



# 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 1769

13<sup>th</sup> January – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Diary

<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 <a href="mailto:thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk">thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine Assistant Priest	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</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 <i>also Safeguarding Rep</i>	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:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	<a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – KISS Confirmation Session 1 Hall 6pm
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents and Toddlers 9.15am Meditation UCR 11.45am OWG Meeting 8pm EC
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Pastoral Support Team UCR 10am Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-4pm Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Church 9.30am Bereavement Meeting EC 10.30am RCIA – EC 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Centre (EC) Room 6.30pm Choir 8pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Parents & Toddlers 9.15am Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Youth Forum Hall 08.30am-10.30am
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group Confirmation Session 2 LCR 6pm Service for Week of Christian Unity Church 6.30pm



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the Chaplain 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.

**Readings: Sam 3:3-10.19, Cor 6:13-15.17-20, John 1:35-42**

**Entrance Antiphon:** All the Earth shall bow down before you, O God and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**Psalm: Here I am Lord, I come to do your will**

**Intercession:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**Response: We want to do your will!**

**Next week: Jonah 3:1-5.10, Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20**

This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 3**

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

**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:

Calling - responding - following - discovering - sharing. How many times? How often does this happen? It expresses itself in different ways. Something grabs our attention and then our interest so we pursue it further and want to know more. Then we discover a richness that we want to investigate further and we make it more of a priority in our lives. Then, we look for others who might want to share or already share this interest. Once committed we will seek to share our interest with others and bring them on board too. This can apply to interests, hobbies, sports, leisure activities, even the form of work we wish to pursue. Amidst all these different callings, we also become aware of God calling us: helping in the parish, a charity, and different kinds of voluntary service. Sometimes we will be like Samuel, not always understanding what God is calling us to do. Other times we can be like Peter, receiving a call that comes from someone familiar, even a member of the family. The great thing is that even if we are deaf at times, or fail to respond to God's call for whatever reason, Isaiah reassures us that the Word of God (the call) never returns to God without fulfilling its purpose. (Is 55:11) Now, doesn't that fill you with questions about what might happen in 2018??

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collection will be taken after all Masses next weekend (20/21st January) Giftaid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors.

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We pray for Edward Deegan whose funeral is on Monday 22 January at 11am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at St John's Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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There will be another event taking place in the Hall next Saturday – 20th January from 1pm – 11pm. Please bear this in mind when attending Mass that day as the car park may be busy. We will try to save a few spaces for those with mobility issues. You could park in the car park at Bancroft and the church will refund your parking fee. We are working on a long term solution to this inconvenience. More information to come. Many thanks.

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**Ellen and Adam** thank all our parishioners who recently donated furniture to Adam. It was much appreciated. God Bless the parish.

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**CALLING ALL COFFEE LOVERS** A generous parishioner has donated a percolator coffee maker to be used at Sunday coffee mornings and other occasions. This will enable fresh ground coffee to



be served at no additional cost along with tea, squash and decaffeinated instant coffee. The percolator will be launched at the One World Group's coffee morning next Sunday when the proceeds will go to Pax Christi, the Catholic peace organisation. As we are a Fairtrade parish, only Fairtrade coffee tea and sugar are used at our events.

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Thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning on the epiphany. Over £180 was raised for Cholula in Mexico which suffered in the recent Mexican earthquake. Leti's sister will take the money their personally in a few weeks. The baking was done by the children.



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There are now two coffee morning slots available - on Sunday 4 March and Sunday 5 August. Please advise Cheryl in the Office if you would like to host either of these dates.

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**BAPTISM COURSE** Our next baptism course is being run on **Sunday 25th January 3pm - 4:30pm and Sunday 4th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm**, followed by 5pm Mass at which the children will be given the first anointing of the Rite of Baptism. Please sign up on the sheet in the Link (between the church porch and the hall). The course comprises both Sunday sessions.



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Our next **Marriage Preparation course is Saturday 17th February 9.30am-4pm** To book a place please email [catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com](mailto:catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com) with your full names (both parties). We are only able to take 10 couples on this course; places are limited. We ask you to bring food for a shared lunch on the day. The fee is £60 per couple.



## Dates for Diary

**Tuesday 16 January**

**2.30 pm** Mass at Milford Lodge. All are welcome.

## Wednesday 17 January

**10am-12pm Millers Café** now open for business is for those who have been 'through the mill'. It is an opportunity to drop in, to share a coffee and to be offered a listening ear for those who've experienced life changing conditions either themselves or through a loved one.

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**2.15pm** We pray for **Sheila Sheppard** whose funeral is here and afterwards at Harwood Park Crematorium. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



## Thursday 18 January

**11am UCM** - Reminder of get together at FABIO'S Hermitage Road.

## Sunday 21 January

**6.30pm** Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH) United Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is at our church. The service will include the induction of John Maguire of Tilehouse Street Baptist Church as Chair of CTH and John will give the word at the beginning of his year. This year the general theme is **That all may be free**, chosen by churches in the Caribbean and we shall include some of the prayers and readings that will be used all over the world in this special Week. If you would like personally to use the reflections for the Week, these can be found on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website - [www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)  
**Please do join us for this service to show our unity with all Christians.**

### Future Dates

**Jan 20** 10am-12.30pm **CAFOD** information sessions at St Mary Moorfield's Parish near Liverpool Street EC2. New year's resolution: Make a difference with **CAFOD** Make 2018 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help our sisters and brothers working to overcome poverty around the globe. Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others in your local area? Or maybe you are a good communicator who would enjoy speaking in churches or presenting assemblies and workshops in schools? Please get in touch with us on [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) or 020 8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on this session

**Jan 20** **4-6pm Is Unity in Politics possible?** At the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG. See more details on Parish website **Events**.

