

Welcome to our Parish



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On behalf of the Assumptionists and Parish community, we warmly welcome you into this great family here at Our Lady and St Andrew's. May your presence among us be a time of blessing and enrichment for us both!

Please accept this Welcome Pack with our love and best wishes. We hope it will help you settle in here with us more easily and open up opportunities to get involved in the rich and exciting life of the parish. And we are always open to new possibilities!

Yours faithfully

Tom, AA (Parish Priest)

Church of Our Lady Immaculate & St. Andrew

16 Nightingale Rd, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1QS

Tel: 01462 459126 Parish Office
01462 455577 Pastoral Office

Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin

Emails:

Parish Priest: Fr Tom O'Brien AA (Parish Priest)
frtomaa@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Fr Euloge Kasine AA
eulogeka@gmail.com

Retired Priest: Fr Andrew O'Dell AA

Pastoral Assistants: Susanna Hawksley & Trish Bonnett

susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk (Pastoral Assistant)

trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk (Pastoral Assistant)

hitchinpastoral@rcdow.org.uk (Pastoral Office)

Parish Administrator:

Cheryl Saunders (10am-3pm Mon -Thur)

hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office hours: Weekdays: 10am – 3pm (Mon-Thurs)

Times of Masses:

Saturday 6pm – anticipated Mass (no music generally)

Sunday: 8.30am (organ and hymns)

10.30am (sung Mass with choir or music group)

5pm (no music generally)

Weekday masses: Monday - Saturday: 10am

Holydays: 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm



Children's liturgy is offered 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. R-Year 2 go to the lower committee room. Year 3-5 go to the upper committee room. The 4th Sunday of the month is a children's Mass and everyone remains in the church for a children focused liturgy.

Liturgy for the 0-4years and their parents is offered at the 10.30 Mass and everyone goes out to the hall after the gospel when called by the Priest.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sat 10.30 – 11.15am and at call.



Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat 10.30 – 11.15am and Thursdays 7-8pm

Other services (check newsletter for dates)

† *Healing service*

We have a quarterly service of healing and prayer where we come together to pray for ourselves and the needs of others. The Sacrament of the Sick is offered by the Priests who anoint or bless anyone who comes forward. We also spend time praying for our friends, relatives and fellow parishioners who are ill or in trouble and in need of the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Our healing ministry team are available for personal prayer after the service. If you have a need for prayer at any time our healing group are on call to pray. You can contact them through **Mary** on **07759195487**.

† *Evening Eucharistic service*

Most weeks there is an evening Eucharistic service where we reflect quietly on the Word of God and pray for our needs and the needs of others and share communion. This is normally held on a Tuesday evening at 7.15pm in the church.

Other Devotions

† ***Christian Meditation*** Mondays at 11.45am-12.45pm
Upper Committee Room

† ***Morning Prayer from the Office*** Tuesdays at 9.30am
in the Church

† ***Rosary Group*** Wednesdays at 9.30am in the Hall

† ***Rosary*** Thursdays after Mass in the church

† ***Christian Meditation*** Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Upper
Committee Room

† ***Lectio Divina*** Fridays at 2pm in the Lower Committee Room

† ***During Lent*** Stations of the Cross after 10am Mass
on Fridays

Sacramental preparation:

Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage preparation: please see details below or website.

Enquirers wishing to know more about the Catholic faith: please contact the **Pastoral Office**.

Visiting of the sick/housebound

Please contact the **Pastoral Office**.



Hospital

RC Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285138

Via text message: 07876 526935

If you are going into hospital please notify the chaplains directly, as the Hospital procedures do not allow them to pass on the information. 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.

Church hall bookings

Please contact the **Parish Office**.



**AUGUSTINIANS
OF THE
ASSUMPTION**

Thy Kingdom Come

A Short history.....

There has been an established Catholic presence in Hitchin since the eighth century when Offa, King of Mercia built a religious foundation on the banks of the River Hiz for monks of the Order of St. Benedict. It is here that the present Anglican church of St. Mary now stands.

Some five hundred years or so later, in 1317, the religious importance of the area was emphasised when it was recorded that three Hitchin citizens gave land and buildings at the south-western end of the town's wide main street for the building of a Carmelite Priory. For over 200 years the Carmelites ministered to the faithful of the town until, in 1539, their Priory was dissolved by Henry VIII. It is believed that a second Gilbertine Priory, part of which was on the site of the Biggins, suffered a similar fate.

