



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 1781

7th April – 14th April 2018 – 2nd Sunday of Easter



Diary

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 8th	Coffee Morning - UCM
Monday 9th No Beavers	No parents & Toddlers Meditation - UCR - 11.45am
Tuesday 10th No Scouts	Morning Prayer - Church - 9.30am Bethany Club - Hall - 10.30am-3pm RE Session - LCR - 5.30pm Finance Committee - EC - 7pm Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm Choir - Church - 8pm
Wednesday 11th	Rosary - Church - 9.30am Praise Group - LCR - 10.40am RCIA - EC - 7.30pm
Thursday 12th No Brownies	Christian Meditation Group - EC - 6.30pm
Friday 13th	No Parents & Toddlers Lectio Divina - EC - 2pm
Sunday 15th	Coffee Morning - OWG

Readings: Acts:10:34.37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation. Alleluia!

Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Intercession: Lord strengthen our faith

Response: Give us your peace!

Next week: Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 3

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Thursday's meditation and Friday's lectio divina group(s) meetings recommence Thurs 12th and Friday 13th April at their usual times.



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.

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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.

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

Do we ever fully appreciate the inner beauty and healing power of mercy? The resurrection of Jesus clearly shows that mercy is an integral constituent of love and that, in its very essence, mercy is Holy. Mercy is divine in all its forms. As St Paul says, we love God because God loved us first, and loving others is a consequence of loving God. God doesn't love us because we are sinners; God just doesn't want sin to be a barrier between us. Mercy is the salve, the ointment, the grace, the power of the Spirit that restores us to our original and true image of God. The image that God sees in us. Thomas had difficulty believing that Jesus had risen. Our difficulty is believing that this kind of healing mercy is possible in us. *"God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life. ... It is in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart. Thomas understood this. Saint Bernard asks: But what can I count on? My own merits? No, "My merit is God's mercy. I am by no means lacking merits as long as He is rich in mercy. If the mercies of the Lord are manifold, I too will abound in merits." This is important: the courage to trust in Jesus' mercy, to trust in His patience, to seek refuge always in the wounds of His love."* Pope Francis, April 2013

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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The whole of Lent, and especially the days from Palm Sunday to Easter day, were filled with so much heartfelt prayer, praise and glory from a parish family that I am honoured to be welcomed to share in. It is a good thing that God's love and thanksgiving is infinite otherwise it would all be used up on YOU ALL. A special thanks to all who work behind the scenes: cleaning the church, the beauty of the flowers, repairing the things that go wrong, the electronics, the moving and preparing, the serving and the singing (even the Angels are envious of our choirs). The gift of the Stations on Good Friday was something very special again this year, like all the services and celebrations in Holy Week, it helped us enter fully into the drama of the life and love that is Jesus Christ. We are a great family here in Hitchin, God thanks you for allowing him to help you make it so. . . and so do the Assumptionists!

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Fr Tom's homilies in the market place on Good Friday and for the Easter Masses are now on the front page of the parish website. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>



We pray for Tom Stevenson whose funeral is on Monday 23 April 2018 at 10am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at North Herts Memorial Park and Crematorium. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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The Gift of the Holy Eucharist – six sessions

which provide an opportunity to focus on our love of Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, the Mass and our Mission. Monday evenings 7.30pm led by Fr Tom and a day time option on

Wednesday afternoons at 3pm led by Fr Andrew. Sessions will last an hour and includes Scripture, meditation and discussion. Material will be provided. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch. Sessions begin on Monday 23rd April and Wednesday 25th April.

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Northern Star Travel are offering to arrange a **pilgrimage to the Holy Land** early in 2019. If you would be interested in this please speak to Fr Tom who would be willing to arrange and accompany such a pilgrimage.

Or alternatively:

Holy Land Tour 3 –11 April 2019

Rev Andrew Henton Pusey (Walsworth Road Baptist) is co-leading a group visiting the Holy Land next spring, and you are warmly invited to consider joining the tour. With five nights in Nazareth and three nights in Jerusalem, there is a busy programme of visits to Biblical sites, but an added bonus of these tours is the opportunity to meet and to share with Christians living in the Holy Land today, including believers in local churches and staff at two Christian colleges. For more details, please contact Andrew soon: minister@wrbchitchin.org.uk 01462 420681

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The Diocese of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission has organised a **Pilgrimage for Europe** 2nd -11th April 2018, Michael and Deolinda Eltringham are currently taking part and also Leanna Cofano, the chaplain at John Henry Newman. Why We are Travelling: 1) We believe in building bridges between nations and not borders across Europe, 2) We wish to renew our links with points of inspiration – for faith, community and peace, since Europe is so much more than an economic or political entity, important though these aspects are.

A polite reminder to all Hall Users – During a Parish Group meeting this week, it was noted that the green food bins in the kitchen had not been emptied and dirty tea towels were put back in the kitchen drawers. Please could all hall users ensure that the hall and kitchen is left as you would like to find it. Thank you for your understanding.

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Church Cleaning We have a need for more people to help keep our church clean on a Monday and a Saturday. The existing teams have lost a few people recently and it is so important to honour our Lord by keeping his house clean. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish.

