



# 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 1787

19<sup>th</sup> May – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – PENTECOST - Year B

## Diary



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

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| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>  | Coffee Morning – One World Group        |
| <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup></b><br>Beavers – 6.00-7.00pm<br>Cubs – 7.15pm-8.15pm | Parents & Toddlers – Hall 9.30am        |
|  | Meditation - UCR - 11.45am              |
|  | Eucharist Course – LCR – 7.30pm         |
| <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b><br>Scouts - 7-9pm                               | Morning Prayer - Church - 9.30am        |
|  | Bethany Club - Hall - 10.30am-3pm       |
|  | RE Session – LCR – 5.30pm               |
| <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>   | Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm       |
|  | Rosary - Church - 9.30am                |
|  | Eucharist Course – LCR – 3pm            |
| <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup></b><br>Brownies - 6.30-7.45                        | RCIA - EC - 7.30pm                      |
|  | Christian Meditation Group<br>EC 6.30pm |
|  | Italian Club – Hall – 1pm               |
| <b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup></b>  | Choir - Church - 8pm                    |
|  | Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30am          |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>  | Lectio Divina - EC - 2pm                |
|  | Coffee Morning – Live Simply            |

**Readings: Acts 2:1-11, Gal 5:16-25, Jn 15:26-27;16:12-15**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia!

**Psalm:** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord and renew the face of the earth.

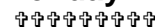
**Intercession: Spirit of God**

**Response: Work in our world!**

**Next week: Deut 4:32-34.39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Matt 28:16-**

This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 1**



There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of **CAFOD**.

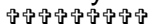


Thank you all for your donations last weekend in aid of Catholic Communications. A total of £105.50 was raised.



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.



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.

### 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

## Ramblings for Reflection:

*“A thing long expected takes the form of the unexpected when at last it comes.” (Mark Twain) And we know the Holy Spirit is full of surprises. Before that moment in the upper room, the disciples were waiting for the fulfilment of a promise not knowing what to expect but still gripped by fear, not knowing where to turn or what to do, except wait. Then came the wind. Did this wind drive out their fears? Was it reassuring? Did it restore a confidence they had lost? And the fire? It came to them individually, responding to their particular needs and it came to the community, as it will for us this weekend. We don't know what to expect. But the Holy Spirit, as fire, purifies and strengthens, casts away the detritus of the past to allow new growth, new life, leading to joy, confidence and passion - creating hearts burning to tell others of the wonders of God, the wonder of Jesus.*

*In Gaudete et Exultate Pope Francis writes: The Holy Spirit bestows holiness in abundance among God's holy and faithful people, for “it has pleased God to make men and women holy and to save them, not as individuals without any bond between them, but rather as a people who might acknowledge him in truth and serve him in holiness.”(Lumen Gentium). . . . We need the Spirit's prompting, lest we be paralyzed by fear and excessive caution, lest we grow used to keeping within safe bounds. Come Holy Spirit, enliven us anew!*

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**GIFT AID - TAX REBATE CLAIM** We will shortly be submitting the tax rebate claim for money donated to the Church under the Gift Aid Scheme in the tax year ending April 2018. If you have signed up for Gift Aid but no longer pay tax, please inform our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organiser – David Wilson on 01462-627784 – so that we do not submit an inappropriate claim. If you are not sure whether or not you have signed up for Gift Aid or whether you have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim, David will be able to let you know. Similarly, if you have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, but would like to do so, it is not too late and you should contact David who will make the necessary arrangements for you. Also, can we take this opportunity to remind you that a Gift Aid donation must be made in the name of the person who pays the tax on the money that is donated; if that is not the case, please let David know and alternative arrangements can be made. Last but not least, can we again thank all of you who have signed Gift Aid Declarations as the tax rebate plays such an important part in financing the running of the Church.

