



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 1753

23rd September – 30th September 2017 25th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A
Diary



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| Mass Times | |
| Saturday anticipating 6pm | |
| Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm | |
| Monday – Saturday 10am | |
| Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm | |
| 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: | 01462 459 126 |
| Mobile: | 07547 171570 |
| Website: | parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin |
| E-mail: | hitchin@rcdow.org.uk |
| Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish) | |

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| Sunday 24th | Coffee Morning – OLSSG |
| Monday 25th Cubs 7.15-8.15pm | Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30 am Meditation UCR 11.45am |
| Tuesday 26th Scouts 7-9pm | Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30-4pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm The Baptised Life Hall 7.30pm |
| Wednesday 27th | RCIA EC 7.30pm Liturgy Committee LCR 7.15pm |
| Thursday 28th | Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm Choir Practice Church 8pm |
| Friday 29th | Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30am Lectio Divina – EC 2pm |
| Sunday 1st | Coffee Morning – Bereavement Grp |

This week: Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24.27, Matt 20:1-16

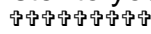
Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.
Psalm: The Lord is close to all who call him.
Intercession: Lord, you are close to us
Response Lord, we call on you!

Next week: Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11.27, Matt 21:28-32



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.

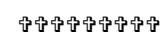


Parish Prayer Bless this parish, Lord. Let our community reflect your own communion of love. Help us to live peacefully and humbly, attending to the call of your Spirit and mindful of our duty to everything you have created. Strengthen the bonds of our families and friendships with patience and kindness. Make us joyful messengers of your kingdom and a source of comfort for those in need.



This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 3



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



Thank you for all your donations to the Home Mission Appeal. A total of £195.61 was raised

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

Anthony de Mello sj tells us that ‘Life is a banquet’. However, the tragedy is that most people are starving to death. To explain, he tells this story: “Some people on a raft off the coast of Brazil were perishing from thirst because they had no idea that the water they were floating on was fresh water. The river was coming out into the sea with such force that it went out for a couple of miles, so they had fresh water right there where they were. But, they had no idea it was there. In the same way, we are surrounded with joy, with happiness, with love and yet most people have no idea of this whatsoever. The workers in the Kingdom of God, that is you and me, know that they are surrounded by joy and happiness and love and the presence of God; so much so, that they do not give a second thought to whether they will be paid or not!!! In fact, they are more saddened by the fact that others do not come to this realisation earlier in their lives, so they want to do everything to help them discover this.

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We pray for **Nigel James Harcourt** whose funeral is on **Wednesday 4 October** at 1pm here at Our Lady’s Church and afterwards at St John’s Road Cemetery . May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family

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Calling all would be Altar Servers – we apologise that we have not started the training yet but hope to do so very soon. All children who made their First Holy Communion in June will be invited to come and anyone else who is interested should let a member of the Pastoral team know that you are keen to train and we will be in touch very soon.

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⊕ IMPORTANT! FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 3 things

1. Your application should be in.
2. You should have had a family chat with Fr Tom and Susanna. If you have not, arrange one with Fr Tom immediately.
3. The first session of the programme is on Tuesday 26th at 7:30pm in the hall. All dates are on the website.

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The next Confirmation Programme is being formulated and more details will be loaded as soon as possible. It will start in January and applications will be available very soon.

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In response to the recent devastation by two earthquakes in Mexico, Fr Tom invites the parish to have a collection this weekend to help bring relief to the people who have suffered from this disaster. The Sister of Leticia Kay (from Mexico) is able to take the money raised to Mexico and will ensure it goes to the people who need it most.

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The John Henry Newman School

will have its Open Evening on **Thursday, 28th 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 7pm. It should be noted that over fifty families from local parishes, not attending feeder primary schools were able to gain a place at the school last year, due to the increased number of places on offer. Invitations for your child are available at the exit from the Church.

Parents who wish to apply for a place at John Henry Newman School need to sign up for a chat with Fr Tom. Your child does not need to come but you need to bring the completed self-assessment form, the Priest’s reference form, baptismal certificate and photograph of the child.

Sign up sheets are on the board in the porch

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MICHAELMAS FAIR 7TH OCTOBER

Very many thanks for the way you are supporting our various requests linked to the fair. As the date gets nearer

we would be grateful your help with the following:

RAFFLE TICKETS Please return cash and stubs to the office or hand them to the welcomers at weekend Masses. Additional books of tickets may be obtained from Trish Bonnett or Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) We have some excellent prizes this year as well as the cash awards.

CAKES AND PRODUCE These stalls are always very popular so we would be grateful for jam, marmalade, chutney etc. as well as groceries of all varieties. These may be left in the red baskets in the porch or collected by Pam. Cakes may be brought to the Hall on the

day (7th October) or on the previous afternoon (Friday 6th October)

HELPERS We have had several offers of help on the day but would appreciate more. This weekend there is a list of stalls on display which will include time slots of an hour. Do consider signing up for a session as this will enable everyone to enjoy the fair as a buyer as well as a seller.

FOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD Our parish is truly cosmopolitan and we are looking forward to having the widest range of international cuisine represented in our Food Court. Please contact Carol Mascarenhas (carolmasc@yahoo.co.uk) if you can make a contribution to this highlight of the fair.

ART AND CRAFT DISPLAY Contributions may be brought to the Church by 7pm on Friday 6th October after which the Church will be locked. Do encourage members of your family and friends to exhibit paintings, pottery, knitwear, tapestry etc.

