part in CAFOD's work to keep up work begun in Blessed Oscar Romero's time to ensure that the voice of the poor and persecuted is not silenced in El Salvador. Both meetings will commence at 10am.

Please contact us for further information or to book westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970



Dates for Diary

Monday

2.30pm Mass at Gosmore Nursing home with FR Euloge

Tuesday

UCM Meeting Mass followed by business meeting in the Lower Committee Room at **8pm**.

Wednesday

11am Mass at Elside care home

Future Dates

Sept 23 **Walk With Me:** a workshop for Catholic parents and other family members of LGBT people, organised by the LGBT Catholics Westminster Younger Adults Group, with input from the Chaplain, Mgr. Keith Barltrop. Pre-booking is required. Further details will be provided on registration: <http://www.lgbtcatholicsyag.org.uk/workshop-2017> A poster is displayed in the Church porch.

Sept 23 **10.30am -5pm On Track: An Exhibition of Trains Little & Large, Past & Present** at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Hitchin. Holy Saviour Church was built in 1865 to serve the influx of people who moved to Hitchin to work on the railway. This exhibition aims to celebrate that heritage, both past and present. There will be model railway layouts from 00 Gauge to Gauge 3, model locomotives, stalls from local railway societies, rail user groups, books, children's activities and some participation from operators of rather larger railways. Refreshments will be available. Entry £3.50, accompanied children free

Oct 6-8 **Beginning Experience** There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 Sandra 01293-783965 or John 01992-642443 email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

Oct 14 9am-DOMESTIC ABUSE - THROUGH

THEIR EYES The Icknield Centre Icknield Way Letchworth SG6 1EF The Stevenage and North Herts Domestic Abuse Forum are holding a conference looking into domestic abuse from different views; the perpetrator, victims, children, police and other agencies. Come and join them to hear different perspectives from those in the best position to tell you. There will be many information stands and freebies from related agencies, cakes provided by the Women's Institute and a raffle to conclude the morning.

Other items of interest

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

Starting in October, St Mary's University Twickenham is pleased to offer 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 healthcare settings, from care homes, to 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



Text Giving

A new way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone !!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 not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather 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 in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

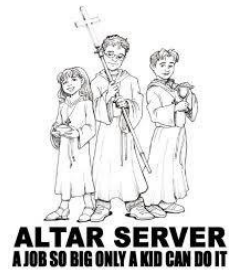


Lister Hospital Chaplaincy requests: For various reasons the Chaplaincy are losing a few of their Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service?

You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Revd Jane Hatton 01438 285138... or jane.hatton@nhs.net



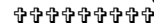
Are you the sort of person who notices what needs to be done? Do you ever wish you could be more active during Mass? Would you like to help the congregation and the priest in an important and unique task?



Why not join our altar servers? You would be fully trained. You would learn about why things are done the way they are during the Mass and you would work as part of a team, assisting the priest in celebrating the Mass. It would be a regular commitment and your times of service would be on a rota, so you need to be reliable. Please think about helping to make our Mass celebrations really good! We need you! If you have made your first communion and want to help speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass.



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.



Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email

stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 47

The Family in the Documents of the Church: St. John Paul II



described how spouses, in their mutual conjugal love, receive the gift of the Spirit of Christ and live their call to holiness.

(‘Gratissimam Sane’ and ‘Familiaris Consortio’)