



# 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  
17<sup>th</sup> March – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent



<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<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>

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	Confirmation Session 8 Hall - 6pm
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents and Toddlers – Hall 9.30am
	Meditation UCR - 11.45am
	Lent meditation Church - 2-8pm on every hour
	OWG Meeting LCR 2.30pm
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church - 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-3pm
	RE Session LCR 5.30pm
	Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm
	Choir Church 8pm UCM Hall 8pm
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Rosary Church - 9.30am
	RCIA EC - 7.30pm
	Reconciliation Service – 7:30pm
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Brownies 6.30-7.45	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room - 6.30pm
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Parents & Toddlers – Hall - 9.30am
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	FHC Hall 9.30am
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Gardening Group
	Confirmation Session 9 Hall 6pm

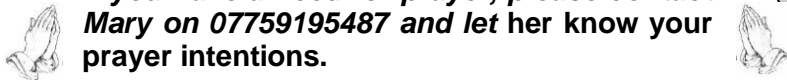


If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285138**  
Via text message: **07876 526935**  
Email: [chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net)

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.

**Readings: Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, John 12:20-30**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless from the deceitful and cunning, rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**Psalm: A pure heart create for me, O God.**

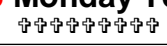
**Intercession:** Plant your law within us

**Response: Write it on our hearts!**

**Next week: Is 50:4-7, Philip 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47**

This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 4**



**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:** God was revealed to us as a relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; different in the way that we experience them but never separated from each other. Relationship is part of the very essence of the Divinity. Made in God's Image, relationship is an essential part of our humanity expressing the holiness at the heart of all our relationships. Lent brings us to focus on our relationships with God and with each other, their importance, their value, their richness, their challenge. The word 'covenant' speaks of God's loving relationship with us which never fails whatever might happen or whatever we might think. The whole of scripture (but especially in Lent) reveals that God is always faithful to his commitment, to his love for us. The Law Jesus speaks of is also about love. The Law shows us how best to live, share, and express this love which has been written into our hearts and is part of our very essence. Love lies at the heart of our suffering for others, and, the more we suffer with and for others, the more we are captured by the power of that love. Yes, Jesus died for our sins. Yet all the suffering he endured still pales into insignificance in comparison to his love for us. No wonder we seek to make this love of Jesus more present in our lives - whatever the cost.

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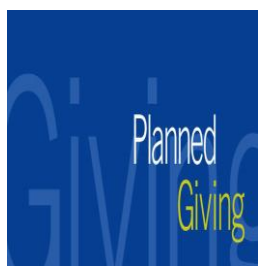


collection will take place after all Masses this weekend. Gift Aid

envelopes are available from the collectors. We are still in the period where the government will double our donations so we hope this Lent will be a good one for Cafod.

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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 (except 6pm) on this weekend and all Masses next weekend. 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.



Proceeds from Sunday's One World Group coffee morning will go to 'Herts Welcomes Refugees' a local organisation supported by many people in the parish.

On Sunday the Traidcraft stall will be in the hall after the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses for all your fairtrade needs.



**Details about Fairtrade Easter Eggs** are available on a poster in the porch. These can be ordered through Frances Chamberlain

[frances.chamberlain@ntlworld.com](mailto:frances.chamberlain@ntlworld.com) tel 01462 681835 or come to the stall on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> March. Orders must reach Frances by Tues 20<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. Please leave your contact details with your order. Thank you.

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There will be a second collection next weekend (24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> March) in aid of Church Flowers for Easter.

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The Easter service times sheet is available in the porch. Please take a copy or the details of all our services can be found on the parish website

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The CTH Easter service times booklet would normally have been available for us to distribute along various roads this weekend. However, they will not be available until next weekend which gives us only a very short time to reach the roads. Please do take a couple of packs and deliver them. It is our opportunity to reach out to the people of Hitchin and welcome them to our Holy Week services. We can only do that if these booklets are delivered so please, please make a note to pick a couple of packs up next weekend. Thank you in anticipation.

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**Help needed** during Holy Week For The Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm 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.

