



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 1772

3rd February – 10th February 2018 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Sunday 4 th	Coffee Morning – Parents & Toddlers
	Confirmation Session 4 Hall 6pm
Monday 5 th Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents and Toddlers 9.15am
	Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 6 th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-4pm
	RE Session LCR 5.30pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
Wednesday 7 th	FHC Session 1 Hall 7.30pm
	Rosary Church 9.30am
Thursday 8 th	RCIA – EC 7.30pm
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
Friday 9 th	Choir 8pm
	Parents & Toddlers 9.15am
Sunday 11 th	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
	Coffee Morning – KISS

Readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7, Cor 9:16-19,22-23, Mark 1:29-39

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted!

Intercession: The Lord raises the lowly

Response: Lord, hear our prayer!

Next week Lev 13:1-2,44-46, Cor 10:31-11.1, Mark 1:40-45

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 2
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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of the White Flower Appeal. (SPUC)
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Catholic History Walks; For King and Country! Sunday, 4 Feb, 3pm. Catholics and Politics: St Thomas More, Guy Fawkes, Pugin, Parliament and the Abbey. Meet on the steps of Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

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.
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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:

How hard it must be to walk away from fame, recognition and acclaim! Job (1st Reading) was certainly not a happy bunny. Having lost everything, he found himself isolated and alone. He lost his sense of purpose, energy, motivation and saw only a black future; abandoned, forgotten. We know that Jesus reached that point too, before his death on the cross. On reflection, we can see that Jesus' choice in the gospel was the right one. So many people with power and fame have abused their power and abused people in the process, often losing everything overnight. Too many stars have chosen the path of self-destruction with drugs and/or alcohol, stifled by the emptiness of their lives. What Jesus and Paul show us this week is that they have a purpose that is greater than any position or popularity can offer. Their purpose is simple: to be heralds and ministers of the good news of God's love and forgiveness; that, with God, you will always belong, always be valued, inspired, and encouraged and, when necessary, forgiven and healed. That you will never be alone, never. In fact, any life given and shared with and for others is reward in itself. Jesus showed this by offering his life, generously and lovingly, for us and for everyone, with no other condition than a simple Yes – like Mary. A yes that leads to life in its fullness because it is a life shared.

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Ash Wednesday 14th February, marks the beginning of Lent and is a day when Christians begin to deny themselves as a way of preparing to appreciate all the more the death and resurrection of Jesus. Churches Together in Hitchin mark this beginning by arranging a lunch for Christian Aid. It is a simple meal - soup, bread, cheese, fruit - at a cost of £4 and the proceeds will support the poorest of the poor around the world. There will be a Traidcraft stall selling fairly-traded goods. This year the meal will be held in our church hall from 12.30 pm. Everyone is invited to begin Lent together by sharing this meal. If you are planning to come could you sign up on the board in the porch so we have an idea of numbers.

Trish would be grateful for help in preparing and serving this meal. Please speak to her about this asap.

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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).



Churches Together in Hitchin Lent Groups

have been arranged. The sign-up sheet is now available in the porch. Joining a group for a weekly Lent group provides an ideal opportunity to meet people from other traditions in friendly informal groups to discuss a particular part of the Bible. The course is *Fleeting Shadows: How Christ Transforms the Darkness* by Malcolm Duncan. It connects the Shepherd's Psalm 23 and Jesus the Good Shepherd in John's Gospel. Those who have joined a group in previous years have found it very thought provoking and also made new friends!

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Our **Health and Safety** inspection was very successful thanks to the hard work of John Chamberlain in preparing us for readiness, following on from the great work done by many people over the year. The summary report states "The standards of safety in this Parish is high which reflects all the good work done so far, with relatively few remaining improvements that are reasonable." Thanks to everyone for helping to maintain these standards.

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Mass in Thanksgiving for Matrimony for couples celebrating 5th 10th 25th 30th 40th 50th 60th and 60th+ wedding anniversaries at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3 pm** Please let Cheryl, the parish administrator know the following details:



names, wedding date, full postal address, email address (or if not, a telephone number). Cheryl needs to send all this information to the Marriage and Family Life office by 24th March so please don't miss out on this lovely occasion to celebrate your anniversary with others from around the Diocese.

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We are delighted to say that we now have 31 people all praying on one day per month for the return to faith of those who have turned away or lapsed. We would be even more delighted if we could have **two** people praying each day. So if you would like to be a part of this initiative please speak to Trish or Mike Edwards and we will supply you with a prayer pack. Thanks to all those in our parish who are already praying.

We still need **Children's Liturgy Team** helpers and leaders at the 10.30 Mass. You do not need to be a catechist or teacher but you do need to feel comfortable about talking to children about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Training for being a part of the team is 'on the job' and materials for the liturgy are all provided. Please speak to Trish or Maeve.