## Appeal for your help

Trish is a member of the executive of the Churches Together who are hosting the Party in the Square this Sunday in the town centre and also do many other things including the walk of witness on Good Friday. They have 4 meetings a year and everyone is invited to come in our newsletter but rarely does anyone other than the council members turn up. These meetings are very interesting particularly because after a short amount of business we have a speaker and we have had many different topics over the years. The current chairperson John, is particularly keen to see how we can help overcome loneliness in our town and how we can strengthen relations between generations in our church and in our community. To do that we really need some people under the age of 40 to come to hear the speaker at the next meeting; Gail Adcock, who is Family Ministry Development Officer of the Methodist Church nationally and, fortunately for us, lives in Hitchin. We will be thinking of ways in which we can strengthen relations between generations in the church and community and, by so doing, help to tackle the problem of loneliness that affects all ages. Your input could be invaluable.

So Trish really wants to bring people from our church who are younger than her! The meeting is **Wednesday 23rd May** at the **Hitchin Christian Centre** near Waitrose, with tea/coffee from 7.30pm and then starts **at 8pm** and is generally over by 9.30pm.

Would you support her please and meet her there? Or she can pick people up too.

Please let Trish know if you can come. (By the way all ages are welcome always, but we are particularly keen on anyone from 12- 40 years who would be willing to come)

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**James Sweeny** is offering to babysit for parishioners (to earn some pocket money) If you need a babysitter please contact [dsweeny68@gmail.com](mailto:dsweeny68@gmail.com)

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An update on Chris Rea – We have been praying for Chris Rea in the intercessions. We have received some very good news from Tom – Chris' brother. He has advised us that Chris is now cancer-free and thanks the parish for their prayers. We will continue to pray for Chris and wish him well during his recovery.



## Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress

The largest gathering of Catholics in England since the 2010 papal visit takes place in Liverpool this September. We unite in worship of Our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, with the aim of promoting Eucharistic Adoration, where so many people have experienced the love and presence of Jesus. You are invited to Liverpool on Saturday, 8 and/or Sunday, 9 September. Saturday, in the Echo Arena, is the highlight of the Congress. Bishop Robert Barron, known to millions on social Media, will address the Congress; Cardinal Nichols will give a reflection and lead us in Adoration and Benediction. (There is a fee of £40 for the Saturday to cover the costs of the Congress.) On the Sunday there are Masses in the Metropolitan Cathedral and a large outdoor Blessed Sacrament procession. Many other events and a Youth Congress will supplement the official programme. You may wish to stay in Liverpool overnight. Although it will be a long day, the Saturday programme is planned to permit people to travel for the day. While coaches are cheaper, trains are much quicker – cheaper train tickets (subject to availability) go on sale 12 weeks before travel. For a booking form, please contact [adoremus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adoremus@rcdow.org.uk) or 07738 183829. Tickets are available through the Diocese until 31 May. Please note that Trish, Susanna, Teresa, Frs Tom and Euloge will also be attending this event.

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### Party in the Square, Pentecost Sunday 20th May -

Churches Together in Hitchin is holding this event today to show the life and work of the

churches in the town. It begins with a service at 11.30 then there will be food, stalls, activities and fun for all the family, all free, until about 4pm. Many thanks to all who are contributing. You are invited to come along, and bring others, so that this can be a great demonstration that the churches are alive and well and the Gospel is being proclaimed in word and action!

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Message from the  
livesimply team:



Last week's livesimply tip referred to microfibre towels. It has come to our attention that microfibre is, like microbeads, contributing to the pollution of our oceans. Large size camping towels made from cotton are therefore recommended rather than microfibre. They still yield the advantages of being lighter and less bulky while doing the drying job just as well.

**Share the Journey with CAFOD & Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew, Hitchin**, a new global campaign to stand up for the rights of refugees and migrants. As part of this campaign parishioner Ann Milner has organised a pilgrimage around the London Outer Orbital Path (the LOOP) consisting of a series of prayerful day walks taking place between May and June 2018 led by Ann. Everyone is welcome to join part or all of the walk.

24 Loop Stages over 17 Days in prayer and solidarity

Each Stage varies from 4 to 11 miles

Walks on different days of the week

All invited - young and old, people of all faiths and none

Come for 1 walk or part of a walk, or all of them  
You can find out where and when we meet for each walk by sending a request to

[oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk)

.....and we'll keep you in the loop!

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**Results of recycling** Towards early June payments should be made as follows: **North Herts Sanctuary** - £100.00 from writing instruments and equivalent to

10650 items collected.