Thereafter little seems to have been recorded of the lives and worship of any Catholics remaining in Hitchin until 1890 when, more than 60 years after the Catholic Emancipation Act passed by Parliament, Holy Mass was said by Father Spink, a member of the Fathers of St. Andrew, for just twelve people on the 30th November – the Feast of their Patron – in a house in Nightingale Road belonging to a Mr Hutchinson. Gradually, the numbers attending this regular service increased until Cardinal Vaughan, after visiting the parish, decided that a church was needed in Hitchin. In 1899, a plot of land was purchased on the corner of Grove Road and Nightingale Road for the sum of £320. Building commenced and, in 1902, the Cardinal returned for the solemn opening of the new church and its dedication to Mary Immaculate and St. Andrew.

The persecution of the Church in France at the beginning of the century caused many congregations of priests and nuns to come to England looking for a home and for an apostolate. The Fathers of St. Edmund came to Hitchin to take charge of the parish and it was they who set up St. Michael's School on the site where Hitchin Police Station now stands. At about the same time, two orders of Sisters arrived; one left after a short time finding there was not sufficient work for two convents in Hitchin. The other, the Sisters of

the Sacred Heart, remained to run a parish primary school and later their own private school as well.

The outbreak of war in 1914 had the immediate effect of drawing the people of Hitchin closer together in a common cause and enabling the Catholics to play a more significant role in the life of the town.

By the summer of 1926, the Augustinian Fathers of the Assumption had replaced the Edmundians as stewards of the Catholic parish at Hitchin. Under their leadership, the school their predecessors had founded became St. Michael's College and the Assumptionist priests undertook wider responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the faithful in the outlying villages. It was estimated at the time that the priests covered over 600 miles each week in carrying out their pastoral duties.

The parish church had been built to accommodate a congregation of 200. With a Catholic population in the town of just 60 people at the time – half a percent of the civic total – it was considered that this left ample room for growth. During the inter-war years, however, the number of Catholics in Hitchin steadily increased due mainly to the inflow of workers from the depression-hit North of England and Scotland and several modifications had to be carried out to cope with the rising numbers.

By the early 70s, Catholics accounted for nearly 10% of the town's population and the need for a larger place of worship became inescapable. So it was that plans were laid for a new church to be sited on land adjoining the existing building – which had to remain unaltered externally – and a Hitchin firm of architects were commissioned to design a new edifice that would harmonise visually with the older building in its new role as the parish hall. Their success was rewarded by a prestigious architectural design award and the Catholics of Hitchin were provided with a striking new centre for their religious devotions.

The design of the new church blended the best of traditional building techniques with the most up-to-date engineering principles. The altar, tabernacle and candlesticks are of Travertine marble, a stone familiar to those who have visited the Pantheon and St. Peter's in Rome, and the church is furnished with carved statues and plaques

that are the work of a parishioner, the late Theodore Kern, a distinguished alumnus of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. The church possesses a fine organ, the work of Saxon Tate, the noted builder of these magnificent instruments.

So it was that, on the 18th December 1977, the new church was consecrated by His Eminence The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, George Basil Hume, OSB and a new chapter opened in the history of the Catholic parish in Hitchin.

The numerical growth of the Catholic Community is reflected in the development of its buildings, and has seen the creation of a Reception Room, named after Doris Harris, who bequeathed money to the Parish for this purpose, so that the Priests can receive and meet with Parishioners in relaxed, comfortable and yet confidential setting. We were further blessed with a bequest from John Martin, to create a Pastoral Office, for our two Pastoral Assistants. We were able to refurbish the Hall for Parish and Community use, redecorate the Church and replace all the windows in the Church and Sacristy areas as well as renew totally the guttering of the Church.

However, the real fabric of the Church is its People and over the years we have built up various Groups and Societies to help create and foster Community life and living: examples are: the One World Group, the Gateway Club for people with special needs, Our Lady's Support Group for children with needs; we have the full range of activities for the Scouting and Guiding Uniformed Groups; the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers, the Bethany Club for people approaching the third age and also various spiritual initiatives, like the Monday Meditation Group, the Wednesday Scripture Group as well as providing a home for various Groups which seek to address more particular needs, like Alcoholics Anonymous, people suffering from forms of depression, the Hitchin Society, meetings of Townswomen Fellowship and others as the need arises.

We have a thriving Parish Council, which is elected and meets quarterly to help form pastoral strategies for the Parish, as well as voicing the views and concerns of parishioners, as they organise ways of addressing the issues and needs that are discerned, working with the Finance Committee to budget and have oversight of

how the Parish maintains its viability. There is a special representation by our Teenage Parishioners on the Council. Our Pastoral Assistants, for Pastoral Ministries and Sacramental Preparation are full members of the Council. We are also developing contacts with the other parishes of the Deanery to promote joint action where possible and we are also involved with Diocesan initiatives. We are envisaging setting up a Deanery Pastoral Council, to plan and work together in the North Hertfordshire part of the Diocese.