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We know that Spring has arrived because Glenn has given the church grounds their first mowing of the year – thank you!

It's now that garden help is especially needed. You will have seen the appeals in the newsletter for helpers to meet up on a Saturday morning to keep the church gardens under control and they will continue but there is an ongoing need for people to just pop in and do an hour or so whenever they feel like it. We have a garden manual which shows the various areas of the church grounds and what needs to be done when. If you can give an hour or two even monthly then please let Helen Bailey know on 07771 552058 who will show you where the sheets and gardening equipment is kept. This is important work which makes our church grounds look lovely and also helps keep our costs down by not having to employ a gardener.



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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

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Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone can help

please call me on 01462 816658 or email stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com

Diary Dates

Monday 9th April

2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All are welcome.

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Wednesday 11th April

Praise Group Meeting in the LCR after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All are welcome.

Future dates

April 14

Is this for you OR for someone you know? St Scholastica's Retreat – Open Day – Saturday, 14th April, 2018 The Retreat offers sheltered housing to practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £459pcm – more information on the poster and from The Warden: Rev Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437.

Email: info@stscholasticas.co.uk

www.stscholasticas.co.uk

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April 17

Tuesdays, 17 April-22 May 7-8.30pm in London: **Beginners' Guide to Ignatian Spirituality** with Andrew Kerr-Jarrett and Mitzi James, at Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. If interested, see: www.pathwaystogod.org or 0207-495-1673

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April 22

Earth Day 2018: on the theme "End Plastic Pollution"

<https://www.earthday.org/> Please consider taking part as a individual or better still as part of a group to take part in litter picking and sorting for recycling of litter near you. Look out for any community organised events.

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April 25

7.30 pm - As part of 2018 *Sustainable St.Albans Week* (21-29 April) *Inter-Faith St.Albans* extends an open invitation to an evening exploring the theme "**Is Faith a Friend or Foe of the Environment?**", chaired by Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet from the St Albans Masorti Synagogue. With speakers from three faith traditions; Laurie Michaelis - Quakers, Denise Kaplan and Grace agar - Buddhist, Fr. Tom O'Brien - Roman Catholic (our parish priest).

To be held at *St Albans Diocesan Office, 41 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, AL1 1HE*. Light

Refreshments from 7pm, and a donation of £5 per person is suggested to cover expenses. See poster in the porch.

For more details, or to book, contact Tim Bull:
InterfaithTim@gmail.com

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May 1 7-9pm Slaves on our Doorsteps

Caritas Westminster is hosting an evening of practical advice on responding to human trafficking and modern slavery in your community. The evening will be introduced by Chair of Caritas Westminster Bishop Paul MacAleenan in our church hall. Our speakers will be focusing on:

- Recognising the signs of trafficking, and what steps to take
- What the church is doing to support victims and end this crime
- The work the police are doing to bring perpetrators to justice and help victims
- How businesses and individuals can get involved

Refreshments from 6.30pm

Please RSVP by calling 020 7931 6077, Emailing: caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk or book at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/slaves-on-our-doorsteps-tickets-44588457276?aff=eac2>

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May 5 11am-4pm The Gospel of Creation: Reflections from St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis with Brian Purfield.

To be held at Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH www.pathwaystogod.org or 0207-495-1673.

The title of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si'* is taken from the first line of St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures which is one of the best insights into the saint's vision for life. It is crucial to grasping how St Francis understood the message of the Gospel - and may offer a glimpse into Pope Francis' own vision for the world.

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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 or Pauline Edwards 01462 435438

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June 8 You are invited to sing Fauré's Requiem at St Mary's University Chapel, as part of a massed performance involving St Richard Reynolds Chamber Choir, pupils from Catholic primary schools, Sing Out! choir and members of the community. All welcome, regardless of choral singing experience. Fauré's Requiem is up there amongst the greatest choral works of all time; the work is sublime, and an absolute joy to sing. The wonderful venue of St Mary's University Chapel will make this special performance one to remember. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at St Richard Reynolds, TW1 4LT. For more information, please contact Miss Firman on c.firman@srrcc.org.uk

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July 22-25 Annual Justice & Peace Conference

on the theme "In the Shelter of Each Other the People Live" A conference to explore the meaning of 'home' in the context of being a church of the poor, it includes an activity program for children of all ages.

*** CONFERENCE BOOKING NOW OPEN***

Booking forms from: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, 020 7901 4864 or

e-mail: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

For information on key speakers:

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/> On-line booking is available and discount for families is possible.

Other items of interest

St Richard Reynolds College is seeking to recruit the following: College Chaplain/Youth Worker - closing date Friday 13th April, Subject Leader in Physics - closing date - Friday 13th April, Primary Class Teacher – closing date Friday 20th April, Exams Invigilators – closing date Sunday 22nd April. For more information, please contact Claudine Richardson on 020 8325 4630 or follow the link; <http://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk/recruitment>.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 74

The family and the Church Through their union in love, the couple experiences the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood, and share plans, trials, expectations and concerns; they learn care for one another and mutual forgiveness. (*Relatio Finalis 2015, 49-50*)

