



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 1774
17th February – 24th February 2018 – 1st Sunday of Lent



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: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday 18th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
Monday 19th Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents and Toddlers 9-11.15am Christian Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 20th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Meeting Hall 10am Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm RE Session LCR 5.30pm Eucharistic Service 7.15pm UCM Hall 8pm
Wednesday 21st	Rosary Church 9.30am RCIA EC 7.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm Choir 8pm
Friday 23rd	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Sunday 25th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG

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

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Psalm: O your ways Lord are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Intercession: In your love remember us

Response: You are God, our Saviour!

Next week: Gen 22:1-2.9-13.15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10



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.

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 4
††††††††††
No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
††††††††††



CAFOD just one world collections will be taken after all Masses this weekend. Gift Aid envelopes available from the collectors

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.

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

The Lenten Journey is not separate from our normal faith journey but a continuation of it in a particular setting; providing an opportunity to reflect on our faith in the light of Jesus life, passion, death and resurrection. God tells Noah (and us) of his desire to open us to the rich colours of life, as a rainbow reveals the true colours in light. Lent offers us the opportunity to enhance those rich gifts of life with which we are blessed. Being subjects of God (St Paul) is a blessing not some kind of servitude. It means being subject to God's great love and goodness, subject to his desire for us to have a full life. It means finding the positive in both happiness and suffering, in success as well as failure and becoming stronger through them all. Jesus went into the desert not to be tempted but to discern what God wanted of him, to be clear about his Father's will. Lent encourages us to do the same. Since God is both around and within us, raising our minds and hearts in prayer means focusing on God's presence. Fasting provides the opportunity to change what we do and how we live so as to focus on God – this, too, is prayer. Jesus' almsgiving involved reaching out to those in need, recognising God's presence in them. We can do this too. Lent seeks to lead us to encounter God in everything, providing us with many great ways to pray!

††††††††††



We pray for **Gillian Glenholme** whose funeral is on **Friday 23 February at 12 noon** here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at Hitchin Cemetery. We also pray for **Winifred Obidiaso** whose burial will take place in Africa. There will be a Requiem Mass for Winifred here in the church on **Saturday 24 February at 4pm**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

††††††††††

Message from the livesimply team

In order to continue to uphold the principles for which we were given the livesimply award, we are planning to give the parish a livesimply tip on a monthly basis. This will be something practical and 'do-able' - not some very worthy but possibly, for some, completely unattainable goal such as 'Grow all my own vegetables to reduce costs associated with transporting vegetables over long distances'. Our tips will normally be at the start of the month when we have a two page newsletter.

This month our tip will be in next week's newsletter. If anyone has a tip they would like to pass on, please email oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks for your kind donations to the White Flower Appeal. A total of £198.99 was raised.

††††††††††

Meditations on the Stations of the Cross from the Livesimply team.

There will be a series of five meditations on the Stations of the Cross during Lent, one per week on Mondays starting 19th February until 19th March. It will be shown in the church on an hourly loop from 2pm until 8pm to allow people to pop in throughout the day. Each week we will consider three of the Stations from different spiritual traditions. For each Station we will hear a scripture passage followed by a commentary on it followed by a brief period of silent reflection. Each Station will be reflected on using excerpts from the writings of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, the martyred Conscientious Objector, translations of Gospel passages and questions for reflection by the well-known Biblical scholar, Fr Nicholas King SJ and finally with a focus on Care for Creation with material mainly from the writings of Pope St John Paul II. The sessions will last approximately one hour.

††††††††††

The **Eucharistic Training booklet** has been updated following input from a variety of interested parties. Eucharistic Ministers have been emailed with a copy but for those who are not on email can collect a copy of the updated EM training booklet from the link where the rotas are kept.

††††††††††

Our next gardening session is on Saturday 3rd March from 9am - 12pm.



We are in desperate need of new helpers as many of our faithful regulars are unable to continue gardening with us.

If you would like to get involved with the gardening team, please either turn up on Saturday 3rd March from 9am and join us or email Helen Bailey at hbailey@talktalk.net if you would like further information. We generally meet once a month on the First Saturday of the month, but anyone can come at any time to suit you.

††††††††††

This is an appeal from the Bethany Club for more volunteers, due to ill health, age related reasons we have recently lost several volunteers, it would be a pity to lose the club which gives so much to so many if you can help please contact Jeannie Sherriffs on Hitchin 813255.

The CTH ecumenical Ash Wednesday lunch hosted in our church was a huge success with about 70 people attending from churches all over Hitchin. It was a truly joyful occasion and was a wonderful way to begin Lent. Many thanks to all those who provided soup for the occasion and helped to serve and clean up. £234 was raised for Christian Aid and the Traidcraft stall took £113 also.

