



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 1773

10th February – 17th February 2018 – 6th 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 also Safeguarding Rep	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: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Diary

Sunday 11 th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 12 th Half Term	Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 13 th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
Wednesday 14 th Ash Wednesday	Rosary Church 9.30am
	Ash Wednesday Lunch Hall 12.30 NO RCIA
Thursday 15 th	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
	Choir 8pm
Friday 16 th	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Saturday 17 th	Marriage Course Hall – All day
Sunday 18 th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

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

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.
Psalm: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.
Intercession: Lord, we ask for your healing
Response: Lord, we hope in you!

Next week: Gen 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15



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.

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 3

Ash Wednesday 12.30pm we are hosting 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. If you are planning to come could you sign up on the board in the porch.

The Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal will begin next week (17th/18th February) and continue through Lent.

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: Each time we attend mass we acknowledge that we are “sinners”, in need of forgiveness. Leprosy is the key word this week, a disease that gradually eats away the body, until parts of it disappear completely, taking a long time to do so. In Jesus day, lepers were cast out from the community. Unable to work, they depended on members of the community providing them with food and clothing. Leprosy, then, is a clear example of what sin does. It corrodes our lives, our virtues and values. It undermines belief, hope, trust, and purpose in life. It leads us to believe that we no longer belong, that we are separated from the community (and family) and gradually our goodness, love, value and dignity disappear. However, there is also the social sin of leprosy. When the community excludes people who do not fit in: the refugee, the homeless, the mentally ill, the misfits, and turns them into object groups or statistics rather than treat them as people who seek welcome, to be valued, to belong, to be respected and treated with dignity - just as we do. In recognising that we are sinners, we belong to both groups. We now understand better that Jesus gave his life that we might have life to the full, a life given to be shared with others, without exception. Jesus always condemned the sin, never the sinner, because he saw the inherent goodness and richness living within us all just as he did in the leper in the gospel.

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Fairtrade in our parish

Our Lady's is a Fairtrade parish. So what this means is that we encourage all our parishioners to use products that are produced in ethical ways with the workers who produce the goods being paid fairly for the work they do. All parish groups who use our facilities should be using Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar and other Fairtrade products whenever possible. Outside groups using our facilities should also be encouraged to use fairtrade products. To remind us of this we are having two Fairtrade events.

14th February at our Ash Wednesday lunch the Traidcraft stall will be available for people to stock up on their fairtrade products.

4th March the coffee mornings after Mass will be stocked entirely by Fairtrade goods and the Traidcraft stall will be available also. We need help to make cakes with fairtrade goods for this coffee morning. If you are willing to help bake please stock up on Fairtrade goods - sugar, fruit etc for use in baking from the stall on Ash Wednesday and also **Sun 18th Feb** when the stall has its monthly appearance after morning Masses



We also need people to help with the coffee mornings on the 4th March so if you are able to do that and/or bake please can you let Trish or Frances Chamberlain know.

All proceeds from the coffee morning will be going to the purchase of Fairtrade Gifts For Life, for example, Education, Health, Clean Water, Farming. In particular this is attractive idea as the website says....Between 12th January and 11th April, the donations which buy these lovely cards will be DOUBLED by the UK Government as part of Traidcraft Exchange's Hidden Entrepreneur appeal. This means Traidcraft Exchange can reach twice as many people living in poverty! This Lent let's make a real effort to change make our purchases Fairtrade goods whenever possible.

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Thank God that parishioner John Chamberlain, who also is involved with the computers and all manner of DIY activities in the parish, survived a recent heart attack. He has written a piece about the episode as a reminder to us all to not ignore the hints. You can find this on the parish website. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/new>

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Sunday 18th February 12 noon, Our Lady's parish is presenting a plaque with a quotation about peace ("Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer Everyone can be an artisan of peace") for the Quakers Peace Garden at the Friend's Meeting house. We invite parishioners to join Fr Tom for this occasion to show our support and commitment to Peace in our community and our world.

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Dates for the diary

Monday 12 February

7pm-8pm LCR Good Friday Stations of the Cross A meeting to explore a liturgy for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. All parishioners, all ages welcome. The traditional **Stations of the Cross on Good Friday** evening led by the confirmation candidates is changing. We hope that many people in the parish will get involved in this special service. We invite all our parishioners younger and older (and hopefully lots of the current confirmation candidates) to join us to plan this service. Please do come along with your ideas and skills.

Wednesday 14 February

2.30pm Mass with distribution of ashes at Foxholes. All are welcome.

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Praise Group Meeting after Mass in the LCR.