In our town, we are fully involved with the ecumenical work of the 13 Churches which are present in Hitchin, three of our Parishioners are on the Council of Churches Together and Trish our Pastoral Assistant is currently its Vice Chair. We are creating joint involvement for pastoral and visiting Ministries to cover the many residential homes in the town as well as working together to foster our Bereavement Visitors and their walking with parishioners at difficult times in their lives. We are actively involved in supporting the Sanctuary, which is owned and organised by Churches Together for those who are homeless, providing overnight accommodation. As regards inter-faith contacts we are involved with the Sikh-Christian Forum, which is developing understanding between ourselves and this religious grouping. We are involved with Ecumenical Lent Groups; participate in various public acts of witness to our Faith, notably on Good Friday and this coming year for the first time, hopefully also on Pentecost Sunday. We also circulate Easter Greetings to the town on a joint basis. Other initiatives are in the offing, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

In such a summary of the past 100 and more years, since the Parish was founded, much has been left out and the many people who have served the Church well and faithfully are not even mentioned. We thank God for all those who have given service to our Parish over the years and pray that we will live our lives as Parishioners, enriched by their experience and wisdom and we pray God that we will be imbued with their Faith and pioneering spirit!

Fr Tom, AA



Sacramental Preparation

If you have any queries regarding preparation for the sacraments please contact the Pastoral Office. 01462 455577

Please watch the newsletter and notice boards for information on sacramental preparation courses.

Baptism.

- ❖ Courses are held twice a year for first time parents, for those anticipating the birth of their first child and a separate short course for those who may need a 'refresher'.
- ❖ After completion of the course, parents will need to contact one of the parish clergy to arrange the actual Baptism.

First Eucharist and Reconciliation.

- ❖ Children wishing to receive these Sacraments are prepared at home **by their parents**, using a variety of programmes to suit individual needs and tastes. The Parish provides support and assistance for the families, through a series of meetings throughout the year, to which all parents are expected to come. Meetings start in September and finish in June. Application for the Journey of Faith is made following an Introductory Time of Preparation
- ❖ Reconciliation is celebrated during Advent and First Eucharist during late Spring/early Summer.

Confirmation.

- ❖ Young people in Year 9 and above of secondary school are invited to participate in a short but intensive course of preparation.
- ❖ The course varies from year to year but is designed to give young parishioners an experience of community and an opportunity to talk about their faith.
- ❖ They are expected to meet the Parish Priest for a chat before deciding if they wish to be confirmed and the expectation is that they will undertake some kind of ministry in the church community – like Reading, Counting the Collection, Eucharistic Minister etc

Marriage.

- ❖ The Parish runs a Marriage Preparation Course for engaged couples at least once a year. Enquiries about Marriage should be made to the Priests of the Parish, as 6 months notice must be given and other documentation collated.

Reception into the Catholic Church.

- ❖ There are a variety of avenues for adults and children enquiring into reception into the Church, be it with Baptism or Confirmation, or interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith. Please contact the Pastoral Office for details.
- ❖ A group preparing adults for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) currently meets once a week. Contact the Pastoral Office for details.

Adult Formation.

- ❖ A variety of events are arranged by the Diocese and held in the deanery which are publicised in the newsletter and on the parish notice board.

WELFARE & OTHER GROUPS

Archconfraternity of St Stephen for Altar servers

We have a flourishing Guild which was set up in 1932 to organise and train parishioners to assist the Priest by serving at Mass. It is open to any parishioner who has made their first Holy Communion. We are particularly interested in recruiting adults to train as MCs.

Contact Richard Bradford - 07900290824
richardabradford@yahoo.co.uk

The Bethany Club

This is a drop-in club held every Tuesday in our Church Hall offering a day out with meals, companionship and entertainment. People of any age are welcome.

Contact: Phyl Creswell – 07722 436869

Choir

We sing at 10.30 Mass on the first Sunday of the month and we also support the Christmas and Holy Week celebrations. Practices are Thursday evening at 8pm in the church. Anyone who likes singing, praising God through music and having fun is welcome. Previous experience or musical training is not necessary. We need your voice (whatever you think of it, we want you to come) to swell our numbers.

Contact: Samantha Wilkins – 01462 421792

Gateway Club

This Group offers support to people with learning difficulties. It meets on alternate Saturday afternoons in the Church Hall. Various activities are made available from playing with a computer, listening and playing music to just spending time having fun amongst friends.

Contact: Pam Brannigan – 01462 632587

Music Group

The group provides music for the 10.30am Mass on the third and fourth (Children's) Sundays of the month. They also play at other Masses and liturgies, including Christmas, Easter and First Communion celebration Masses. Musicians of all ages and abilities are always welcome to join.

