



# 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 1776

3<sup>rd</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 <a href="mailto:thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk">thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine Assistant Priest	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest	01462 459126
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett <i>also Safeguarding Rep</i>	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Susanna Hawksley <b>Catechetics</b>	<a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	<a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>

## Diary

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Traidcraft
	Baptism Course Hall - 3.30pm
	Confirmation Session 6 Hall - 6pm
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Beavers 6-7pm</b> <b>Cubs 7.15-8.15pm</b>	Parents and Toddlers - 9-11.15am
	Meditation UCR - 11.45am
	Lent meditation Church - 2-8pm on every hour
	PPC Meeting LCR – 7pm
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Scouts 7-9pm</b>	Morning Prayer Church - 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm
	RE Session LCR – 5.30pm
	Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm
	One World Group Lent meditation LCR – 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	UCM Hall – 8pm
	Rosary Church - 9.30am
	Finance Meeting Lounge – 7pm
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	RCIA EC - 7.30pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room - 6.30pm
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Choir - 8pm
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning - KISS
	Confirmation Session 7 Hall - 6pm

**Readings: Ex 20:1-17, Cor 1:22-25, John 2:13-25**

**Entrance Antiphon:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Psalm: You Lord have the message of eternal life.**

**Intercession:** *Help us keep your law*

**Response: Your law gives us life!**

**Next week: Chron 36:14-16.19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21**



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](mailto: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.



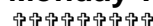
**If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.**



**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: 3 Monday Team: 2**



## 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.



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

Don't you think Moses would have taken more than 40 days and used up many more stone tablets if he had chiselled out all 10 commandments? Rather than thinking of the commandments as a set of Do's and Don'ts, think of them as a template for community living, to help us get the best out of our life together, inspired by God's caring presence and love. Showing utmost respect and honour, treating God with the greatest of dignity, will help us do the same for each other. Our Christian belief is not a badge we wear that separates us from others, quite the opposite; it is a way of life that opens us to others, instils a desire to show that everyone belongs. So we value life (from the moment of conception), we value others, especially our parents, and respect everything. Most of all, our belief reveals the holiness, the sacredness of people, of creation and ourselves, that otherness of everything we call the divine mystery. This is what we seek to uncover and reveal during Lent. How can we bear false witness, dishonour, reject, discard anyone or anything that is inherently Holy? Only with God will we ever discover the truth, depth, richness and value of ourselves and others. Our jealous God wants all to benefit. No wonder Jesus was angry at what was happening in the temple. What was happening there mirrored how people were being treated! We, too, are temples of God, of the Holy Spirit. We are places of prayer, deserving of respect, honour and dignity.

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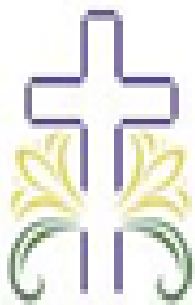


**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm** For our healing and wholeness service. Parishioners are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated. Our reflection will be a short, dramatised account of the Syro-Phoenician woman's meeting with Jesus.

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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](mailto:spanishmontse@yahoo.co.uk)

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We pray for Peter Robbins whose funeral is on Thursday 15 March 2018 at 11am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at Hitchin Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

## Stations of the Cross Good Friday

– we need your help (all parishioners – all ages) to make this service happen in its own very unique way. We need help turning an excellent outline provided by Mary Deuchar into a full service.

**Will you help?** This can be seen as a prayer for Lent and a preparation for the Lord's resurrection. Please pick up the leaflet in the porch for more details, or go to the parish website;

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/events/>

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## Planned Giving Envelopes

**boxes** for the coming year will be available for collection in the Hall after each of the Masses on the weekends of 18 and 25 March.

Parishioners who make their offering by Standing Order and would like a supply of Envelopes to use when making an additional offering during the collection at Mass can also collect Envelopes at this time.

If you have not already signed up for the Planned Giving Scheme – which plays such an important part in financing the operation of the Parish – you can do so at this time and members of the Finance Team will be on hand to provide any information you might require.

## Dates for Diary

### Monday March 5

**Mondays during Lent 2-8pm** Lent Meditation – The series of meditations devised by Ann Milner continues in the church in the area set up in front of the organ. The presentations begin on the hour from 2- 8pm. A slow walk through the stations of the cross with reflective questions to help your prayer. A lovely way to spend some thoughtful time with our Lord on our Lent journey. 2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All are welcome.

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**7.30pm** Pastoral Parish council meeting in the LCR.

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**7.45pm Can you live without the Body of Christ?** A talk on the meaning of the Eucharist by Emanuela Cardoso a member of the Shalom Community. Refreshments available after 7pm Mass. Come and rediscover the beauty and power of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. In the parish hall, SS Alban & Stephen Church, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RB



## Tuesday March 6

8pm UCM Business meeting in the Hall.

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7.30pm **The One World Group Lenten Meditation** will be led this year by Fr Euloge in the Lower Committee 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.

## Wednesday March 7

11am Mass at Elmside. All are welcome.

## Saturday March 10

### 7pm RACE NIGHT WITH SUPPER

Please come and support the JHN Trust, a charitable trust, which raises crucial funds for the school at our Race Night. Cost is £8/ticket and food options are available on Parentpay. If you are not a parent at the school but would still like to attend please ring Fiona on 07753 258903. Over 18s only Meal options available are: Fish and chips, Sausage and chips, Veggie pancake roll and chips, Cheese and onion pastry and chips.

