



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 1777
10th March – 17th March 2018 – 4th 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:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
E-mail:	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday 11th	Coffee Morning – KISS
	Baptism Course Hall - 3.30pm
	S of the Cross meeting LCR 6pm
	Confirmation Session 7 Hall - 6pm
Monday 12th 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 13th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church - 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm
Wednesday 14th	Rosary Church - 9.30am
	RCIA EC - 7.30pm
Thursday 15th Brownies 6.30-7.45	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room - 6.30pm
	Choir - 8pm
Friday 16th	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Sunday 18th	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	S of the C rehearsal Church 3pm
	Confirmation Session 8 Hall - 6pm

Readings: Chron 36:14-16.19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice Jerusalem and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.
Psalm: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!
Intercession: Help us to live by the truth
Response: Make us children of light!
Next week: Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, John 12:20-30



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: 4 Monday Team: 3

CAFOD just one world There will be a second collection next weekend (17th/18th March) after each Mass in aid of CAFOD. Gift Aid Envelopes will be available in the Porch.

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

Laetare – Rejoice! But we are only half way through our Lenten journey? Jesus talks to us about the importance of light – a light that not only reveals, it nourishes, it is uplifting, and it fills us with a joy that we are unable to fully explain because it is beyond words. This light reveals (as St Paul says) that God loves us with so much love that his mercy is infinitely generous; a mercy that not only brings us to life with Christ but also enables Christ to live within us – what joy! Moreover, this light shows that we are truly God’s work of art and that we are created to live a good life, the life that he always meant us to live. Isn’t this good news to rejoice over? I would like to call this Sunday -



‘Rainbow Sunday’. Rainbows are joyful, mysterious, and playful but rainbows need both the sun and the rain. They remind us that the light of Christ shines through the

failings, the wrongs and even the evils of life so as to bring out the true inner beauty that we are. This means that ‘everybody’ is a treasure, a beauty waiting to be revealed, waiting for the Light. Jesus, the Light, also wants us to be the light that brings out, reveals, the true beauty, the work of art, of those we encounter. We can truly rejoice that Christ’s light shines within us and through us for others!

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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. **Will you help?** This can be seen as a prayer for Lent and a preparation for the Lord’s resurrection. Please come to a meeting in the **Lower Committee Room** on Sunday evening at **6pm** after the evening Mass. (NB this is a change of time as I forgot it was Mother’s day!!!!)



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Saturday – 17th March from 12pm – 8pm there will be another event taking place in the Hall. Please bear this in mind when attending Mass that day as the **car park may be busy**. We will try to save a few spaces for those with mobility issues. You could park in the car park at Bancroft and the church will refund your parking fee. We are working on a long term solution to this inconvenience. Many thanks.

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Plea for help! We are in need of some decent DIY tools – including screwdrivers etc. If you could raid your tool boxes/garages for any items (in as good a condition as possible) and donate them to our wonderful maintenance team here, we would be mighty grateful. Thank you all.

Monday 26th March 7.30pm Passover Meal in



the Church Hall. To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a chance for us to understand more deeply our

Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome.

You need to bring a number of things with you: **a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person.** Roast lamb is provided. (You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.)

It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up on the board in the porch as we need to know numbers by **19th March** so that we can order the meat.

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We held a very successful coffee morning last Sunday to celebrate Fairtrade Week. On the Traidcraft stall, Frances and Anne took £122. On teas, coffees, cakes and raffle we took £178! Frances will now look at the Gifts for Life

(<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/gifts/by-category/charity-gifts>) and produce a list of possible gifts to purchase. The good news is that during this time period whatever we spend on Gifts for Life will be matched £ for £ by the Government so that’ll be £356. Thanks to all who made cakes and came to help run things.

Details about Fairtrade Easter

Eggs are available on a poster in the porch. These can be ordered through Frances Chamberlain frances.chamberlain@ntlworld.com tel 01462 681835 or come to the stall on Sun 18th March. Orders must reach Frances by Tues 20th March at the latest. Please leave your contact details with your order. Thank you.



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We pray for Angus Hill whose funeral is on Tuesday 13 March at 11.30am at Wallington Church in Baldock. We also pray for Roy Cleaver whose funeral is on Friday 16 March at 11.15am at St John’s Chapel at Hitchin Cemetery. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.