**Our Lady's church hardship Fund** - £104.00 from biscuit wrappers and equivalent to 5000 items collected.

**PHASE** - £865.00 from Tassimo, L'Or, Kenco packaging items and equivalent to 78000 items collected.

### Future dates

**May 26**

**8pm** The Sistine Chapel Choir, Holy Father's personal choir, performs a sacred choral music concert from the repertoire they sing in the Vatican in Westminster Cathedral. The concert will last an hour, and is free of charge (no tickets required). Come and experience this world-famous choir singing in the beautiful setting of Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome.

**May 31-June 2**

**Westminster Cathedral**

hosts the **Forty Hours Devotion** beginning with Mass celebrated by the Cardinal at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 31 May. It ends with Mass celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington at 12.30 pm on Saturday, 2 June with Procession and Benediction.

**May 31**

**6.30-8.30pm** Community

Sponsorship –Join Caritas Westminster and Sponsor Refugees for an event on Community Sponsorship. Community Sponsorship is a way that community groups can be involved in supporting the resettlement of vulnerable people fleeing conflict. The event will: bring different practitioners together to share their experiences, hear from community sponsors and sponsored families, learn how to build teams and work towards welcoming new families, and connect with others who are committed to the same cause. The event will be held at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. Tea and coffee will be available from 6pm. Please RSVP to [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk), or call on 0207 931 6077.

**Other items of interest**

**Irish Referendum on the Eighth Amendment, 25 May 2018**

In their Spring Statement, the Irish Bishops wrote, "Article 40.3.3 is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this Article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future. We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will "choose life" and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country." For information visit:

<http://www.chooselife2018.ie>



**St John Fisher, St Albans** is looking to recruit an inspiring and outstanding headteacher to lead our school into the future. The role is ideal for a current Deputy Headteacher who is a practising Catholic. If you are interested, please look on [www.teachinherts.com](http://www.teachinherts.com) under St John Fisher or contact the Chair of Governors (Chris Baker) at [governors@sifisher.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@sifisher.herts.sch.uk) for application pack.



**St Richard Reynolds College** is seeking to appoint the following:  
Primary Teacher – closing date Monday 21 May

English Teacher – closing date Monday 21 May  
Subject Lead in Physics – closing date 4 June  
For further details, please contact Claudine Richardson on 020 8325 4630 or to follow the link provided:

<http://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk/recruitment>

The 29<sup>th</sup> May is the 144<sup>th</sup> birthday of GK Chesterton, famous Catholic Convert and author of over 100 books, including The Father Brown Mysteries. Please say the following prayer:

“God our Father, Thou didst fill the life of thy servant Gilbert Keith Chesterton with a sense of wonder and joy and gave him a faith which was the foundation of his ceaseless work, a charity towards all, particularly his opponents and a hope which sprang from his lifelong gratitude for the gift of human life. May his innocence and his laughter, his constancy in fighting for the Christian faith in a world losing belief, his lifelong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and his love for all, especially for the poor, bring cheerfulness to those in despair, conviction and warmth to lukewarm believers and the knowledge of God to those without faith. We beg thee to grant the favours we ask through his intercession, the end of abortion in this country so that his holiness may be recognised by all and the Church may proclaim him blessed. We ask this through Christ our lord, Amen” [www.catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk](http://www.catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk)



**Interested in Volunteering?** As part of Volunteers’ Week, Caritas Westminster is hosting a Volunteer Fair exploring the impact and importance of volunteering, featuring stands and volunteer opportunities from a wide variety of organisations. Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 6:30-8:30pm, Vaughan House, Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Please RSVP to [caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk) or call 0207 529 8635’



The Housing Advice sessions at the Ethnic Minority Forum are to be on the first Thursday of every month from 2-4 pm,



2-4pm Housing Advice Surgery  
North Herts Minority Ethnic  
Forum Unity House (Ground  
Floor) Whinbush Road. 2-4pm

**AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 80**

*Our Daily Love - Love is Patient* ‘Love is patient, makrothymeis, a word also used to describe God as ‘slow to anger.’ (Ex. 34.6 Num 14.18) It refers to the quality of one who does not act on impulse; a word which extols God’s restraint, leaving open the possibility of repentance, yet insists on his power, as revealed in his acts of mercy. God’s patience, shown in his mercy, is a sign of his real power.

