



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 1752

16th September – 23rd September 2017 24th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A

Diary



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
Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest	01462 459126
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)

Sunday 17th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
Monday 18th Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30 am Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 19th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm No UCM Meeting.
Wednesday 20th	RCIA EC 7.30pm
Thursday 21st	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Friday 22nd	Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30am Lectio Divina – EC 2pm UCM – Green Man 7pm
Sunday 24th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG

This week: Ecc 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Matt 18:21-35

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Intercession: Lord, Show us your mercy

Response: Help us to be merciful!

Next week: Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24,27, Matt 20:1-16

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 2

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

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The new **Eucharistic Ministry rota** is now available. There are copies in the link for those ministers not on email.

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 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.

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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

"If we live, we live for the Lord!" What greater purpose can there be? What greater challenge? We recently celebrated the Exaltation of the Cross, a symbol of triumph of good over evil for all time, and we want to be part of that. The Cross offers healing for all resentment, which is destructive, eats away our lives, distorts our vision, shackles our actions for doing good, pulls us down, saps our energy, empties us of any goodness and joy. "Resentment is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die." This month, we are reminded of how destructive poison can be as we reflect on the way we have damaged our creation. Our efforts to live more simply, decrease our wastage, and show greater respect for our creation will lead to greater harmony and new life individually and communally. Recent natural catastrophes: fires, floods, earthquakes and hurricanes will only increase if we don't stop poisoning the Earth. Forgiveness and reconciliation often does more good to the forgiver than it does to those forgiven, and it will help us work better for the healing of creation . . . "If the present ecological crisis is one small sign of the ethical, cultural and spiritual crisis of modernity, we cannot presume to heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships." Laudato Si 119

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There will be a Home Mission Appeal collection this weekend.

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Children's liturgy begins again this weekend and is offered at the 10.30 Mass for children of school age from Reception to year 5. Children go out at the start of Mass when called by the Priest. Children are split into two groups. R-Year 2 go to the lower committee room. Year 3-5 go to the upper committee room. The 4th Sunday of the month is a children's Mass and everyone remains in the church for a children focused liturgy. **Liturgy for the 0-4years** and their parents is offered at the 10.30 Mass and everyone goes out to the hall after the gospel when called by the Priest. We need people who would be willing to help deliver this liturgy either as a leader or a helper. If you are willing to support our children in this way please contact Maeve Green at maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk



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We pray for Christine Webster whose funeral is on Friday 15 September at 10am at North Hertfordshire Memorial Ground and Crematorium. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.



MICHAELMAS FAIR 7

OCTOBER Very many thanks for the support you are giving to the fair. We hope that you received your

information pack last week, if not please ask Trish for one. Raffle ticket money and stubs may be given to the welcomers at weekend Masses or left in the office. In addition to the valuable cash awards there is a wide range of prizes including luxury hampers, wines and spirits and collectible crystal, so don't forget to give your friends and family an opportunity to win. This week we are collecting religious items, jewellery and toiletries which may be left in the red baskets in the porch. If you would like your items to be collected please contact Pam Brannigan 01462 632587. Thanks for all the goods you have donated so far. This year Our Lady's School will receive part of the proceeds to help update their technology so supporting the fair will help the school, the parish and Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. There will be a bottle stall at the Michaelmas Fayre and we are in particular need of donations of bottles of wine! Any donations greatly received.

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Thank you for all your donations **to Education Sunday last weekend, £220.52** was raised.

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KISS Coffee Morning - a big thank you to everyone who supported the KISS coffee morning last weekend which raised £200.00!!

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The gardening group thank you for your generosity and support at their coffee morning on 3rd September which raised £92.20.

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We thank **Mrs. Ciara Nicholson, head of Our Lady's school and her staff** for the wonderful Mass that we shared last Sunday when so many of the children and parents were present. We offer our prayers to the school for a successful and joyful school year.

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John Henry Newman open evening on Thursday 28th September 5.30pm-8.30pm Head teacher address at 7.30pm. Invitation cards are in the church porch.

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The **Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School** is seeking an Academic Learning Mentor. Completed application forms should be sent to the Headmaster's PA at 89 Addison Road, Kensington, London W14 8BZ. Further information and an Application Pack available on the School's website at www.cvms.co.uk



Teaching position at Our Lady School

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are seeking to recruit a teacher for this academic year for our Year 3 class. Full

time and part-time applicants will be considered. If you are interested, or know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Mrs Ciara Nicholson via the School Office.

Site Manager Position

Due to the illness of our current post holder, Our Lady Catholic Primary School requires a temporary Site Manager to work for 2.5 hours every afternoon (Monday to Friday) from 3-5.30pm.

Grade: £8.45 per hour. General duties may include:

- Grounds maintenance
- Emptying recycling boxes
- Some cleaning duties
- Light lifting duties

This post is subject to satisfactory references, medical checks and a DBS check. For further information, please speak to Jill Westbury on: 01462 622555

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Theodora Hawksley made her first profession of vows as a sister in the Congregation of Jesus on 6th September, at the Bar Convent in York. She grew up in this parish, first learning to love Christ here, amongst us.



