



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 1802

1st September – 8th September 2018 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

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 2 nd	Coffee Morning – Gardening Grp
	Healing Service 3pm
Monday 3 rd	Christian Meditation Group EC – 11.45am
	PPC – LCR – 7pm
Tuesday 4 th	Morning Prayer - Church - 9.30am
	Bethany Club - Hall - 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm
	UCM – LCR – 8pm
Wednesday 5 th	Rosary - Church - 9.30am
	Michaelmas Fair Mtg LCR 6.30pm
	RCIA – EC 7.30pm
Thursday 6 th	Italian Club – Hall – 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group EC 6.30pm
	Choir Practice – Church 8pm
Sunday 9 th	Coffee Morning – KISS

**Readings: Deut 4:1-2.6-8, Jas 1:17-18.21-22.27,
Mk 7:1-8.14-15.21-23**

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.
Psalm: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Intercession: You made us your children!
Response: **Help us keep your word!**

Next week: Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37



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.

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 4

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Thank you for all your generous donations to CAFOD last weekend. A total of £271.44 was raised.

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Our Lady's Special Support Group would like to thank all of you who helped raise £125 and £102.25 at the last two coffee mornings.

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: Why do we find faults in others? To convince ourselves we are better than they are? To feel good about ourselves? To avoid facing up to our own faults? Self and self-esteem take centre stage but invariably leads to isolation and unhappiness. Our self-worth can never depend on putting others down. Wisdom reveals the foolishness and emptiness of finding faults: *“He who has a sharp tongue soon cuts his own throat...”* *“A journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step. Take off all your envies, jealousies, selfishness, fears and unforgiveness, and you will find things are actually not as difficult as you think...”* *“Be thankful for all the rude, obnoxious and difficult people you meet in life. They serve as important reminders of who NOT to be...”* *“It requires no thought, no consideration, no character, no talent to be a fault-finder. . . . It is much easier to find fault than find ways to help...”* *“How easy to be critical and how hard to be correct. How easy to find fault with others and how hard to mend our own ways...”* (Fred Van Amburgh) *“They have great tranquillity of heart who care neither for the praises nor the fault-finding of people...”* (Honoré de Balzac) *“Whoever is aware of their own failings will not find fault with the failings of others...”* (James Ross) *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you...”* (Matthew 7)

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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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CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's liturgy starts again next weekend at the **10.30** Mass for children of school age from Reception to year 5. Children go out at the start of Mass when called by the Priest. Children are split into two groups. Reception -Year 2 go to the lower committee room. Years 3-5 go to the upper committee room. The 4's and unders can also go out with their parents after the gospel into the hall

for their own liturgy. The 4th Sunday of the month is a children's Mass and everyone remains in the church for a children focused liturgy. We need help to continue this. Please see the note below.

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Children's liturgy is due to begin soon but we are short of helpers.

To meet safeguarding requirements we always need two people with the children in each room. We just about have enough leaders (though more would be welcome as then the commitment is less for each person) but we urgently need a few second adults to be with the leader or we can not run that session which would be a disappointment to the children. You require no special skills just a love of God and children and a willingness to help in this way! If you are able to help occasionally please let Trish know asap.

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CONFIRMATION 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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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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On 6th OCTOBER - Many thanks for the lovely range of goods you are contributing for sale at the fair. This week we

are asking for new items suitable for gifts as well as toiletries for general and those for men, women and children. We would also like some more bottles and jars for the popular Bottle tombola. Items may be placed in the red baskets in the porch which are emptied every day. Alternatively please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) who will collect your goods. NB: Bottles of wine, beer or spirits should be taken to the office, not left in the baskets. Many thanks for your support for the fair. This year part of the proceeds will be used to help furnish the new side chapel as well as other parish projects.

Thanks to a sponsor we have a number of estate agent type boards advertising our Michaelmas Fair. Is your house on a busy or main road? Would you be willing to display a board outside your house? If so can you let Trish know asap. Many thanks in anticipation.



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Thank you to everyone who donated clothes for the gentleman and his son. We had a great number of bags to give to him for which he was most grateful. You responded very generously. God bless you all.

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Women's World day of prayer representative needed from our church. Wanda who has represented us for the past few years needs to focus on the health needs of her family so we need someone to attend the meetings and pass back information to us so we can support this prayer event. It is not a regular commitment but occasional attendance. Event takes place in March 19. Please let Trish know if you can help.

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An older parishioner living in the Ninesprings area is still in need of help for two hours a week. It's a paid role (no cleaning involved), with general things to do around the house, to chat and occasionally give lifts to hospital/doctor appointments. Please let Trish know if you can help asap.

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Foodbank Drivers needed in Hitchin - The Hitchin Foodbank operates from Our Lady's Scout Hut on Tues and Friday mornings. It is run solely by volunteers. We are currently

very short of drivers on both days but especially on Fridays. Drivers usually work twice a month on a rota basis depending on each driver's availability. Our drivers collect donations from the Scout Hut and supermarkets to take to the Warehouse in Letchworth and bring the supplies for our clients from the Warehouse to the Scout hut. Occasionally they may be asked to deliver Food bags to a client's home accompanied by another volunteer. The hours are 9.45 - 12am. Drivers need to be physically fit as the food bags can be quite heavy. If you can help in this valuable work you will be warmly welcomed by our friendly team of volunteers.