+++++

A Call to Young Adults

Your Bishops Want to Hear From You

Cardinal Vincent and the auxiliary bishops of the diocese are inviting **Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30**, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops - 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and the auxiliary bishops are hosting meetings across the diocese. You are invited to attend one of these meetings. They will involve discussion of the synod theme, an opportunity to question your bishops, and light refreshments. Please do consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people in the future. If you would like to attend, please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

+++++

Mass in Thanksgiving for Matrimony 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.

+++++

Comeback prayer group

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 per day praying, 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.



Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly

shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladyrchitchin>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

+++++

Text Giving A new way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone !!Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 20 February

8pm UCM Meeting in the hall.

Thursday 22 February

2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. Please note date change from 20 Feb

Friday 23 February

The Holy Father has announced that today is to be kept as a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Future Dates

Feb 24 11am – 5pm **LOVE HEALS BODY MIND AND SPIRIT TEAM** Welcome you to come to a one day Retreat of quiet Reflection. The Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street, Piccadilly, W1F 9JR. Rosary, Latin Mass, Lunch (Please bring your own Lunch - Tea and Coffee available). Scripture Talk - Christian Meditation - Blessed Adoration. Healing Prayers - Praise & Worship.

Feb 26 On Monday 26 March the local Amnesty group in conjunction with Hitchin Films has arranged a screening of 'Human Flow', the response of Ai Wei Wei, the Chinese artist and activist, to the global refugee crisis. This is at the Queen Mother theatre studio at 8pm. For more information and to buy tickets <https://www.hitchinfilms.co.uk/>

Feb 28 7.30 - 9.15pm **Herts Welcomes Syrian Families AGM** at The Vineyard Church St Albans, 7 Ashley Road, Brick Knoll Park, Ashley Road Industrial Estate, St Albans AL1 5UG Refreshments and registration 7.00

The focus of the evening will be 'Syrian Voices', a chance to hear the experiences of individuals now resettled in Hertfordshire, including from a member of one of our local families.

Mar 2 1.30pm **Women's World Day of Prayer service** Churches Together in Hitchin is marking this international day of prayer with a service at The New Testament Church of God (corner of William Road and Hampden Road). The theme this year, chosen by the women of Suriname in South America, is **All God's Creation is Very Good!** and the service will include prayers, reflections and music from that part of the world. All are welcome - and that includes men!

March 8-11 **Men's Silent Retreat: Finding God in Daily Life** This retreat is for adult men, single or married, of any age. It will be directed by a priest and a lay man from Opus Dei. Meditations and talks will be given on the central themes of the Catholic faith. For more information, please visit: www.dowryhouse.org.uk

Mar 16-18 **Walsingham Spirituality Retreat 1** Join us for the first of a series of 4 weekends on Walsingham Spirituality. Accompaniment and talks will be given by the sisters of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, enabling retreatants to enter more deeply into the spirituality of Walsingham and, in particular, what it means to accept God's will in one's life. For more information, please visit: www.dowryhouse.org.uk

April 20-22 **Beginning Experience Healing weekend** for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner from 20th to 22nd April 2018 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For more details please telephone Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

Other items of interest

Lunchtime recitals at Central Methodist Church, Pixmore Way, Letchworth, SG6 3TR on **Fridays from 16th Feb – 23rd March** **Friday March 23rd Piano**

The recital will commence at 12:30pm and last about 20 minutes and will be followed by a short talk by a guest presenter. This will then be followed by a lunch consisting of soup and roll. For the Fridays between these two dates there will be recitals with different acts.

Please be aware that these lunchtime activities are organised with Lent in mind and the music will try to reflect the mood of this occasion.

+++++

Sporting 145 are looking to recruit players for their men's team which is in its first season; but they are also always looking to increase the numbers in their 'Lions Academy' youth coaching on Saturday mornings and down the line opportunities to help with coaching these young players. Sporting 145 is described as 'a local community club with a Christian ethos'.....the men's team is based in Letchworth and plays in the Herts Senior County League. For more information contact Paul Thompson on 07796 127874 www.sporting145.com

+++++

Permanent Deacon 'Come and See'

Men wanting to know more about the Permanent Diaconate are invited to come to a two hour meeting from 10am to 12noon at: St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green on Saturday 10th March, or Ealing Abbey Saturday 14th April, or Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar Saturday 12th May. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact details Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548.

+++++

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 68

The transmission of life and the rearing of children. The Church is to help parents appreciate their proper role and to realise by their reception of the sacrament of marriage they become ministers of their children's education.

