



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 1800

18th August – 25th August 2018 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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
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Sunday 19th	Coffee Morning – One World Group Benediction prayer for the Eucharistic Congress - Church 6pm
Monday 20th	Christian Meditation Group EC – 11.45am
Tuesday 21st	Morning Prayer - Church - 9.30am Bethany Club - Hall - 10.30am-3pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
Wednesday 22nd	Rosary - Church - 9.30am
Thursday 23rd	Italian Club – Hall – 1pm Christian Meditation Group EC 6.30pm
Friday 24th	Lectio Divina - EC - 2pm
Sunday 26th	Coffee Morning – OLSSG

Readings: Proverbs 9:1-6, Eph 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Psalm: Taste and see that the Lord is good

Intercession: Fill us with your Spirit

Response: Let us draw life from you!

Next week: Josh 24:1-2.15-18, Eph 5:21-32, John 6:60-69

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 2

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There will be a second collection next weekend (25th/26th August) in aid of CAFOD.

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You are invited to sit on red chairs on the plinth at Mass on any occasion when there is not a choir. The priests are very happy to have your smiles directly facing them!

It is intended that two additional rows of benches for the congregation will be placed in front of the plinth when this is extended back towards the rear wall in order to enlarge the raised area available for the choir.



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519**
Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@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.

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:

Simplicity and gratitude are keys that allow Wisdom to enter our lives, a wisdom that brings with it understanding. All the great saints of the Church possess a certain aura, a presence that draws people towards them. In a Religious Congregation, like the Assumptionists, we speak of our Charism. A Charism is built around a founder, who, for Assumptionists, is Emmanuel d'Alzon. We want to be like him because we understand how much he inspired others to live the Gospel and, like him, live the will of God with love. And, reflecting more deeply, we realise that the true strength of any charism is that it leads us into direct contact with Christ. Whichever way we look at our founder (or our saint), we see the face of Christ shining through, which in turn reveals their wisdom and understanding. Assumptionists seek to live their charism not just to be like their founder but so that they, too, might reflect the face of Christ. Prof Richard Wiseman, (University of Hertfordshire) believes that pets and their owners grow more like each other because of the time they spend in each other's company. Assumptionists read the stories and writings of their founder and, in so doing, are inspired and motivated by him. The same with Jesus. We read, we reflect, we live in the way of Jesus to be inspired and motivated by him. Isn't this the same as eating and drinking the flesh and blood of Jesus so as to become more like him?

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Thanks to all who helped with the dismantling of



the old organ and creating the wonderful light space we now have.

The next stages of the project are as follows; moving the

children's library to the alcove where the golden statue of Our Lady currently resides (in anticipation of its eventual move into the new side chapel), moving Our Lady to the Altar of Remembrance, moving the Madonna and Child picture from there to the rear wall (facing the Sanctuary) and moving the Adult library into the alcove vacated by the children's library.

A full pictorial story of this project so far is on the website at;

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/parish-building-maintenance-and-restoration-projects/>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

If you have a child who will be in Y3 next year and you wish her or him to be enrolled on the programme of preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, you are asked to attend an information evening on Tuesday **11th September** in the church hall, at 7:30pm. Dates for the course and the application form are available on the parish website. Hard copy application forms are available in the church porch. Applications need to be submitted by **16th September**.

I look forward to meeting you all.

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CONFIRMATION PREPARATION If your child is going to be in Y9 next year, he or she is eligible to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. The course does not start until January, so don't panic! Watch this space and the parish website for information about how to apply and when.

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MARRIAGE PREPARATION Are you getting married in the next year? Our next marriage preparation course is being held on Saturday 17th November. Places are limited so book soon if you need to do the course. Bookings should be made through this address: catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com.

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ADULTS! Is there a reason you'd like to explore your faith? Are you returning to the Church after an absence? Looking to prepare for a sacrament missed in youth?

Maybe you want to join the Church? Look no further! Come and see what's on offer, on Wednesday 5th September, 7:30pm in the church hall. The RCIA group is inviting you to come and see. We look forward to meeting you.

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Michaelmas Fair

6th OCTOBER Now the summer is well under way we are beginning to collect goods for the wide

range of stalls we hope to have at the fair. From next weekend (25/26th August) red baskets will be placed in the porch for your contributions. First of all we are asking for bottles and jars for our very popular Bottle Tombola. However, if your bottles are of wine, spirits or anything else alcoholic, could you take them to the office? All other bottles can be placed in the red baskets. If you would like your bottles to be collected, please contact Pam Brannigan on 01462 632587 or pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com Many thanks to all who are supporting the fair

by offering goods, auction promises or help on the day.

MICHAELMAS FAIR 6TH OCTOBER We were delighted with the high standard of entries to our competition for a design for our 'Save the Oceans' bags to be on sale at the Michaelmas Fair. The winner is 9 year old **Evie Paterson** whose imaginative design will be used. Highly commended are; **Robyn Betteridge, Daniel Leach-Sualdea, Harriette Temple, Niamh Boon, Lukne Slamiskyte and one anonymous contributor.** These children will receive a prize at the Michaelmas Fair and all entries will be on display. Many thanks to everyone who sent in a design.



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The Season of Creation begins 1 Sept when we strive to more deeply understand the lessons Jesus taught us through creation,

to honour more authentically our Creator and to share fellowship with brothers and sisters along the way. As pilgrims together, we welcome the opportunity to awaken anew to the wonder of the Earth, our common home, and to protect the web of life it shelters.

We start the season with an ecumenical prayer service at **11.30am on 1st Sept** in our church. We are offering study groups to inspire hope for God's creation using a guide called **Tenants of the King.** Our planet is changing. Whether booming populations or unpredictable climates, these changes are never far away. Most experts agree that an unstable environment represents one of the greatest international challenges of our age. But what does the Bible have to say about it? This guide is designed to discover more of God's answers to this important question.

