



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 1804

15th September – 22nd September 2018 – 24th 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:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
E-mail:	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday 16th	Coffee Morning – OWG Benediction – Church – 6pm
Monday 17th Scout Hut Beavers 6pm Cubs 7.15pm	Christian Meditation Group EC – 11.45am Parents & Toddlers - Hall 9.30am Healing Meeting – EC – 2.30pm Tenants of King – LCR 7.30pm
Tuesday 18th Scout Hut Scouts 7pm	Morning Prayer - Church - 9.30am Bethany Club - Hall - 10.30am-3pm Eucharistic Service - 7.15pm UCM – LCR – 8pm
Wednesday 19th	Rosary - Church - 9.30am Tenants of King – EC – 3 pm RCIA – EC – 7.30pm
Thursday 20th Scout Hut Brownies 6.30pm	St Pio Group – LCR – 10.35am Italian Club – Hall – 1pm Christian Meditation Group EC 6.30pm Finance Meeting – LCR – 7pm Choir Practice – Church 8pm
Friday 21st	Parents & Toddlers - Hall 9.15am Lectio Divina – EC – 2pm
Sunday 23rd	Coffee Morning – Christmas Hamper Appeal



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.

Readings: Isaiah 50:5-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant and of your people Israel.

Psalm: I walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. Alleluia!

Intercession: Turn your ear to us!

Response: Hear us when we call!

Next week: 2:12.17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37:

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 2



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.

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

A phrase that struck me from Bishop Robert Barron's talk at the Eucharist Congress is "Your life is not about you!" Rick Warren echoes this in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*. St James says that life isn't life unless it's lived for others. Jesus tells us to take up our cross and give our lives away. It doesn't make sense. In fact, it seems impossible. And it is - unless God is involved!! Jesus does not say Take up **MY** cross but Take up **YOUR** cross. This suggests that it refers to life. Jesus took up his cross in order to fulfil his Father's will when he started his public ministry. We are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus because we want to fulfil the Father's will. Like Jesus, it will lead us down all sorts of avenues, into all kinds of situations and, if our hearts are in tune with Jesus, we will respond to them in the same way that Jesus would. Maybe, our real Cross is to accept ourselves as we are with our abilities and gifts as well as our inabilities and failings. Rather than compare ourselves to others, being envious or feeling superior, we recognise our need of the Father's help in every situation, desiring only to give of our best. So, our joys become more joyful and our sufferings more loving because they are shared, and gradually we find ourselves saying with St Paul: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me!" Gal 2:19

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Second collection this weekend (15th/16th September) in aid of the Home Mission Appeal

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Sunday (16th) 6pm Benediction in the church with a focus on Creation. Please come to spend some quiet time with Our Lord.

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We pray for Janet Gildea whose funeral takes place on Friday 21 September at 11.30am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at North Herts Crematorium.

We also pray for James Reginald Scott whose funeral is on Monday 24 September 2018 at 10am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at North Herts Crematorium. We also pray for Gertrude Abbott whose funeral took place on Friday 14 September 2018 at North Herts Crematorium only. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Preparation Programme. There will be family chats with Fr Tom and Susanna for parents and children in the Emmanuel Centre. 17th to 21st Sept. Appointments run from 4pm-7pm. Please sign up on the notice board in the link.

4th October 6pm on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi bring your pets to the church for prayers and a blessing on the feast of this great saint who loved animals and God's creation. This is the first time we have taken a leaf out of the book of the Vicar of Dibley. The service will be outside unless the weather is poor and when we will be in the hall.



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Michaelmas

6th OCTOBER Last week parishioners were handed a brown envelope which

contained all you need to know about this year's Michaelmas Fair. If you were away last week

or didn't collect your envelope there are several left in a box in the porch so do collect yours before or after Mass. One eagle-eyed parishioner noticed that there was no mention of CAKES on the poster. Yes there will be our usual popular cake and produce stall so please bring your favourite bakes to the Hall on the day of the fair (6th of October) or the previous afternoon (Friday 5th October) We've had an excellent response to our request for good quality toys and games. Many thanks to all those who emptied their toy cupboards. This week we are asking for RELIGIOUS ITEMS which can be put in the red baskets in the porch or collected by Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) Money from the sale of Raffle tickets and the stubs may be left in the office. Additional books from Pam or Trish

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KISS Coffee Morning - Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to and supported last weekend's KISS Coffee Morning which raised an amazing £185.00. The support and generosity of our parish is simply 'stunning' and your encouragement is greatly appreciated.

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First Holy Communion Preparation -If you have a child who is in Y3 this 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 need to contact Susanna Hawksley asap. 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.