PROMISES AUCTION A good start has been made. Further promises should be sent to Liz Rice (liz.rice@metrobroadcast.com). Details on the pink form in your pack or contact Pam Brannigan or Trish Bonnett.

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Jumble Sale in Our Lady's Scout Hall 14th October 10-11.30am

Fill a bag £2 small £5 large

Have a ball, help us clear the scout hall and contribute to a range of needs of the parish, the school and Diapalante.

If you have any jumble to donate please bring it to the porch at Our Lady's church anytime from October 8th onwards

Dates for Diary

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| Monday 25th September |
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11am Mass at Stagenhoe. All welcome. Trish is able to give a lift at 10.35 in the car park.

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Other Items

Harvest Songs of Praise Sunday 24 September 6pm at Christchurch

Come and sing some favourite songs about God's wonderful world and his provision for us! Followed by a sale of fresh produce, jams etc.

Proceeds for North Herts Sanctuary

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The Call of God. Discipleship in the Old Testament with Sr Anne Walsh OP and Sr Karen Marguerite OP

Date: 28th Sep, 12th Oct, 2nd Nov, 16th Nov, 30th 2017

Time: 7:30-9:00pm

Venue: Niland Conference Centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE

Suggested donation: £5.00. For more information, please click here.

Registration is required for all events. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk. Alternatively, please leave a message at 020 7931 6078.

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A series of 3 talks on **Shaped by God's Mercy – Biblical Characters who Experienced God's Mercy** by Brian Purfield

A series of short Scriptural reflections on different aspects of the mercy of God as experienced by people in the Old and New Testament. The three examples chosen for reflection are: Hagar, Jonah and Paul. Participants are encouraged to bring their Bible to each session.

Dates: 4th Oct, 8th Nov, 5th Dec, 2017

Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Venue: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

For more information, please click here. Suggested donation: £4.00

Registration is required for all events. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk. Alternatively, please leave a message at 020 7931 6078

Prayer workshops with Sr Anne Walsh OP & Sr Martina

Dates: 4th Oct, 1st Nov, 6th Dec 2017, 7th Feb, 7th Mar, 11th Apr, 2nd May, 6th Jun 2018

Time: 7:30-9:00pm

Venue: Niland Conference Centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE

Suggested donation: £5.00. Registration is required for all events. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk

Alternatively, please leave a message at Phone: 020 7931 6078

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Walking with Jesus with Antonia Lynn

A five-week course of prayer, reflection and sharing - using the journey to Emmaus as a theme.

Date: 10th Oct, 7th Nov, 28th Nov, 2017 and 16th Jan'18, 13th Feb

Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Venue: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

Suggested donation: £4.00.

Participants will experience praying with Lectio Divina and the Examen; the practice of contemplative listening in a group; reflection on the Eucharist; making connections between

worship, faith and daily life and an exploration of what it means to be a "missionary disciple".

Registration is required for all events. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk.

Alternatively, please leave a message at 020 7931 6078

Future Dates

Oct 7 10:30am-2:30pm 'Mindfulness in Christian Tradition (1) with Mgr Malachy Keegan who will explain Mindfulness and the great help it gives us in managing our lives well. We will learn how to live in the present moment, without worrying about the future and dwelling in the past. We will learn practical ways of being closer to God, to ourselves and to others.

Venue: Niland Conference Centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE

Suggested donation: £14.00

Registration is required for all events. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk.

Alternatively, please leave a message at 020 7931 6078

Oct 14

DOMESTIC ABUSE - THROUGH THEIR EYES



9am to 1pm
The Icknield Centre, Icknield Way, Letchworth SG6 1EF. This year, the theme is looking into

domestic abuse from different views; the perpetrator, victims, children, police and other agencies. Come and join us 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.

Oct 14 10am - 5pm Healing Conference

Built On Faith will be hosting an Ellel Healing Conference Day to be held at Walworth Rd Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP

The day will include: prayer, worship, teaching and ministry.

Topics covered will include Foundation for Healing/Soul Ties, Healing our Human Spirit, Forgiveness and Acceptance and Belonging.

There will of course be refreshment breaks and lunch will be provided.

Booking is essential. Please Book through Eventbrite.co.uk and search for Built on Faith and Ellel ministries conference Day.

Oct 18 & 21

10am-3pm Mental Health Awareness for pastoral ministry - How to take care of my own mental and emotional well-being and how to offer support to others with Mgr Malachy Keegan This course will describe ways of ensuring mental and emotional well-being for myself and others. The Course will also identify states of mild and of serious disorders. It will offer insights into how these states develop and how they can be handled in order to heal and bring new healthy life. The Course will be of value to anyone who works with people. It will be of special value to anyone who is involved with people suffering trauma and loss. The Course could be described as 'How to be a Wounded Healer'

Venue: Niland Conference Centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE

Suggested donation: £14.00. Registration is required for all events. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk.

Alternatively, please leave a message at 020 7931 6078

Oct 20-27

Theology of the Body retreat

Age: 16-30 years

Price: 18-30: £100 | 16-18: £80

Dates: 18-30:

Friday 20 October - Friday 27 October (*limited weekend-only option available*) | 16-18:

Monday 23 October - Friday 27 October

Location: SPEC Retreat Centre, 125 Waxwell Lane, London, HA5 3EP

For booking details see Youth page on parish website.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/youth-activities/>



AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 48

The Family in the Documents of the Church: Pope Benedict XVI in 'Caritas in Veritate', highlighted the importance of love as a principle of life in society, a place where we learn the experience of the common good. ..."the development of peoples depend above all on a recognition that the human race is a single family".