Help needed during Holy Week For The Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 8pm we like to have parishioners who serve us, to come forward during the

gospel to have their foot washed and wash the feet of others when sent out by Christ. Are any of you willing to witness on the night in this way. There is a practice for the service on Wednesday 28th March at 8pm which is particularly useful for anyone who has not participated in the Gospel in this way before.

We also need 8 people in the congregation to have one foot washed by the disciples sent out by Christ. You may prefer to offer to be one of these.

Could you let Trish know as soon as possible which way you are willing to help so she is certain that we have the people (and feet!) required.

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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.

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It would be appreciated if **cheques for the Easter collections** are made out to the Parish – i.e. Our Lady's Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !

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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.



Diary dates

Wednesday 14 March

~ **10.30 Praise Group Meeting Mass** in the LCR. All are welcome.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All are welcome.

Thursday 15 March

There will be **no** 10am Mass today. Peter Robbins' funeral Mass will be at **11am** and all parishioners are welcome to attend.

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10am Niland Conference Centre Lent Retreat Day - "**We want to see Jesus**" with Sister Anne Walsh OP & Sister Teresa O'Donovan OP. (ends with Holy Mass in the Priory Chapel at 2.30 pm). Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments from 9.30 am and throughout the day. Suggested donation £14. Registrations welcome but not required (nilandcentre@gmail.com or 020 8950 4000).

Future dates

Mar 21 10am-12pm Millers

Café open for business 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.



Mar 22 Building A Bridge - Monthly Thursday Evening Reflections at Farm Street Our next gathering will be on Thursday, 22 March 2018, 18.30 (refreshments/snacks) for 19.00 start - ends 20.30 - Farm Street Parish Hall, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair London W1K 3AH. Nearest Tube Stations: Bond Street / Green Park. The theme will be **DIFFERENT GIFTS - SPREAD THE WORD!**

<https://www.facebook.com/FrJamesMartin/videos/10155150909406496/>

Mar 24 11am – 5pm LOVE HEALS BODY

MIND 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. Thank you for your kind support and co-operation.

March 30 GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS AND UNITED SERVICE

Churches Together in Hitchin is organising its annual Good Friday Walk of Witness and United Service. Assemble for prayer in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30 and to walk along Bancroft and High Street for a service in Market Place .

Other items of interest

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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Current Vacancies at St. Margaret Clitherow School - spread the word! The Governing Body of this outstanding primary school are looking for a **Deputy Headteacher** to join our wonderful school with effect from September 2018. We are also looking for a **Special Needs Co-ordinator** and a **KS2 maternity cover teacher** from September 2018. Please contact Maria Streeter in the school office (01438 352863) or visit teachinherts.com for further information regarding these positions.

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St Richard Reynolds Catholic College is seeking to **recruit a Finance Officer**. For further details, please follow the link provided: <http://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk/recruitment>

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World Meeting of Families. The next World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis takes place in Dublin from 21st – 26th August. This gathering brings together couples,



families and individuals from all over the world to celebrate, pray, and reflect on the joys and challenges of marriage and family life. To find out about joining our Westminster Diocesan Group please email family@rcdow.org.uk, and to visit the World Meeting of Families website just type in www.worldmeeting2018.ie.

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CTH website and social media

Kevin Hankin is stepping down as manager of the CTH website after many years' service. We are very grateful to him for all that he has done and we are looking for someone to replace him. We also want to take the opportunity of developing the CTH Facebook and Twitter resources so that, bearing mind John Maguire's message at the meeting, we can communicate in fresh ways to all ages. If you are interested please let Trish know.

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Covenant Praise Church has closed and its services at Strathmore School have ended. Its minister, the Rev Janet Graham, has written:

This has not been an easy decision as we have enjoyed our time in ministry to our community. Some of you may be aware that we have had financial concerns in the past. At that time we took steps to enable the church to keep functioning by closing the office and changing the hours of Sunday service. This change enabled us to continue running and serving our members and community. However we were not able to make the significant changes necessary to attract enough financial resources to sustain our out goings and service our congregation. We would like to thank you for your support over the years which we have truly valued and ask for your prayers as we go through this transition.

This means that CTH is now 16 rather than 17 churches but, more important, we have lost a church with a rich ministry in music, community service, especially among victims, and much more. We give thanks for its life and pray that Janet and the members will be able to continue their pilgrimage in other places.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 70

The family and the Church "Within the family 'which could be called a domestic church' (*Lumen Gentium*, 11) one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous - even repeated - forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life." (*Relatio Synodi* 2014, 23).