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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DO YOU NEED TO DO A BAPTISM COURSE? If



you want your child to be baptised, you need to have completed a preparation course within the last three years. Our next baptism course is on Sunday 18 November 3pm - 4:30pm and Sunday 25 November from 3:30pm - 4:30pm, immediately followed by the rite of the first anointing of baptism at the 5pm Mass. If you have a baby needing baptism or are expecting a baby and want to get ahead with the preparation for this sacrament, please sign up on the notice board in the Link (down the steps to the hall).

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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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The **John Henry Newman School** warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an **Open Evening** on **Thursday 27th September, from 5.30 – 8.30 pm**. Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening and the Headteacher, Mr Mathew, will start his talk at 7.30 pm. The last tour of the school on the Open Evening will be at 7.00 pm. There will be opportunities for parents to view the School the following week.

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Parents who are applying for a place at John Henry Newman school for Sept 2019 need to meet with Fr Tom bringing the completed self-assessment form, baptismal certificate and a photograph of the child. There is no need to bring your child. Please sign up for an appointment on the notice board in the porch.

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SPANISH AFTER SCHOOL CLUB. For children age 4 to 10 years old on Mondays at 4.30pm until 5.30pm. Learning Spanish with fun, songs and lots of vocabulary. Spanish native speaker with more than 15 years of experience. Full CRB. We offer a free trial. Send me an email on spanishmontse@yahoo.co.uk or call me 07732760751. Hasta pronto.

We still need volunteers for our **Children's Liturgy Team** at the 10.30 Mass. You do not need to be a catechist or teacher but you do need to feel comfortable about talking to



children about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Training for being a part of the team is 'on the job' and materials for the liturgy are all provided.

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We are always looking for new members of our Comeback Prayer group to make sure that every day of every month there would be someone in the Parish who would pray for those family members or friends who had for any reason fallen away from the practice of the faith. You are provided with a prayer book and picture to help as a focal point in your own home. You can pray for as little or as long as you wish on your allocated day for people who have fallen away from the faith that they will find their way back or will be led back by the Holy Spirit. If you would like to be part of this group please give your name to Trish, Mike Edwards or Father Tom.



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Masters of Ceremony (MC) at Mass We need more adults (young and old) to help particularly with the **10.30** 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.

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Text Giving A new way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone!! **Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.** This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

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/ourladyrchitchin>
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!

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 18 September

2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All are welcome.

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8pm Talk by Annette Oliver on "Dementia Friends" in the Lower Committee Room. Any members of the Parish as welcome, but if anyone is interested please contact Kath Shell on 07790694519 as soon as possible to enable us to know how many will be attending. Many thanks.

Wednesday 19 September

7.30pm for 8pm CTH Council meeting for the first time is at Wymondley Baptist Church. The Council starts at 8.00 pm but it will be preceded by a Phase update meeting from 7.30pm.

Thursday 20 September

10am St Pio Group Mass followed by a meeting in the LCR. All are welcome.

Future Diary dates

Sept 22 Churches Together Hitchin - Community Fair - Phil Jackson is organising this event in the Market Place to show the good things that charitable organisations etc are doing in Hitchin. He already has a large number that wish to take part but if you know of any others that might be interested, contact him on 07842 144741

Sept 19 **2.30pm CAFOD speaker from Zambia.** CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information afternoon with a special guest speaker, Sr Clara, who has first-hand experience of delivering our work in Zambia. Listen to the inspiring Sr Clara explain, how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. The meeting will take place from 2.30 – 4.30pm at CAFOD's volunteer centre, 1st floor, Catholic Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, London N14 4HE. Bookings taken on 0208 4496970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk Thank you for your support.

Sept 28 18.30 - 21.00 OUR COMMON

HOME An Interfaith evening of exploration and reflection during Creation Season, with a panel of Buddhist, Muslim and Catholic women at St Mary Moorfields Church, 4/5 Eldon Street, EC2M 7LS

Sept 29 **Category Retreat** Why not come join us for a day to explore what is true, good and beautiful in our lives today and establish a solid foundation for your life's next great step. If this appeals to you, send us an email to youth@rcdow.org.uk. The day is open to all those in Years 11,12 and 13 and cost just £20 per person. Once booked, your registration covers full participation in all the activities and talks, while also covering all meal costs for the day. The Pursuit: Saturday 29 September, 10am-9pm. Location: Waxwell House 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner, London, HA5 3EP. Organiser: Westminster Youth Ministry

Other Items of interest

Moves are afoot to bring in anti-Christian censorship zones around abortion centres in the U.K. **On Friday the 28th September**, the Vigil of the Feast of St. Michael, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives.

www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 96

Our Daily Love - Love is not jealous Love is marked by the humility to understand, forgive and serve others from the heart. Jesus told his disciples that in a world where power prevails, each tries to dominate the other, but 'it shall not be so among you' (Mt 20:26).