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New choir members

welcome. If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on Thursday evening for the practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. **We have a particular need for male bass voices.** If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



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Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2018 Places are still available for a 5 day Pilgrimage with our parish on **18th – 22nd 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 and includes:

- Return flights and airport duties from Stansted to Lourdes
- 4 nights full board at 4* Hotel Padoue shared room (single supplement £115)
- Half day excursion to Bartres
- Lourdes city tax
- Northern star travel representative

We have arranged a coach from the church to Stansted which will have an additional charge of approx £35 (the more who come the lower this goes!)

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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Live-in au pair wanted for a parishioner. English/Spanish speaking family with two boys aged 9 & 11. Required from February – April (possibly longer) Contact Yamile **07813 822645**

Dates for Diary

Monday 5 February

2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All are welcome.

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2-4pm Millers Café now open for business, is for those who have been 'through the mill'. Held at Walsworth Road Baptist church, 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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7.30 for 8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council meeting at The New Testament Church of God on the corner of William Road and Hampden Road - tea/coffee from 7.30 pm. There will be a few items of business and report, then a session led by John Maguire, the new CTH Chair, on 'Bridging the age gaps', including the results of a questionnaire sent round to a number of people old and young and in-between! All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 6 February

7.30pm First Holy Communion session for parents in the hall. The books will be available for purchase so please bring your cash (max £15 including £3 for the sacramental passport).

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8pm UCM AGM in the Lower Committee Room

Wednesday 7 February

11am Mass at Elmside. All are welcome.

Thursday 8 February

10am St Pio Group Mass and afterwards in the LCR until 12 noon.

Future Dates

February Adult Faith Formation

February at the Niland Centre (Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Way, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE)

Ways of Praying - Imaginative Prayer (Jesuit tradition) - Wednesday, **7 February (7.30-9pm)** with Sr Anne OP, Sr Martina OP & Cecilia Finn. Suggested donation £5.

Signs of Hope - A morning reflection with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver Thursday, **22 February (10am-12.30pm)**. Suggested donation £6.

In association with the Agency for Evangelisation:

Formation for Ministers of the Word - (Sr Karen Marguerite OP) Saturday, **24 February 10am-3pm** (Holy Mass, Fr Chris Vipers, Agency for Evangelisation) Feed your spirit and inform your ministry. Suggested donation £14. Bring a packed lunch.

Pope Francis and the Evangelising Mission of the Church - Monday, **26 February 11am-1pm** with Brian Purfield. Suggested donation £4

Refreshments provided at all events. Registrations welcome 020 8950 4000 or nilandcentre@gmail.com

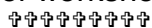
Feb 12 2pm Catholic History Walks; Lift up your heads, O Gates! Explore the varied and fascinating history of the City of London - the Square Mile, from its ancient origins, as a Catholic capital, and then to the Reformation and beyond. Meet at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Southwark. SE1 1TA. Nearest Tube: Borough or London Bridge.

Mar 1 7.30pm St David's Day concert in aid of **The Passage** at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Full details to book are on the website www.passage.org.uk or telephone 020 75921856 or email info@passage.org.uk

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. If interested please email brooksh@cvms.co.uk.

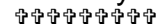
Other items of interest

Parish evangelisation workshops Do you want to actively share your faith, to be a missionary disciple? The Evangelisation Workshops this spring will explore ways to inspire us to become more 'missionary' in our approach. See poster in porch for full details of workshops.



Mission Direct is an international Christian organisation, based in Hitchin. It sends teams of volunteers to support projects in some of the poorest parts of the world. It is recruiting a Volunteer Engagement Officer and is keen to hear from members of Hitchin churches who might be interested. It is also keen to hear from anyone who is interested in administration support for about 16 hours a week on a temporary basis initially. Contact Jackie Johnston on 01582 720056 for more details or go to www.missiondirect.org

Former parishioner Brendan Carley died on Monday, 29th January aged 89. Before they moved to Langford, he and Rita (née Wilding) were both active in the Hitchin Catholic parish for many years. May he rest in peace.



World Youth Day 2019 in Panama

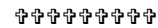
Age: 18-35 years

Price: £2,400 (support

options available)

Dates: 20 -30 January 2019 For full details;

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



Ready, steady, walk around the world!

Pope Francis has called us to step up our support for refugees and migrants. Inspired by his message, we invite you to join our campaign Share the Journey. Here are five ways you can get involved:

1. Download your guide and walk a mile or two in solidarity with refugees and migrants. Together we aim to walk 24,900 miles – the distance around the world
2. Check out our miles totaliser to see how far Catholics around the country have already walked
3. Pray for refugees
4. Read our factsheet on refugees and migrants
5. Watch this video from Pope Francis calling us to embrace refugees and migrants

For all details of above please go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey>

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 66

The transmission of life and the rearing of children "The overall education of children is a 'most serious duty' and at the same time a 'primary right' of parents. The Church assumes a valuable role in supporting families, starting with Christian initiation, through welcoming communities." (Code of Canon Law c 1136, Relatio Synodi 2014,61)