Contact: Greg Hewitson: 01462 637150

One World Group

This group supports CAFOD by taking 8 monthly collections each year, together with collections for major catastrophes anywhere in the world. The main fundraising activity is a monthly coffee morning. In Lent, they hold a meditation followed by a Lenten supper, and in December an evening of Carols and Christmas readings followed by supper.

Contact: Pam Brannigan – 01462 632587

Our Lady's Special Support Group

This is a small team that reaches out to people with learning difficulties, their families and friends. The Group started in Hitchin but now includes other Parishes. Regular meetings often held in members' homes or the Church Hall. Each meeting has a theme that generally includes a time to think, pray, an activity, a hymn or two and plenty of time to talk.

Contact: Pam Brannigan – 01462 632587 or Brenda Pond 01462 422781

Parents and Toddlers Group

Meets every Monday and Friday morning, in the Hall. Toys to play with, lots of fun, many varied activities and a time where parents with young children can share and support each other.

Contact: Monday Group Seaneen Robinson-07899921735

Sarah Miles- 07968719966, Sarah Curley- 07813820096

Friday Group Elisa Gatti- 07497099882

Praise Group

We are a group of people who enjoy singing in praise to God in an informal and enjoyable atmosphere and we meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the lower committee room at 10-40am (after mass). The hymns are chosen on the theme of the mass readings of the previous month and we are accompanied by a guitar. All are welcome so do come along and enjoy.

Contact: Phil Shakeshaft 01462 684215

Saint Pio Prayer Group

The St Pio Group, under the care of Our Lady of the Assumption, meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month from 10 am in the Church. The meeting includes Holy Mass for the members, followed by the Rosary, tea and biscuits in the Hall. All are welcome.

Contact: Theresa Bryan – 01462 682910

Scout Groups

All groups take boys and girls in all sections:

Beavers (aged 6-8) meet Mondays 6pm-7pm

Cubs (aged 8-10 1/2) meet Mondays 7.15pm-8.15pm

Sea Scouts (aged 10 1/2 to 14) meet Tuesdays 7.15pm - 8.30pm

Contact: Chrissi Evans - 07811 328798

Union of Catholic Mothers

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month in the church hall. We join other foundations and churches on special occasions. Members are involved in most aspects of parish ministries, non-Catholic wives of Catholic husbands are welcome to join us. We are actively aware of the needs of family.

Contact: Jeannie Sherriffs – 01462 451535

Visitors Group

The aims of this group are to visit and befriend members of the Parish who need support i.e. the housebound, the physically handicapped, the lonely of any age and those in long-stay care (Nursing Homes or Rest Homes).

Co-ordinator: Trish Bonnett – 07801 752141

Visitors for the Bereaved

This is a small team of parishioners, specially trained in how to give listening time to the Bereaved in their homes, without being intrusive.

Contact: Antonietta Tinney - 01462 456096

Visitors Group for Parishioners with Special Needs

Two small teams visit residents in Gainsford House a, home for the mentally ill, being cared for in the community. Small parties, outings and other activities organised.

Contact: Pam Brannigan - 01462 632587

Faith Development Helpline

You may know someone who has not been to our church for a long time. Of course, there can be a multitude of reasons for this. Some people go through their whole lives without any serious doubts about their faith but many of us are not so blessed and can be assailed by doubts and difficulties that can be a block to the practise of our faith.

They might not have anyone to talk to about it.

Our Parish offers a service for anyone to talk in complete confidence with a sympathetic and thoughtful listener. You do not need to identify yourself if you do not wish to; this could be a great help in dealing with a problem.

A group of parishioners have taken on the role of Listeners at the end of the phone. You need to be free to say anything you wish to so the listeners have had some life experience, are not easily shocked, not judgmental, and are able to hold a conversation in confidence and to gently make suggestions as to a way forward if appropriate.

**Please call us
We want to help**

**Our Lady's Parish
Faith
Development
Helpline**

Problems or doubts
about your faith?
Are you feeling a bit
lost?

**Try ringing
07582 648433**

**Tues, Weds,
Thurs
8pm – 10pm**

This is a
confidential
service and
follows Parish
Safeguarding
Policies



Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Parish, Hitchin

Please bring these items to church and placed them in the labeled collection boxes in the "LINK"

live simply award

OUT SMARTING WASTE!

With TerraCycle® we are helping to "Eliminate the Idea of Waste"!

Raising funds for charity - North Herts Sanctuary (<http://www.northhertssanctuary.org.uk/>)



1) BIC Spent Writing Instruments:

We are collecting: All writing instruments can be collected, regardless of their brand or material - ballpoint pens, felt tips, mechanical pencils, markers, highlighters and correction fluid containers.