She is now on mission in Guyana helping to set up a bilingual education programme for Wapichan children. Please keep her and her mission in your prayers.

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Message from Anthony Curran – Chaplain at Lister hospital- Half Days of Reflection:

I am offering parish groups a half days of reflection on the theme of “spiritual health on our journey through life.” The aim of the time of reflection is to help people to focus on the importance of building up a spiritual reserve to help us through times of stress, suffering, illness and crisis. The session will be held at the Lister Hospital Chapel on Saturdays or Sunday afternoons. If you know of individuals or a group of parishioners who might be interested, please do let me know.

St Hugh of Lincoln Parish Cleaner

A part-time Cleaner is required to clean the parish presbytery and new meeting room. Duties will include cleaning the communal areas and ironing as required. The successful candidate will have some previous cleaning experience, excellent organisation skills and possess the ability to work with complete discretion. Hours of work: 5 hours per week, Salary: £9.75 per hour. Closing date: 25th September 2017. Interview date: 2nd October 2017. For a full job description and application form please see

<http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs> We do not accept CVs. Please download job application and submit to humanresources@rcdow.org.uk.

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Masters of Ceremony (MC) at Mass We need more adults (young and old) to help with the Mass and support the Priest in setting things up before Mass and helping our altar server team during the Masses. Full training is available.

Please do think about helping in this way. Please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more.

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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/cause/s/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!

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 19 September

Mass at Milford Lodge at 2.30pm. All welcome.

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UCM - No meeting on Tuesday 19th but meal at the Green Man Friday 22nd 7pm for 7.30pm.

Future Dates

Sept 23 10am-2pm Fair in the Square Hitchin market square raising money for PHASE. Raffle, cake stall, bouncy castle, arts & crafts, physical challenges and much more. Take the family.

Sept 23 11am - 4pm Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the DIVINE MERCY RETREAT: at the Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver Heath, Bucks SL0 0NR All welcome
More info: DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE - MARIAN FATHERS 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY phone: 020 89980925; email: info@divinemercury.org.uk

Sept 23 7.30pm Welwyn Male Voice Choir concert at St Mary's Church, Pirton in aid of the west window restoration fund of the church. Tickets £10 including refreshments. Call 01462 712127 for tickets.

Oct 30-Nov 2 **THE RIVER led by Phil Hulks**
@ HCC Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG5 1HF
The RIVER is a 4-day retreat centred around the moment when Jesus walked into the water to be baptised by his cousin John. See the parish website under Events for details: Anyone can apply for a place on the RIVER retreat. The 4-day retreat will include lunch each day and a main meal together on one of the evenings. Each day will include a variety of experiences including worship, teaching, opportunities to respond for prayer, small group discipleship and time to just soak in God's river. There will also be a number of practical experiences during the four days including prayer walking, healing on the streets etc. The cost for you to attend the RIVER retreat is free of charge. There will, however, be an opportunity to give a gift and an offering will be taken up at some stage during your retreat. Book your place at <http://www.saintsinthecity.org.uk/riverbookings>

Oct 1 4pm PHASE Annual Celebration service at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. You are warmly invited to join. It will be an hour of

insight and experience, where you'll hear about the great work of Phase and have an opportunity to see first hand what we do in schools across Hitchin. There will be some refreshments following the service and a chance for you to chat with the Phase staff team, volunteers and also some of the young people we work with. There is limited parking available on site, nearest car park (Woodside) is just a few minutes walk.

Oct 2 6:30 for 7pm Bishop Mark O'Toole will be giving a lecture entitled, How to be a disciple making disciple: Prayer, Faith, Loving Service and the Sacramental Life to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. St Patrick's Church, 21A Soho Square, London, W1D 4NR £5 on the door - book your place: guildofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com

Oct 16 **Emergency Planning Exercise**
NHDC are organising a Live Reception Centre Exercise. This involves all the different agencies coming together and practicing what would happen as a real reception centre, but with people acting out the roles, rather than there being real evacuees. They are running this on Monday 16th October, and they need people to play evacuees. They need volunteers to attend the exercise. They're after as many people as possible, and they will be given a role to act out with a variety of issues that they need to bring up so that their staff can help fix their problems. Everyone will be given a full briefing and the whole thing will be done in a controlled environment. It is taking place at North Herts Leisure Centre in Letchworth on 16th October from about 9.30-1pm. There will be tea and coffee provided, and plenty of car parking. If you are able to help with this exercise please let Trish know (preferably by email) by Sept 29th the following details: Name, Age, Email address, Any special skills (languages etc), any particular needs you have. **It would be wonderful if the churches in Hitchin can support this initiative.**

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 48

The Family in the Documents of the Church: Pope Benedict XVI stressed "marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes an icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love." ('Deus Caritas Est')