**Altar of repose** We need help on Maundy Thursday morning after morning prayer to set up the altar of repose (move the altar from the bereavement area into the church hall and set up the plants around it to remember Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. If you have any large green plants you could lend for this display please could you bring them to the church on the by 10.30am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March. You can take them back anytime on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

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**Message from Fr Euloge:**

Just some words to express my gratitude for the meditation and donation of the members. The donation was £145 and I have already sent the money to the group ULCDDI . May you find below their word of thanks, which was in French. Here is the translation:

We, members of the ULCDDI charity, sincerely thank the members of the One World group of the Our Lady Immaculate and Saint Andrew parish of Hitchin / England for their spiritual and material support. We are very grateful to receive \$ 170 from their individual offerings to support our charity.

We also say thank you to Father Euloge and Katsuva Kasine who has agreed to lead the recollection of the One World group and for recommending that the group donation be paid to our Charity. We thank him for thinking of us and carrying us in his heart. We will strengthen our self-financing by making more beehives.

May God bless the members of One World group. May God bless Father Euloge. May the love of God win the world. Bursar, Co-ordinator

Thank you indeed. Shalom and may God's love win the world as they have underlined in their letter.

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**Stations of the Cross – Good Friday**

Help needed with reading, movement in the service (mime and tableaux) creation of PowerPoint slides. The first rehearsal is Sunday at 3pm in the church. Please do come along to help.



The type of help that is needed is:

- Reading (12 people)
  - Taking part in a tableau (6 people)
  - Speaking part in the crowd (congregation) (12 people)
  - Power point design (6 PowerPoints)
  - Finding appropriate pictures for some of the stations
  - Operating the music
  - Operating the lights
- If you are willing to help with any of this please let Trish know asap and come on Sunday if you can.

We pray for James Campbell whose funeral is on Tuesday 27 March at 11.15am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at St John's Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 **19<sup>th</sup> March** so that we can order the meat.

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**The Passion of Jesus**



The Passion of Jesus from Trafalgar Square on Good Friday will be streamed live in to our church at 12pm-1.30pm. After the Walk of Witness you may want to stay for this event in our church. Grateful thanks to Michael Eltringham for arranging this.

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Choir members needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Tuesday 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)



Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church. Please note re collection of old pens that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that EDAID collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or EDAID have a coffee morning.



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**Church Cleaning** We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday or Saturdays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves.

If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email Hannah Granger at [steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk)

### Diary dates

#### Tuesday 20 March

**2.30pm** Mass at Milford Lodge. All are welcome.

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**8pm** UCM - Tuesday 20 March - Lenten service with Sisters Elizabeth and Helen in Lower committee room.

#### Wednesday 21 March

**7:30pm** - Reconciliation Service

### Future dates

#### April 20 to 22 Beginning Experience Weekend

- There is a 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 [johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk)



### Other items of interest

#### Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service 30th March

The Churches Together in Hitchin Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service will take place on the 30th March. We will gather for prayer by the bandstand in Bancroft Gardens at 10.30am and then walk behind crosses along Bancroft and High Street for a united service in Market Place at 11am. Members of all churches are invited to take part in this significant act of witness on one of the most sacred days in the Christian year.

A parishioner, Laura Lambie is looking for cleaning and baby sitting work, available weekends and early mornings before 10am. Contact her on: 07729671594.

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An elderly male parishioner is looking for care help. Quite flexible but usually 30-60 mins mornings and evenings. 8am and 8pm. Good rate of pay. For more details please contact Pauline Watkins [pauline-watkins@hotmail.com](mailto:pauline-watkins@hotmail.com)

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**Rock Choir Charity concert.** This is being held on Friday 23rd March @8pm at The Priory School, Hitchin. Doors open 7.15pm, there will be a Pay for Bar and Raffle.

Tickets costing £10 are available via Eventbrite or from the Phase office.

All proceeds to support the work of Phase.

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**The Passage** is raising funds through the **Big Give** from 12pm (midday) Thurs 22 March - 12pm Thurs 29 March to support its work with homeless people this winter. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921856 [andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk)

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**Covent of Praise** is holding a final Celebration Service in Strathmore School, Hitchin at 4pm, Sunday 18th March and they would be happy to welcome friends from other churches in Hitchin. Do feel free to join them on this occasion or, if you are not able to attend, to offer prayer for the service, the church's members and the Rev Janet Graham.

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**Millers Café update** - Sadly it has been decided to cease Millers Café with immediate effect. Thanks to all who have supported the project through prayer or volunteering and to WRBC for hosting the café.



#### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 72

*The family and the Church* "The Church is a family of families, constantly enriched by the lives of all those domestic churches. 'By virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, every family becomes, in effect, a good for the Church'". (Relatio Finalis 2015,52)