Wooden pencils and crayons can be collected for Diapalante, in Senegal and Mauritania (www.diapalante.org).

2) Colgate Oral Care items:

We are collecting All brands of: Toothpaste tubes and caps, Toothbrush outer packaging, Toothbrushes Electric and battery toothbrush HEADS only, Toothpaste cartons - regardless of material.

NB: In order to recycle this waste stream properly please cut open the toothpaste tubes and make sure all leftover product has been removed from the packaging, and please rinse well and let them dry before placing them in a plastic bucket.

Please note, waste that is **NOT** accepted:

- NO Dental Floss and Floss Containers
- NO Interdental Brushes
- NO Toothache Kits
- NO Breath Sprays
- NO Denture Adhesives Packaging
- NO Denture Tablets Packaging
- NO Denture Cream Tubes
- NO Battery Toothbrushes
- NO Mouthwash Plastic Bottles
- Tubes that did not contain toothpaste
- Outer packaging that did not contain toothbrushes
- Cartons that did not contain toothpaste



3) Tassimo T-DISCS and Bags, L'Or capsules, Kenco lids and refill packaging: for charity – PHASE – providing support and counselling to school children in Hitchin schools. (<http://www.phase-hitchin.org/>) (No other makes will be accepted)

4) McVities Biscuits Wrappers Recycling: for charity – Parish's Hardship Care Fund

We are collecting: ALL brands of SWEET or Non-Savoury Biscuit and cake wrappers, and ALL brands Cracker Wrappers. (Please NO bags of sweets, dried fruit or nuts, marshmallows, chocolate wrappers, etc.)



Raising funds for charity – Marine Conservation Society - helping people to discover, value and enjoy being connected to our seas, to inform better decisions today, which will ensure seas full of life and eliminate pollution in our seas and on our beaches for future generations. The following new schemes -



5) Walkers Crisp Packets Recycling:

We are collecting: **Any brand of crisp packets**

(Waste NOT accepted: Popcorn bags, Pretzel bags, Meat snack bags)

6) Pringles Cans Recycling:

We are collecting: **Any size of Pringles tubes, and the Plastic lid and seal on Pringles cans**

(Waste NOT accepted: **Any crisp packets or other types of tubes**)



7) Whiskas and James Wellbeloved Plastic pet food pouch or flexible plastic pet food bag: We are collecting: **Any wet pet food pouches, all pet treat flexible plastic packaging and pouches, all dry pet food flexible plastic packaging**

NB: In order to recycle this waste stream properly, please only leave accepted packaging types.

Please ensure all excess and leftover product has been removed from all packaging.

We can only accept pouches which are **EMPTY, WASHED CLEAN and DRY** on the inside and out - Please rinse the wet food pouches thoroughly and let them dry before bringing them to the LINK. This is to avoid bacterial and fungal hazardous contamination and exposure of people handling the waste at the parish and the recycling centre.

(Waste NOT accepted: Cans, Cardboard packaging, Paper packaging, Hard plastic packaging, Plastic bottle – please recycle these in normal household waste recycling bins)

8) Plastic type-2 (HDPE) bottle tops: Recycled by Lush Cosmetics – coloured plastic **only** of type HDPE or High Density Polyethylene or type-2, shown as



HDPE or PE-HD for making their new cosmetics packaging.

NO OTHER TYPES OF PLASTIC TOPS PLEASE!

Lush cosmetics charitable giving initiatives provide funding for small, grassroots groups in the following areas: the environment; animal protection; and human rights. See: <https://uk.lush.com/article/donations-environmental-groups>



P.S.: Over the next few weeks a re-arrangement will be done of the recycling bins for each of the waste streams mentioned above. Please, to prevent Michael and I and anyone helping to cover for us spending un-necessary long periods of time sorting through the waste, please respect the various bins provided and don't leave it all mixed together. Thank you so much for all your support

Let's help make our future a greener, more sustainable gift to all of Creation in our share Common Home! God bless us all in all that we do!

Michael and Deolinda Eltringham



Your help is needed

Below is a list of some of the activities in the parish where we need your help on a regular or occasional basis. Please

consider them and complete the sheet at the back to offer your services for the benefit of our parish. Your gift.

