



# 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 1785

5<sup>th</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Year B

## Diary



<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: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 <a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club No Confirmation Session
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>No</b> Parents & Toddlers Meditation - UCR - 11.45am Eucharist Course – LCR – 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 8<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 Church 7.15pm
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary - Church - 9.30am Bethany Meeting – Hall 10am Eucharist Course – LCR – 3pm RCIA - EC - 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b> <b>The Ascension</b>	Christian Meditation Group EC 6.30pm Italian Club – Hall – 1pm Choir - Church - 8pm after Mass
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30am Lectio Divina - EC - 2pm
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Flower Group Confirmation Session 12 – Hall 6pm

**Readings: 10:25-26.34-35.44-48, 1 Jn 4:7-10, Jn 15:9-17**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

**Psalm: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations. Alleluia!**

Intercession: Fill us with your spirit!

Response: **We put our faith in you!**

**Next week: Acts 1:15-17.20-26, 1 Jn 4:11-16, Jn 17:11-19**

This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 3**

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Thank you all for your support at the coffee morning last week. A total sum of £168.25 was raised for St Elizabeth's School in Much Hadham.

### 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 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.

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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.



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

"I call you friends." Jesus tells us. . . Do we give friendship the importance, dignity and value it deserves? The ancient thinkers regarded friendship as one of the highest forms of love. *"Friendship is not "mere" friendship, not a second-best . . . It is a love in its own right, powerful, holy, overwhelming. . . Let us accept it as a true and passionate gift of God. Let us rejoice if it is given to us, be glad if it is given to others. . . let us celebrate this motiveless love of the Other, an echo of the pure love of Heaven. We ought to love everyone like that . . ."* (Anon). It is often easier for us to think of ourselves as friends of Jesus than to think that we are his brothers and sisters. Brothers and sisters do not always 'get on', although, when they do, they can model the highest form of friendship. Jesus does not just see us as people to be saved, guided, forgiven, protected, or missioned; Jesus calls us **friends**. We are very special to him; he likes our company, enjoys sharing in our everyday lives and activities, wants to share our sorrows as well as our successes. As Jesus' friends, we want him to share in and be part of everything we do and are. Friendship is nurtured and sustained by love and friendship, in return, nurtures and sustains our love. Are we not blessed, happy and privileged to call Jesus our true friend?

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There will be a second collection next weekend (12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> May) in aid of Catholic Communications.

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There is **no** Confirmation Session this week. Session 12 will be next Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm in the Hall.

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We pray for Catherine Hunter whose funeral is on 9 May 2018 at 10am at North Herts Memorial Park and Crematorium only. We also pray for Robina Tracey whose funeral is on 21 May 2018 at 11am at North Herts Memorial Park and Crematorium only. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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### HELP FOR A HOMELESS FAMILY

Fr Tom has visited a family who recently had their baby baptised in our parish. They are currently living in one small room in a house in Hitchin with access to a kitchen and bathroom.

They are being made homeless at the end of the month. They have appealed to the council who cannot guarantee them accommodation locally and they both have jobs in this area and worship in our church so would like to remain in the area.

We urgently need accommodation for this family. They can pay a modest rent but could not afford the rents being asked for property locally. If you

can help or know anyone who could help can you please let Trish or Fr Tom know as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this.

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### Monthly Tip

As your towels wear out, replace them with microfibre towels. Camping shops have microfibre camping towels in a range of sizes including bath towel size. They take up less room in the washing machine (so you can get more clothes in the wash) and they dry much more quickly than the heavy terry toweling material (so it's cheaper if you use electric drying methods).

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**A Christian Aid volunteer** is needed to deliver and collect ~ 26 envelopes the area just off the London Road near the Three Moorhens roundabout (13-19 May).

If you are able to help can you speak to Trish asap please.

### Christian Aid week is 13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> May.

You should receive an envelope through your door but in case you don't there will be some available in the church porch next weekend. There is much in the news about the support work being carried out in so many areas of conflict. However money is still money needed for the poor of the world who are no longer in the news.

The house to house collection is one of the biggest ecumenical activities in the UK. Last year in Hitchin & villages the foot sloggling/door knocking resulted in over £15,000! That's huge! Christian Aid nationwide gets about 70% of its Christian Aid Week money from door to door collections. Thank you for your generosity.

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**The March for Life** takes place in London this weekend! All the information is here:

[marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/MarchForLifeUK/>

### Dates for Diary

#### Tuesday 8th May

**2.30pm** Mass at Gosmore Care Home with Fr. Euloge. All welcome.

#### Wednesday 9th May

**10.40am** Praise Group Meeting after Mass in the Lower Committee Room.

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**2.30pm** Mass at Foxholes. All are welcome.

## Thursday 10th May



Today is the Feast of the Ascension moved back to its traditional Thursday and is a Holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm.

