



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 1775
24th February – 3rd March 2018 – 2nd 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

Diary	
Sunday 25th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG
	Baptism Course Hall 3pm
	Confirmation Session 5 Hall 6pm
Monday 26th Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents and Toddlers 9-11.15am
	Meditation UCR 11.45am
	Lent meditation Church 2-8pm on every hour
Tuesday 27th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
Wednesday 28th	Rosary Church 9.30am
	RCIA EC 7.30pm
Thursday 1st	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
	Choir 8pm
Friday 2nd	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Saturday 3rd	FHC Session 2 Hall 9.30am
Sunday 4th	Coffee Morning – Traidcraft
	Baptism Course Hall 3.30pm
	Confirmation Session 6 Hall 6pm



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.



Readings: Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.
Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.
Intercession: Christ Jesus, plead for us
Response: We call on your name!

Next week: Ex 20:1-17, Cor 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 1
No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.



Thank you all for your generous donations to CAFOD last weekend. A total of £934.03 was raised.

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

Seeing things in their true richness, depth and wonder, is a breath-taking experience. An experience that is hard to put into words and yet something we want to hang on to but can't. No wonder Peter wanted to build three tents, he wanted to hang on to his breath-taking revelation of Jesus, who wouldn't? Although the Transfiguration took place well on in Jesus' ministry, it is an experience possible for us during our Lenten Journey. Lent offers us an opportunity to see Jesus' presence in our lives, in our world, in others, in a completely new way. The story also reminds us that we are the beloved children of God and the importance of listening. Listening to God can be inspiring, challenging, fill us with hope as well as trepidation, encourage us and open us to our failures as well as to how God is working in and through us. It can help us see that our failures can be a blessing because they help us realise our need of God in our lives. In the twelve step programme, people own their failures; not as something to be celebrated but in order not to let the failure dictate the way they live their life. Like all of us, they recognise the need of a power greater than themselves, a power we find in Jesus, in God, and accessed through the community. Whatever else is happening in your life, join us this weekend to experience the wonderful transforming presence of Jesus!

This is an **urgent appeal** from the **Bethany Club** for more volunteers; due to ill health and 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 club has been running for nearly 40 years!

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Copies of the **Eucharistic ministry guide** are now in the link between the church and hall.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday March 1

10am St Pio Group Mass followed by a meeting in the LCR until 12 noon.

Future Dates

Mar 6 7.30pm: The One World Group Lenten Meditation will be led this year by Fr Euloge in the Lower Common Room. The Meditation will be followed by a Lenten Supper. All are welcome to come. Any donations made will go to a charity nominated by Fr Euloge.

Other Items

NEW JOB VACANCIES are on the job vacancy page on the parish website.

7th HITCHIN OUR LADY'S BROWNIES The Parish would like to thank Clare Fletcher who is stepping down as Guider of the pack. For many years Clare has run Parish the pack helping the girls experience the fun and friendship that Girlguiding has to offer. We are pleased to welcome Maggie Joslin as the new Guider.

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Spanish after school club on Monday's at 4.30pm. 1 hour of fun learning Spanish. Children from 5 to 10 years old. Full CRB. We offer a free trial. Contact me on spanishmontse@yahoo.co.uk

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Catholic People's Weeks (CPW) 2018 - In the Link are copies of this years' CPW programme of events for Families and for Adult. Do take a copy and see the range of opportunities for fellowship and discussion to revitalise the heart, mind and spirit of Catholic people today. For more information contact Greg Hewitson

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 **Tip of the month for February** – Cut down or stop buying drinks sold in plastic bottles or non recyclable coffee cups. Carry a stainless-steel travel mug or water bottle at all times for coffee and other drinks while out and about. We are fortunate in the UK that our tap water is perfectly drinkable.

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Thank you all for your most generous donations made to the Special Collections throughout 2017. Listed below is a list of the charities and the amounts collected:

Catholic Communications:	£ 227.73	Catholic Education Service:	£ 220.52
Catholic Youth Service:	£209.43	Holy Places:	£ 427.00
Lenten Alms:	£ 303.08	Peters Pence:	£ 211.66
Racial Justice:	£ 215.87	Sick & Retired Priests:	£ 745.71
Priests Training Fund:	£ 638.84	Day for Life:	£ 271.13
Pax Christi:	£ 316.73	Growing in Faith:	£ 240.00
Apostleship of the Sea:	£ 504.02	CAFOD:	£4229.53
Crib:	£ 236.31	Mission Appeal:	£ 195.61
KISS:	£ 805.73	Solar Aid:	£ 695.05
Mexico Appeal:	£2570.79	Missio:	£ 490.51

Paid out to Poor & Needy £1428.33

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 69

The transmission of life and the rearing of children 'In educating their children, parents build up the Church, and in so doing, they accept a God-given vocation.' (John Paul II Familiaris Consortio 1981)