Altar serving and MC – serving at Mass on a Sunday or during the week, MC (Master of Ceremony) – setting up for the Mass and supervising and supporting other altar servers. *Weekly Commitment*

Bethany club helpers – helping in the kitchen, serving meals and chatting to club members on a Tuesday at the Bethany Club. *Weekly/fortnightly/monthly Commitment*

Bethany club transport – Giving lifts to the Bethany club members to the club and back home again at the end of the day. Times of lifts vary according to need but likely to be between 11am and 12pm for arrival and 2.30pm for return. *Weekly Commitment*

Candle Wax removal – ironing carpet with newspaper to soak up spilt wax around the Paschal candle and also wax removal from the floor around the votive candle stands in the side altars. *Occasional commitment*

Children's liturgy – helping on a monthly basis as a leader of the children's liturgy at the 10.30 Mass on a Sunday or as a helper to support the leader. Training is available. All materials required are provided. (Disclosure and Barring service checks are required for this role) *Monthly Commitment*

Choir – singing at the 10.30 Mass on the first Sunday of the month, Christmas and Easter supporting the liturgies. Practice on Thursday evening at 8pm. Other chances to sing occur also. Ideally you need to read music but support is given for those who sing by ear. *Weekly Commitment*

Church Cleaning – cleaning the church and porch areas on a Saturday or Monday as part of a small team, once a month, to ensure our church is beautiful for the Lord and those who come to worship. *Monthly Commitment*

Clearing church after Mass – to clear the pews at the end of Mass of hymn books, Mass cards and newsletters and any other items people have left behind after Mass. Need only be done at whatever Mass you normally attend. *Weekly Commitment*

Counting collection Sunday – work as part of a small team, once every six weeks to count the offertory collection, update the planned giving records and bag up money ready for banking. *Six weekly commitment*

Counting collection Monday morning – work as part of a small team once a month to count other monies (eg collection boxes, Mass stipends, record and bag up money ready for banking. *Three – Four weekly commitment*

Eucharistic ministry – to support the Priests during the Mass by distributing communion. Taking communion to those who are in residential care or housebound. Training provided. *Monthly commitment*

Flowers in church – arranging the flowers in the church for ordinary time and special seasons of Christmas and Easter. Working as part of a team. Checking flowers are watered. *Occasional commitment*

Fundraising activities - this can vary according to what activities are in place but currently need someone to monitor the Easyfundraising website activities and also we would like to start selling parishioner donated items on ebay to raise funds. Ideally someone who is an experienced ebayer could take this on. *Occasional commitment*

Gardening Team – to maintain the gardens and grounds which also includes mowing and leaf raking. Part of a team.
Occasional commitment

Gateway Club - helpers and supporters of the club for people with learning difficulties. It meets on alternate Saturday afternoons in the Church Hall. Various activities are made available from playing with a computer, listening and playing music to just spending time having fun amongst friends. *Fortnightly commitment*

Hall Maintenance – to keep an eye on the hall (to support the volunteer hall manager) to ensure it is tidy, chairs are in right place and kitchen has been left clean and tidy. *Weekly commitment*

Ministers of the Word – to support the liturgy of the Word during Sunday and daily Mass by proclaiming the Word of God. Training provided. *Six weekly commitment*

Music group – provides music at the 10.30 Mass for the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. Any instrument welcome.
Twice monthly commitment

Newsletter editing and printing - as part of a team compiling, editing and printing the weekly newsletter on the 5th Saturday of the month and holiday cover for other team members. *Occasional commitment*

Noticeboard upkeep – to keep the noticeboards tidy and up-to-date. *Weekly commitment*

Parish Maintenance Team – to help as a handy person as part of a team to maintain the church and hall. *Occasional commitment*

Organists/keyboard players - to support the music at the 8.30 and 10.30 am Masses *Occasional commitment*

Selling religious cards and other items after Mass – to provide religious cards and items for parishioners after 8.30 and 10.30 Sunday Mass as part of a team. *Monthly commitment*

Snow clearing team – to clear paths and provide a path across car park before weekend or daily Mass when snow falls to ensure parishioners can attend Mass safely. *Occasional commitment*

Sound system set up on Sunday – to set up sound equipment for 10.30 and occasionally 5pm Mass and control sound output from main console. Training provided. *2-3 weekly commitment*

Taking up collection – to take up collection during the Sunday Mass that you regularly attend as part of a team. *Weekly Commitment*

Transport for parishioners – to help parishioners who are without transport get to vital places eg hospital and doctor appointments. *Occasional commitment*

Transport to Mass – to help parishioners who are without transport to get to Sunday Mass. *Weekly Commitment*

Visiting housebound – to visit housebound parishioners so they do not feel lonely and have contact with someone from the parish. *Occasional commitment*

Welcoming – to greet people as they come to Mass and give them a newsletter and hymn book where appropriate. Working as part of a team. *Weekly Commitment*

Please hand this in to the parish office or the Pastoral assistant

I would like to offer help in the following ways:

NAME:

TEL NO:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Thank you for your offer of help. We really do value it.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LADY'S
THROUGH THE
GIFT AID SCHEME**

The Church and its many activities are supported almost entirely from the money received through the Offertory Collection. Your offerings are, therefore, vital to the life of the Parish.

