



# 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 1759

4<sup>th</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year A



### 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

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 <a href="mailto:thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk">thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest	01462 459126
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Susanna Hawksley <b>Catechetics</b>	<a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 <a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>

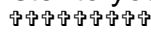
### Parish Safeguarding Representative

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](mailto: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

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Live Simply
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	9.15-11.15am. Parent & Toddlers
	Meditation UCR 11.45am
	PPC Meeting LCR 7pm
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm
	Reconciliation (2) Hall 6.30pm-9pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Praise Group Meeting LCR 10.40am
	RCIA EC – 7pm
	Fire Training Meeting LCR 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	UCM Remembrance LCR 10.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15-11.15am. Parent & Toddlers
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – UCM

**Readings: Ex 22:20-26, Thess 1:5-10, Matt 22:34-40**

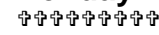
**Entrance Antiphon:** Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!  
**Psalm: Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord!**

**Intercession: Lord, you are the way**  
**Response: Bring us close to you!**

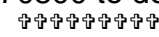
**Next week: Mal 1:14-2:2.8-10, Thes 2:7-9.13, Matt 23:1-12**

This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 1**



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



Please consider signing a CAFOD petition in the porch supporting 237 homeless families of the Maua Community in Sao Paulo, Brazil, who are facing eviction on 21 November.

### 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:

That word humility is back! Like love, humility comes in many guises, but most of all it makes us open to others, helps us see the world as they see it and, through them, helps us see the world and ourselves as God sees. Here is someone's reflection on humility:

**Humility** helps you see that people who talk too much are really in your life to help you learn how to listen. **That** people who ask too many questions are really in your life to help you improve your communication skills. **That** the people who ask you for a handout or a hand up are really in your life to teach you it's not your place to judge. **That** people who upset you or make you angry were really put there to help you work on your patience. **That** those who ask for your opinion are really in your life to show you that your opinion counts, you are respected, and you add meaning to their world. **That** people you thought were too optimistic or too good were really in your life to show you how kind and generous people can be and show you how you should be treated. Humility helps us strengthen our gifts, abilities and virtues, opens us to the richness of other people's lives, the importance of belonging, of family, the true value of life and the wonder of our God.

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**WHITE PEACE POPPIES**-are available after Mass this weekend from Ann Milner in the porch or you can get them in the Bradbury area of Christchurch  
**Next Weekend**

There will be a second collection next weekend (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> November) in aid of Sick and Retired Priests. Your generous donations helps ensure that Priests who have followed their vocation and given their lives to the Church are cared for and supported when they are sick and when they retire. The fund helps cover medical, housing, convalescence and personal needs of these Priests as well as helping them in an emergency. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of our clergy – active, retired and ill.

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**Fr Tom** has 6 tickets for Child of the Divide on 14th November at Letchworth Broadway cinema (see details on parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/events/> at the bargain price of £6. If you have not seen this wonderful play it is a must. Please speak to Fr Tom to get the tickets

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A parishioner has lost a child's red ladybird bag over the weekend here in the Church Hall. If anyone has found this item, please could you contact Monica on 07834473550. Many thanks.



**Altar Server Training** for anyone who has made their first Holy Communion will take place in the church on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 11.30am-1pm. If you wish to attend please complete an altar server application form from the church porch and return it to Trish.

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We pray for Eileen O'Riordan whose funeral is on Friday 17 November at 11.30am here at Our Lady's Church and then afterwards at St John's Cemetery. We also pray for Mary Sole whose funeral is on Monday 20 November at North Hertfordshire Memorial Ground and Crematorium only. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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**Ciara Nicholson, head of Our Lady's school,** thanks the Parish very much for the very generous donation from the Michaelmas Fair. She is so grateful that the proceeds will be shared with the School and it will make such a difference to helping to reduce the whiteboard fund. Many, many thanks to all for the hard work involved.

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**Young Readers Course** for those who have made their first communion will be delivered in the church by Bridie Duffy on two Thursday afternoon sessions, 4-5pm, on 9th and 16th November. If you have a young person who would like to read in our church then please let Bridie know they would like to attend. You can contact her at [bridie\\_duffy@yahoo.com](mailto:bridie_duffy@yahoo.com)



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**Safeguarding help is needed.** Trish is in dire need of someone to help her with the safeguarding administration in the parish which is largely around the processing of the DBS forms. If you are okay with using online services and have the odd couple of hours to spare occasionally she would be eternally grateful for your help. Training would be required and provided. Speak to Trish if you have the heart to deliver her from this straw that is breaking her camel's back.

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**Churches Together in Hitchin** is setting up a service called **The Millers Café** for those who have been through the mill dealing with life changing conditions. It is planned to have a

café session twice a month where people can come and chat with others who are in a similar position knowing that they will have some understanding. We need people to help with this service making tea/coffee and/or chatting and listening to those who attend. It will be on 1st Monday afternoon of the month and the 3rd Wednesday morning of the month starting in the new year. If you could help even once a month or more at these sessions please speak to Trish. We are sure it is going to be a source of comfort and joy for all who attend. Please consider helping.

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**Opportunity for service!** A parishioner with mobility problems needs someone to help clean her bathroom once a month. This is a voluntary role and would take about an hour a month and would be of enormous help to this lady. If you could help please speak to Trish.

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Please pray for the "Link to Hope Shoebox Project running" at **Walsworth Road Baptist Church** from 6 - 13 November. We join with them in giving thanks for the many schools, churches and community groups that are involved.

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**Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.**

We will be flying from Stansted and staying at a 4 star hotel within easy walking distance

of the Basilica. Fr Tom will be leading our Pilgrimage. The price is £575.

We need to have a minimum of 20 people and so far have 16. 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 as soon as possible 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.

