

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 1770

20th January – 27th January 2018 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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 Euloge Kasine Assistant Priest | 07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com |
| Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support | 07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk |
| Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest | 01462 459126 |
| Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett <i>also Safeguarding Rep</i> | 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 |

Diary

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| Sunday 21st | Coffee Morning – One World Group |
| | Confirmation Session 2 LCR 6pm |
| | Unity Service Church & Hall 6.30pm |
| Monday 22nd Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm | Parents and Toddlers 9.15am |
| | Meditation UCR 11.45am |
| Tuesday 23rd Scouts 7-9pm | Morning Prayer Church 9.30am |
| | Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-4pm |
| | RE Session LCR 5.30pm Eucharistic Service 7.15pm |
| Wednesday 24th | Rosary Church 9.30am |
| | RCIA – EC 7.30pm |
| | Liturgy Meeting LCR 7pm |
| Thursday 25th | Italian Club Hall 1pm |
| | Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm |
| | Choir 8pm |
| Friday 26th | Parents & Toddlers 9.15am |
| | Lectio Divina – EC 2pm |
| Sunday 28th | Coffee Morning – Diapalante |

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5.10, Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Entrance Antiphon: O Sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways!

Intercession: Remember your mercy Lord!

Response: Teach us your paths!

Next week: Deut 18:15-20, Cor 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 4

CAFOD collection will be taken after all Masses this weekend. Gift aid envelopes are available from the collectors.

There will be a second collection next weekend (27th/28th January) in aid of Racial Justice.

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 Chaplain 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.

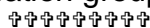
If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.



Ramblings For Reflection: Nicky Gumble, the great inspiration behind the Alpha, begins his talk by reminding us the Gospel is Good News, but we often fail to give that impression. Mark's Gospel says it twice in two sentences and opens his gospel with the words "This is the Good News of Jesus Christ". We might not think that Jonah's message to the Ninevites was Good News, it involved fasting and penance, but it was good news because it won them life with God. *"There once was a poor rice farmer, who owned a field just large enough to feed his family. One day a herd of wild horses came running through the village, into the farmer's rice field, and got stuck in the mud. Since they could not get away, they were his. His neighbour came and said, "This is good news! Such good fortune! You are rich, this is amazing!" The rice farmer said, "Good news, bad news, who knows?" A few weeks later the farmer's young son jumped up on one of the wild horses, only to be thrown off and break his leg. The neighbour comes and says, "Oh no, this is such bad news!" And the farmer said, "Bad news, good news, who knows?" A week later a Chinese General marches into the village to conscript every healthy young person. So, he took every boy in the village except the farmer's son because his leg was broken. The neighbour came and said, "This is wonderful news, how lucky are you?!" And the father replies, "Good news, bad news, who knows?" The Gospel for us, if we accept it, is always **Good News!***



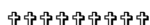
The proceeds from Sunday's One World Group coffee morning will be donated to Pax Christi, the Catholic peace education group.



Our next **Baptism Course** is Sunday 25th Feb 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).



Our Comeback Prayer Group has launched. This group of parishioners will pray one day a month for people to return to faith with Our Lord. A few days are not covered so if you are willing to pray for a short time on one day per month please speak to Trish or Mike Edwards and we will provide you with a prayer pack.



Adults Race Night at Our Lady School Saturday 3rd February -

Doors open 7.30pm £10 entry including Chip Shop Supper Please contact ourladyspta@gmail.com for tickets. Bar and soft drinks available.



June and the Welbury Family would like to thank everyone for their support and care, over a very difficult time. Your cards, messages of sympathy and prayers were much appreciated. Thanks to everyone who came to the funeral and helped to make a sad occasion a happy celebration of Graham's life.



A Message from @livesimply the team: Last Sunday was Peace Sunday and to mark it Pax Christi, the Catholic peace organisation has created a new Peace Prayer Card with a prayer adapted from Laudato Si and featuring a picture of the beautiful stained glass window by John Petts which is in Birmingham, Alabama. These prayer cards are now available in the church porch. Please take one and pray for peace.



In light of the amount of flu there is around we will be leaving hand gel in the porch for parishioners to use if they wish. Eucharistic Ministers will also be using hand gel before giving out communion.



The Lost Property will be cleared and appropriately recycled at the end of this week. Please check for any items you may have left.



Counters urgently needed We have a group of counting teams who count the offertory collections on a Sunday evening another who count the non-offertory monies on a Monday morning. Both teams are in need of helpers for this really important job to count the parish income. The commitment is once every 4-6 weeks so not too onerous. If you can help let Trish know asap.



There are still places available for the parish **Lourdes Pilgrimage on 18-22 June 2018**. If you are interested in going please contact Owen McFarlane on **07982640187**. There will be a meeting for all pilgrims on Wed 31st Jan 7pm in the Lower Committee room to discuss what we want from our pilgrimage. Please come along if you are still considering coming.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 64

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)