Groups are Monday evenings 7.30-8.45 pm (led by Fr Tom) and Wednesday afternoons 3-4.15pm (led by Fr Andrew).

Session 1 Monday 10/9 and Wednesday 12/9
Session 2 Monday 17/9 and Wednesday 19/9
Session 3 Monday 24/9 and Wednesday 26/9
Session 4 Monday 1/10 and Wednesday 3/10
Please sign up on the sheets in the porch.

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Masters of Ceremony (MC) at 10.30 Mass needed. We need more adults (young and old) to help with the Mass and support the Priest in setting things up before Mass and helping our altar server team during the Masses. Full training is available. Please do think about helping in this way. Please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday

Sept 8th

2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All are welcome.

Future dates

1.30pm-4pm Regina Caeli offers "classical hybrid education in the Catholic tradition". This system involves children following a solidly Catholic curriculum by gathering at an academy on Mondays and Thursdays while home-schooling for the other days. There will be a presentation at the Unity Hall, Barton Scouts and Guides, Sharpenhoe Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4SD. For more information, please see; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/regina-caeli-uk-hybrid-academy-launching-september-2019-tickets-47586823470>.

Ticket costs go towards the travel and accomodation of the speakers as well as the hire of the venue.

Oct 13-14th

Interchurch Families jubilee weekend - Celebrate 50 years of the Association of Interchurch Families (AIF) at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. This special Jubilee Weekend will focus on the biblical theme of jubilee, combining the ideas of celebration and liberation.

As well as worship and fellowship there is the opportunity to hear from and speak to a number of guests - see the poster in the Church porch. There will be a special drinks reception and celebratory meal on the Saturday evening. Children are welcome and have a separate but integrated programme. "You live in your marriage the hopes and the difficulties of the path to Christian Unity." (*Saint John Paul II, York, 1982*).

For more information please email the office at: info@interchurchfamilies.org.uk

Couples where each of the partners belongs to a different Christian denomination are often referred to as Interchurch Families and sometimes have needless difficulties through lack of up-to-date information.

There have been enormous advances in the approach and even the rules of our churches in recent years. The Associations of Interchurch Families have as their primary purpose the support of interchurch families.

We encourage couples to strengthen their own unity while maintaining an active role in their own respective church. We also attempt to help strengthen the Christian commitment of couples

where one member's attachment to their church has become nominal.

If this is your situation, then this weekend may be for you!

Other items of interest

The Ataxian Film Screening - UK Premiere



The Ataxian, a critically acclaimed film, UK premiere is at the Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin on Saturday 1st September at 7.15pm. This event has been organised by a parishioner with a family member who has Ataxia.

We would love your support to raise funds for much needed research and awareness of this cruel disease. ALL money raised goes to Ataxia UK to be used on research together with (FARA).

Tickets can be bought online at <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/85CUTbeSIU> by donation. If you are not able to come you can still make a donation. This event is for over 16s only.

This screening will be a UK premiere so we're rolling out the red carpet, it will be a star studded event (Sally Bretton from Not Going Out, James Moore from Emmerdale, Hugh Dennis from Outnumbered, Bob Barrett from Holby City and Hedli Niklaus from the Archers will all be attending)and we'll be celebrating with a glass of bubbly. It should be an enjoyable evening.

If you could offer a raffle prize for the event please contact Emma Niklaus on **07709 872934**.

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We have a gentleman and his son who are in great need of clothing. What they would particularly appreciate are trousers and shirts or tops (extra large for the gentleman). His waist is 36"-38".

He is tall and well built. His son is 16yrs old with a 34" waist and about 5' 8" tall. If you can help with anything suitable, please bring them to Trish. *Many thanks!*



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Church Cleaning We have a need for more people to help keep our church clean on **Mondays**.

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 or email Trish.

Will you connect the poor with the powerful? CAFOD is looking for Catholics in this area to share their faith with their MP. Write 3-4 times a year on a topical issue to support those living in poverty around the world. No experience needed as information will be provided. Online or by post. See www.cafod.org.uk/mpc or contact Tony on 0208-449-6970 or westminster@cafod.org.uk for further information. *"Love is civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world."* – Pope Francis

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The upcoming **World Meeting of Families** in Dublin this August – 21st to 26th, has invited Fr. James Martin, SJ, to present "Welcoming LGBT People in Parishes".

Fr. Martin, authored the book 'Building a Bridge'.

"The message to LGBT Catholics seems straightforward: you're an important part of the church. . .I'm tremendously grateful for this invitation, for what it says to LGBT Catholics, a group of people who have for so long felt excluded. . .I hope they see this invitation, which had to be approved by the Vatican, as an unmistakable sign of welcome from the Church." Father James Martin SJ

Fr. Martin explained the invitation was jointly offered by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life at the Vatican and the Archdiocese of Dublin, who are organising the Meeting. He will be presenting "best practices" for parishes on how to show welcome to LGBT Catholics and their families. With more than 30,000 people registered for the event, this is a great opportunity for Fr. Martin and LGBT people to help show the goodness and holiness of their families. The website shows that he is speaking in the afternoon of Thursday 23 August.

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MCs needed for the **10.30 Mass** on Sundays. We need to train up new people to help set up and serve at Mass and to support the younger altar servers. Full training given. If you can help our Priests and serve our parish in this way please speak to Trish or Richard Bradford.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 93

Our Daily Love - Love is not jealous Love inspires a sincere esteem for every



human being and the recognition of his or her own right to happiness. I love this person, and I see him or her with the eyes of God, who gives us everything 'for our enjoyment'. (1 Tim 6:17). As a result, I feel a deep sense of happiness and peace."