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**UCM** No Meeting Tuesday 7th November, but Remembrance Service during the 10am Mass on Thursday 9th November. Just to remind members to bring items for the Hampers to that mass, also to remind members that the Coffee morning is on 12th November. Also that Subs are due as soon as possible.

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**Our next marriage preparation course**, for those who plan to get married in the next year in the church, is Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-4pm, in

the upper committee room. £60/couple. 10 couples maximum so book asap by emailing: [catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com](mailto:catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com) with your names and contact details. Everyone brings things for a shared lunch.

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**Sick and Retired Priests' Fund of the Diocese of Westminster** Next week there will be a second collection to support the sick and retired priests in our diocese. Your generous donation helps ensure that priests who have followed their vocation and given their lives to the church, are cared for and supported when they are sick and then when they retire. The Fund helps cover the medical, housing, convalescence, and personal needs of these priests, as well as helping them in an emergency. They have been here for us; let us be there for them. Donation leaflets are available in the porch. Please take one home, read about this important work and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all our clergy, - active, retired and ill.

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**Job vacancies at John Henry Newman School** Cover Supervisor and Learning Support Assistant. Details of the vacancies can be found on the parish website on the Job Vacancies page.

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There is an event taking place in the Hall next Saturday November 11 between 11am and 8pm. Please bear this in mind when coming to Mass that day as the car park may be busy and you may have to find alternative parking. Many thanks.

**Dates for Diary**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**2.30pm Mass** at Gosmore. All are welcome.

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**7.30pm Pastoral Parish Council Meeting** in the lower committee room.


**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**Praise Group** Singing hymns, relevant to the previous month's liturgy, in the lower committee room, after the 10am mass. All are welcome.

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**2.30pm Mass** at Foxholes. All are welcome.

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 **7.30pm Fire evacuation training** will be delivered to the deanery. All parishioners are welcome to attend this so we are fully aware of the safe way of leaving our church in case of emergency. Please let Trish know if you wish to attend.



## Future Dates

**Nov 9** 7 – 9pm In preparation for the first World Day of the Poor an evening exploring Catholic Social Teaching and living out our faith in action.

**In conversation with Fr James Hanvey SJ and champions of Catholic Social Action.** Faith sharing and plenary at **Westminster Cathedral Hall**, Ambrosden Ave, Westminster, London SW1P 1QW

Registration is required. Email at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) and indicate your name and the date of the event. If you do not have an access to the Internet, please leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £5 per talk.



At the beginning of his public ministry, the Lord gave us a description of the way we are all called to love and to live our lives. In this retreat, we will look at each of the

Beatitudes in turn. We will reflect together on how relevant and vitally important the Beatitudes are, as we strive to live happy, peaceful, meaningful lives in a world where often there is confusion, doubt and fear.

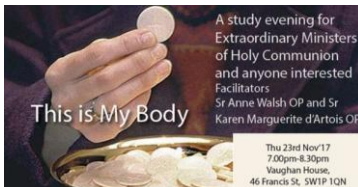
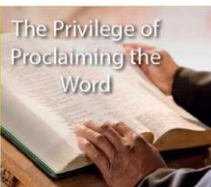
**Date:** 13th Nov, 20th Nov, 27th Nov, 4th Dec 2017

**Time:** 7:00-8:30pm

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

Registration is required. Email at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) and indicate your name and the date of the event. If you do not have an access to the Internet, please leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £5 per talk.

A study evening for Parish Readers and anyone interested  
Facilitator  
Sr Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP  
Thu 16th Nov '17  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
Vaughan House  
46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN



**Nov 10** 7.15pm **Musical evening** to celebrate 30 years of the **Kanyike Project** at St Francis College, Letchworth. Tickets £35 can be bought online (see poster in porch for details) or at David's bookshop, Letchworth.

**Nov 14** Early notice! Tuesday 14th November the "Child of the Divide" play will be shown at Broadway Theatre, Letchworth and afterwards the NHIFF (led by Michael) and the playwrights will have a 20-30m Q&A discussion

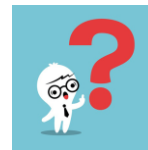
about Inter Faith lessons from the play, based on the partition of India and Pakistan life stories.

**Nov 16** 8pm **CTH council AGM** **Thursday 16th November** at Walsworth Road Baptist Church - tea/coffee from 7.30. We will begin with a presentation from Geraint Edwards, Headteacher of The Priory School, on the joys and challenges of being in secondary education at the moment followed by the AGM at ~8.45pm.

**Nov 16** 6.30pm for 7pm in London: Capitalism's 7 Deadly Sins at the "Theos" office, 77 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2EZ Theos Students, Friends and Associates: Free. General admission: £7+ £0.89 administration fee Concessions and Students: £5 + £0.80 administration fee. Book tickets for this event: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/capitalisms-7-deadly-sins-tickets-36926227340](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/capitalisms-7-deadly-sins-tickets-36926227340)

## Other Items of Interest

**Calling all graphic designers in the parish.**



We need some help designing a couple of posters for important new services in the town that our church is supporting – a café for those who have had to deal with life changing conditions and a parent and toddler group in an elderly care home (did you see 'The Old people's home for 4 year olds!') We have some ideas but need some free professional help to put them on paper in meaningful way. If you have these skills please speak to Trish as soon as possible. Thanks in anticipation for your help.

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**LISTER HOSPITAL**-need people to help move patients from wards to the chapel. Sunday mornings 9am-12-00 noon. If interested in helping contact John Richardson at [johnrichardson891@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrichardson891@btinternet.com)

## AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 54

*Seeds of the Word and imperfect situations:* "The Gospel of the family also nourishes seeds that are still waiting to grow, and serves as a basis for caring for those plants that are wilting and must not be neglected." (Relatio Synodi 2014, 23.)