If you pay Income Tax, you can help even more - without it costing you a penny extra - You can do this by joining the Gift Aid Scheme through which we can claim a refund of the Tax you pay on the money you donate to the Church.

You can make your contribution by cash, Bankers Order or cheque. You don't have to commit to a set amount. There are no forms to fill in or claims to make. It's confidential – only the Organisers know how much you have contributed.

It's simple and it helps the Parish so much so why not ...

Join Now

To join or for more information, contact
the Parish Planned Giving and Gift Organisers:
Margaret and David Wilson on 01462 627784



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Old Hale Way

Hitchin

SG5 1XT

01462 622555



HEADTEACHER: Mrs Ciara Nicholson

The Headteacher welcomes the opportunity to show prospective parents around the school.

Appointments can be made through the school office.

Contacting the School:

Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Old Hale Way

Hitchin

Hertfordshire SG5 1XT

Tel: 01462 622555

Fax: 01462 622777

www.ourladys.herts.sch.uk

admin@ourladys.herts.sch.uk



Chair of Governors: Mr N Adams

The aim and purpose of Our Lady School is to provide a Catholic education for our children and develop sound Christian principles governed by the teachings of the Gospels, which are at the heart of the curriculum.

We hope that you will consider sending your child to our school, a school where children are welcomed into a caring community and given every opportunity to develop fully.

Our aim has always been to achieve high standards of education for all our children within the ethos of a Catholic faith environment.

Your child will be happy and secure at Our Lady School and will be encouraged to do their very best. We are sure they will enjoy all the exciting learning opportunities we can offer.

Admissions

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to the school and intends to admit 30 pupils to Reception Class.

Please see our website for the admissions policy and all forms. You will also be able to view or download the school prospectus.

Our Lady School is a high achieving School.

We have a specialist music teacher and are committed to the performing arts.

We have a School uniform of which we are very proud.

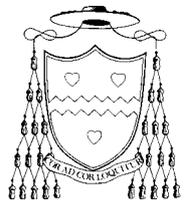
We have an ICT suite and interactive boards in every classroom.

Each of us is in a "house" named after special Saints.

Our Lady School is a voluntary aided Catholic School in the diocese of Westminster. We cater for all children between the ages of 4 and 11 and are one form entry.

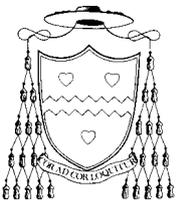


Our Mission Statement
“Together at Our Lady School we are living, learning and growing through Jesus Christ and his Church”



THE JOHN HENRY NEWMAN SCHOOL

Catholic Voluntary Aided



Headteacher Mr Matthews

Hitchin Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 4AE

Telephone: 01438 314643

Fax: 01438 747882

E-mail: admin@johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.johnhenrynewman.herts.sch.uk

The John Henry Newman Roman Catholic School is a secondary school and sixth form for boys and girls aged 11-18.

We want all pupils to achieve their full potential and everyone here works to achieve the School's aims:

- ✚ all pupils will leave the school committed to a Christian way of life, shaped by Catholic practice and teaching.
- ✚ all pupils will mature as thoughtful, responsible, considerate individuals.
- ✚ all pupils will be provided with the opportunity to develop their talents.
- ✚ each person within the school is treated with equal respect.