Please contact Anne Collins 01462 420574 07810 483533 or Susan Kostrzewski 01462 432820 / 07511 532011 or call into the Scout Hut any Tuesday or Friday morning.

Dates for Diary

Monday 3rd September

2.30pm Eucharistic service at Gosmore. All are welcome.

7.30pm PPC Meeting in the Lower Committee Room.

Tuesday 4th September

8pm UCM Welcome back - with a Mass in the Lower Committee Room.

Wednesday 5th September

11am Mass at Elmside. All are welcome.

6.30pm Michaelmas Fair Meeting in the Lower Committee Room.

Sunday 9th September

12.30 - 4.30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please spend some time with the Lord next Sunday afternoon. We need to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament has someone there so please could you sign up on the sheet on the notice board for a time slot.



Sunday 16th September

2pm Bishop Paul McAleenan will be celebrating Mass at **Our Lady School**. The Mass is to mark a new academic year and to give thanks for our school community and all that it offers. Children, parents, governors, staff and parishioners will all be actively involved in leading the Mass. If you are a parishioner and would like to attend but do not have children at the school, please register your intention to do so via the school office on 01462 622555. We look forward to welcoming you on **16th September**.

Future dates

Sept 8th CAFOD will be hosting a supporters' information morning with a guest speaker who has first-hand knowledge of our work in Uganda. Uganda is the country we are focusing on this Harvest Fast Day. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities - thanks to your support. The meeting will take place from 10am - 1.00pm at CAFOD's Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. Bookings taken on 0208 449 6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk

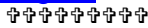
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Christians against Poverty (CAP) job club Hitchin Christian Centre (soon to be Zeo Church) are inviting applications to be our new CAP job club manager. For details of role see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/job-vacancies/>

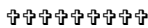


Choir members needed. If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Thursday evening for the practices

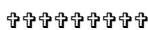
and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



White Poppy-making workshops - Hitchin Quakers are planning to commemorate all the millions of people who have died as a result of war in the last hundred years by creating a display of white peace poppies in the Meeting House in November. These poppies may be knitted, crocheted or sewn from fabric and may be made in memory of a particular individual or to honour an unknown victim. They will be holding two workshops in the Quaker Meeting House on Monday 3 September 7 to 8.30 pm and on Saturday 13 October 2 to 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. All materials and patterns provided although it might be helpful if you brought your own knitting needles or crochet hook if that's your preferred craft.



Living simply & in solidarity: 16 – 23rd September is World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel. Take a moment to pray for peace in that troubled land. Use the St Francis Peace Prayer or find resources on the parish [livesimply](http://livesimply.org) page.



As you've probably seen in the media, terrible floods have been taking place in Kerala in southern India. Hundreds of people have been killed and many more are missing; countless homes have been washed away, and the monsoon season is set to continue until early September. Kerala is the most Christian state in India – it has more churches than any other region. The leading Catholic volunteering charity, the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), is very active there and they are doing great work helping the victims of the flood in local communities. However, they desperately need funds. Please contribute to the SVP's Kerala appeal. To donate visit www.svp.org.uk, telephone

020 7703 3030 or send cheques made out to SVP (write 'Kerala appeal' on the back) to SVP, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. And please remember our sisters and brothers in Kerala in your prayers.

Apostleship of the Sea invites you to a Mass in honour of our patron Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. Come and pray for the work of Apostleship of the Sea and for seafarers on Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 7pm in Our Lady of Victories Church, 235a Kensington High Street, London, W8 6SA. Bishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass, followed by a reception. All invited. Please RSVP by email to roland@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



Beginning Experience

There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex from 5th to 7th October 2018.

For more details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk



The Guild of Our Lady & St Joseph warmly welcomes you to join us on 16 September, 2018 to hear the internationally recognised author, spiritual theologian and retreat master, Fr Jacques Philippe. His topic will be: *'How to Grow Closer to God through the trials and suffering of life'*. Writing on themes such as prayer, interior-freedom and peace of heart, Fr Jacques' books have sold over a million copies and have been translated into 24 languages. (<https://frjacquesphilippe.com/>).

Location: Church of Our Lady, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood NW8 8LA. **Time:** Doors will open at 6:45 pm and the lecture will begin at 7:15 pm. Refreshments and Q&A will follow. Admission: £5 at the door. Registration at: guildofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com Copies of Fr. Jacques' books will be available for purchase.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 94

Our Daily Love - Love is not jealous
Deeply rooted love leads me to reject the injustice whereby some possess too much and others too little. Deeply rooted love moves me to find ways of helping those on the margins to find joy (of wellbeing). This is not envy, but the desire for equality.