**Jan 25** **6.45pm** Faith Matters Question Time at Farm Street on '**Fake News: Faith in the Media**' The latest in this series of popular panel discussions on matters of faith and life. More details on Parish website **Events**.

**Jan 27** 11am-4:30pm Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the **DIVINE MERCY RETREAT** at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London SE1 6HR

**Feb 3** 6.30pm at St Mary's - announcing another in our popular series of classic silent films - The Hunchback of Notre Dame; Victor Hugo's gothic masterpiece with live organ accompaniment Street Food and Wine from 6.30pm; the film starts at 7.30pm. Adults £12; Under 18s £6 - tickets available from Hitchin Initiative, David's Music, <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/426054>, or Robin Sternberg 01462 684588. In aid of St Mary's church funds

**Feb 24** 10am-3pm **Faith Formation for Readers** with Sr. Karen Marguerite OP and Sr (Including Mass with Fr Chris Vipers) Venue: Niland Conference Centre, 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE. Suggested donation: £14.00 Registration is required. Email: [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) Alternatively, please leave a message at 020 7931 6078.

**Mar 1** 5pm- 8pm **Do you want to become a teacher?** The Cardinal Vaughan School 89 Addison Road, W14 8BZ on behalf of the RBTSA alliance will be holding an Initial Teacher Training Recruitment Fair. This will be an opportunity to meet with a number of schools and Alliances across London, offering a variety of School Direct teacher training and recruitment opportunities. There will be experts on hand to speak to you regarding suitability and the possibility of financial incentives and bursaries. The fair will be held at The Cardinal Vaughan School,. If you are interested in attending this event, please email [brooksh@cvms.co.uk](mailto:brooksh@cvms.co.uk).

### Other items of interest

The John Henry Newman school in Stevenage would like to warmly extend the invitation to all senior members of our church community, to attend our pantomime show of 'Beauty and the Beast', and join us in continuing with the season of merriment and cheer. Ticket funds go towards the charity KiSS Kiddie Support Scheme and you could collect it and

donate (suggested £5) on arrival – please ring the school reception to reserve a place on 01438 314643 and state your preferred time – we are unable to put on transport but perhaps you could link with someone from church and come out together – we hope to see you there!

Monday 15th January - 7 pm

Tuesday 16th January - 4 pm

Wednesday 17th January - 7 pm

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**CAFOD** **Power to be:** CAFOD's "Power to be" campaign has been going for a few months calling on the World Bank to ensure renewable energy access for the world's poorest people. Over the month of January cards will still be available to be signed at some masses in our parish, and the petition can be signed on-line on: <https://e-activist.com/page/7676/petition/1>

Local renewable energy is usually the most effective way to power clinics, schools, homes and businesses, and helps give every child the opportunity to achieve their potential. Over 25,000 people from all dioceses have added their names to the campaign so far, and the World Bank is starting to respond. Please help us keep up the pressure, on behalf of the one in six people worldwide who don't have the energy they need to power their homes, schools, clinics and businesses.

For news and information see: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Power-to-be/Energy-campaign>

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**Lent Groups 2018** Churches Together in Hitchin has agreed to run Lent groups this year. The study guide is from the Cover to Cover series entitled *Fleeting Shadows: How Christ Transforms the Darkness* by Malcolm Duncan. If you would like to host a group or lead a group please would you let me know by Monday 22 January. Lent is early this year! It starts on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. If you are an existing Bible study group and would like to pause what you are studying and join in this course just during Lent, up to Easter, then please let me know. It's an opportunity to meet people from other Christian traditions which can give different insights to God's word. Helen Richardson [helenwrigh@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrigh@btinternet.com) 07880 682681

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**Millers Café** is for those who have been 'through the mill'. It is an opportunity to drop in, to share a coffee and to be offered a listening ear for those who've experienced life changing conditions either themselves or through a loved one. Millers Café will be open on the 1st Monday

of each month between 2-4pm and the 3rd Wednesday of each month between 10am-12pm at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. This is an ecumenical endeavour and we are hoping to gather two small teams of volunteers to be tea and coffee makers, and/or listeners to be alongside people. If you would be interested in volunteering please contact either Val Chamberlain (01462 458827 or [valchamberlain2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:valchamberlain2000@yahoo.co.uk)) if you would like to help on Mondays, or Mary Hollingdale (07759195487 or [memholl@aol.com](mailto:memholl@aol.com)) if you would like to help on Wednesdays.

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If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a **St Frai Helper**. Some of our sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in a hospital-like building called the Accueil St Frai in the centre of Lourdes. It is well-equipped for their care and they are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteer St Frai Helpers.

The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. This includes helping the pilgrims get up and ready in the morning; making large amounts of tea; taking the pilgrims to various pilgrimage events; shopping and socialising with them and other helpers; and putting them to bed at night. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends. Helping in the St Frai is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. Working in the St Frai is an opportunity to give our care and company to our pilgrims and make a huge difference in their lives.

If you're interested in helping in the St Frai in Lourdes, please email Nick Leonard and team at [westminsterstfrai@gmail.com](mailto:westminsterstfrai@gmail.com) This is a marvellous opportunity and a wonderful witness to the call of the gospel. 18 is the starting age, but there really is no upper age limit, as long as the volunteer is fit and able and keen to help. We will be going out to Lourdes on Saturday 21st July and will return on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 63

*The transmission of life and the rearing of children* With special gratitude the Church 'supports families who accept, raise and surround with affection children with various disabilities.' (Relatio Synodi 2014, 57)