### Future Dates

**Mar 12**

You are warmly invited to a **Week of Guided Prayer at St Mary's Church, Pirton**. It can be hugely nurturing to take part in a WGP and Lent might just be the time it's needed!

There are highly experienced Prayer Guides to walk your journey with you. You would meet with your Prayer Guide for half an hour each day – Mon to Fri – at an agreed time – morning, afternoon or evening, whatever suits you best.

All are welcome – of all denominations and none. It is an open invitation to spend some time with God each day in a beautiful 12th century building.

All our Guides are highly experienced and none are local. All conversations are totally confidential. Refreshments are available throughout of course. If you feel the Spirit might just be nudging you towards this and you would like to know more, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, on 01462711339 or

[margaret.johnsonpirton@btopenworld.com](mailto:margaret.johnsonpirton@btopenworld.com)

**Mar 17**

7pm St Patrick's Day Ceilidh in aid of The Alzheimer's Society. As part of my fundraising for The London Marathon I am holding a Ceilidh and dinner on St Patrick's Day at St Michael's Community Centre, St Michael's Road. Tickets are £20 each and include a dinner of loaded pulled pork baps or vegan bean tacos and Irish desserts. The Ceilidh is being provided by Ivel Valley Band and there will be a fully licensed bar. If you would like a ticket or any more information then please email

[Drurys26.2@outlook.com](mailto:Drurys26.2@outlook.com). Many thanks, Rachel Drury.

**Mar 18**

3pm The Friends of Holy Saviour invite you to their next "Talk & Tea" event at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd; "G.K.Chesterton: The Modern Age & the Paradoxical Thriller."

Dr Mark Knight of Lancaster University will talk on the prominent writer, journalist and thinker, - now perhaps best known for the "Father Brown" detective stories – focusing on Chesterton's early fiction including "The Man Who Was Thursday".

Tickets £8 (Friends £7) are available from Gill Chidgey 01462 423603, or the Hitchin Initiative Office. and include homemade Teatime refreshments after the talk.

**May 12**

7.30pm **Quiz Night for Christian Aid** at Christchurch, Bedford Rd, Hitchin. Fish/sausage and chip supper or vegetarian option. Tickets £11, No food £5. Teams of 6-8. For Tickets and more info contact: Sue Covington 01462 452985 [suecov63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suecov63@hotmail.co.uk) or Pauline Edwards 01462 435438



### Other items of interest

Churches together in Holwell, Ickleford and Pirton presents, **Lent 2018 'Hot Potato Talks'** in Pirton Methodist Chapel SG5 3PS

On Monday evenings during Lent from 7.30 – 9.30pm, Entry is free. Everyone is welcome.

The pattern for each session is that the speaker talks for 30 – 45 mins. This is followed by tea/coffee and chat during which people are invited to submit written questions after which there is a Q & A session.

**Monday March 5th**, Encountering God in the Creative Arts, Mrs Jane Pavey

**Monday March 12th**, Encountering God in a Multi-faith Society, Canon Michael Roden

**Monday March 19th**, Encountering God in a Broken World, Police Sergeant Keith Evans.

For more info contact: Gena Edwards, [mjohnedwards@btinternet.com](mailto:mjohnedwards@btinternet.com)

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**Lister Hospital Chaplaincy volunteers:** The Chaplaincy really need some Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go

back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Maeve Green [maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk](mailto:maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk)

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**The Comeback Prayer Group**

We have now had two people leave the Comeback prayer group (Peter Robbins passed away last week and another member is quite poorly) so we now need at least two people to join our group to bring us back to 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.

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**The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council**

invites you to explore how the Catholic Church and the LGBT community can enter into a relationship of respect, compassion, and sensitivity. We are mandated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols to develop

pastoral support for LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families within Westminster Diocese.

Using the widely-acclaimed book, **Building A Bridge**, by Father James Martin SJ, and which has been endorsed by Cardinals and bishops across the English-speaking world, we'll gather in the Farm Street Jesuit Church Parish Hall, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 3AH. Copies of the book are available at a special discount price - £10.00

The introductory meeting took place on 22 February 2018. We will now meet on a monthly basis on the following Thursdays: 22 March, 26 April, 24 May, 21 June, 26 July, 20 September, 25 October, 22 November, 20 December, & 24 January 2019.

Light refreshments will be available from 18.30 and we will start promptly at 19.00, ending by 20.30.

We warmly welcome not only members of LGBT+ communities, but also friends, family-members, others in parish congregations who exercise a pastoral role, be they lay, religious, or ordained. For catering purposes, please let us know if you plan to attend, and also if you require a copy of the book. A simple leaflet will be available at each of the sessions. Others resources will also be available for

background reading. We look forward to welcoming you to Farm Street. Martin Pendergast Facilitator & Pastoral Council member. 020 8986 0807

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**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!!

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**The Choir**

Choir members needed. If you are keen and willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a 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](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)



**Faith Development Helpline**

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Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.

**AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 70**

*The family and the Church* "With inner joy and deep comfort, the Church looks to the families who remain faithful to the teachings of the Gospel, encouraging them and thanking them for the testimony they offer."