The John Henry Newman School Mission Statement

Our Mission is to be

A Living, Christian Experience Inspired by

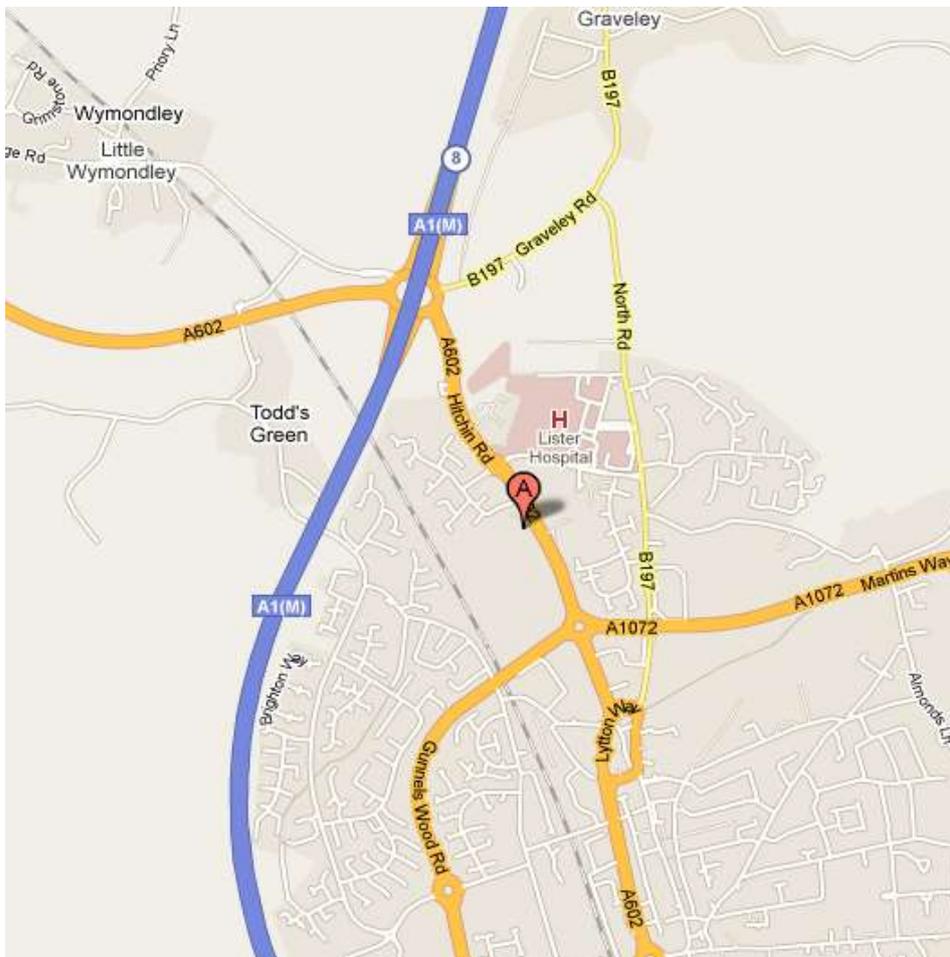
- love of the Creator
- faith in Jesus Christ
- hope from the Holy Spirit

In service to

- the needs of our pupils and students
- the parents and guardians of our pupils and students
- the educational mission of the Catholic Church

We believe

- in the goodness and beauty of God's creation
- in the goodness, dignity and worth of each person
- that everyone has a unique spiritual identity which they are called to fulfil
- in loving one another and yourself for the person that you are
- that all have rights, roles and responsibilities for which they are accountable
- in discovering and nurturing our God – given gifts
- in celebrating the personal development of each individual
- that the quality of teaching and learning is of fundamental importance
- in developing informed minds capable of making informed and considerate decisions
- that everyone thrives in a secure, safe and structured environment
- in forgiveness and being forgiven
- in celebrating and living our faith, and reaching out to others
- and that learning is a life-long journey through which each person should aspire to make the world a better place



Admissions Queries
Please contact the
Admissions Secretary
on **01438 791982**

The John Henry
Newman School is
situated on the
A602 just off the
A1.

Happy the one who considers the poor and the weak....

Can you help bring someone to Mass?

Within our community, there are those who find it difficult to come to Mass because they have no car or access to other forms of transport.

Some people already give lifts and we are very grateful to those, but there is an increasing need among our parish family.

Some of our parishioners come by taxi which is costly – double the rate at weekends.

Our parishioners who need help in getting here are loyal servants of our parish family.

Can you offer to be part of a pool, willing to give a lift, *if requested?*

The plan will be to offer a list of those people willing to give lifts to those who need them. The onus will be on the person requiring the lift to contact one of the drivers and make arrangements either on a week to week basis or as mutually agreed.

To facilitate matters we will cone off 2 *drop off* spaces for drivers bringing people to Mass, next to the disabled parking.

Please fill in details below if you can assist.

Any queries: talk to one of the Pastoral Team or on 455577

Please tear off
and hand into the
Pastoral Office

Please tick where necessary.

I am willing to help bring people to Mass.

I agree to my name and telephone no being handed out to those who request a lift.

Name

.....

Telephone no.

.....

By giving my number, I consent to being contacted via this method.

Email address

.....

By giving my email, I consent to being contacted via this method.

Which Mass would you be available

.....

Information provided on this form, together with all other personal data held about these individuals by the Parish and the Diocese of Westminster, is processed in accordance with the Diocese's Privacy Notice; which is available at rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

*Please tear off
and hand in at the
hospital*

**If you go into hospital please complete this form and
hand it in on arrival.**

To the Hospital Administrator

I,

In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and any subsequent documentation, give "Explicit Consent" that the details of my religious affiliation (detailed below) are passed to the Hospital Chaplaincy department and are to be forwarded on to the relevant religious leader of my church or parish.

Religion: Roman Catholic

Parish/Church: Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Lambert a.a.

Church Address: 16 Nightingale Road
Hitchin
Herts
SG5 1QS

Church Tel: 01462 459126

Signed