## Sunday 13th May

**6pm** Confirmation Session 12 in the Hall.

### Future dates

#### May 7

St Francis Ramblers invite you to join them on their walk on Bank Holiday Monday 7 May. Meet Sandy station (walkers' train due in at 1108). Distance 8 miles with lunch stop (at The Crown, Northill) for the May Day pageant, finishing at Biggleswade. Please call Paul on 07847 282626 for more details.

Website for more information about our club:-  
<http://www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com>

### Other items of interest



**'Thy Kingdom Come' –  
global wave of prayer  
10th – 20th May 2018**

**THY KINGDOM COME** 'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. A Novena Booklet and accompanying podcasts are available to download from the Catholic Bishops Mission Team  
<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/pentecost-novena>.

Copies are also available in the porch. To 'pledge to pray' and for more information visit  
[www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

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The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School is running a four-week internship programme in June/July 2018 focusing on Mathematics and Physics.

Participants may receive a bursary of £300 per week and will have the opportunity to explore a potential career in teaching.

To take part participants will require an A-level in Mathematics and must be in their penultimate year of an undergraduate degree course in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Geography or a related subject.

For further information please contact  
[teachingschool@cvms.co.uk](mailto:teachingschool@cvms.co.uk) or complete the application at;

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/paidinternship](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/paidinternship)

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Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 14th May 2018. £599 per person sharing. Price includes flights with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com). Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

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If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Some of our sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in a hospital-like building called the Accueil St Frai in the centre of Lourdes. It is well-equipped for their care and they are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteer St Frai Helpers.

The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. This includes helping the pilgrims get up and ready in the morning; making large amounts of tea; taking the pilgrims to various pilgrimage events; shopping and socialising with them and other helpers and putting them to bed at night. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends.

Helping in the St Frai is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. Working in the St Frai is an opportunity to give our care and company to our pilgrims and make a huge difference in their lives.

If you're interested in helping in the St Frai in Lourdes, please email chief helper Nick Leonard and team at and team at  
[westminsterstfrai@gmail.com](mailto:westminsterstfrai@gmail.com)

### Special Report



**Stop Modern Slavery**

**A Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (HTMS) event was held on Tuesday evening in the church hall.** Pope Francis has said that he has "never lost

an occasion to denounce human trafficking as a crime against humanity." Congratulations to Elizabeth Wills from Caritas

for putting on this event which made an impact on the 110 people who attended. We are hoping to get the presentations that were made available to all the parish. In the meantime we need to be aware that HTMS is a real problem happening in our midst. In 1850 you could buy a slave for the modern day equivalent of £30,000. Now it costs the price of an airline ticket. It is the second most money making crime after drugs trafficking. Estimates are that across the world there are 45 million people in slavery – in this country estimates (which are likely to be considerably understated) are that there are 13,000 people who are slaves. When the Hertfordshire police unit was asked to manage HTMS in this county, it was first set up DS Duncan Montague. He received one telephone call per month reporting a suspicion of trafficking or slavery. Now he gets 15-20 calls per day. People often work at car washes, nail bars, Turkish barbers, in the catering industry and hospitality staff working in hotel kitchens, housekeeping, etc.

#### Indicators of a person in slavery can be:

- Lack of access to medical care
- They may not speak English and others speak on behalf of them
- They don't know their home or work address
- They have limited contact with family or friends
- They have Money deducted from their salary for food and accommodation
- They live in fear of being handed over to authorities
- They could be living and working at the same location
- They have limited access to bathroom facilities

#### What can we do?

- Know the indicators and what to look for.
- Report suspicions to 101 or 999 or call the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121700.
- The police will have occasions when they find large groups of trafficked people and when they do, hopefully, we can offer support. In order for this to be co-ordinated efficiently, Caritas, Operation Tropic and the Santa Marta Group will be working closely together with the parish to possibly help provide the following:
  - Provide a reception centre venue.
  - Provide emergency food packages.
  - Provide clothing hygiene packs.
  - Provide pastoral support.

- Offer specialist skills GP/Solicitors/ /Healthcare
- Offer entertainment, play board games.

We are in touch with DS Duncan to discuss the practicalities of how we can help with the above and more details will be provided when possible. In the meantime if you want to find out more about this you can go to [www.modernslaveryhelpline.org](http://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org) or <http://www.gla.gov.uk/who-we-are/modern-slavery>. You can also contact Elizabeth Wills on [elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk). A Human Trafficking Tool Kit covering highlights from Tuesday's event, will be available soon. Caritas Westminster wish to personally thank everyone involved from our parish who helped make the event a huge success.

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Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you.

There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is:

1. Go to; <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourladysrchurchin>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

#### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 78

*Love in Marriage* The grace of the sacrament of marriage is intended before all else 'to perfect the couple's love'. We can say, 'even if I have faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love I am nothing. If I give all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing' (1 Cor 13:2-3)

