



# 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 1709

19<sup>th</sup> – 26th November 2016 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year C



<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
<b>Contacts</b>	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 E-mail: <a href="mailto:frtomaa@gmail.com">frtomaa@gmail.com</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Pastoral Support	07958 575442 <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Susanna Hawksley <b>Catechetics</b>	<a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders	Tel: 01462 459126 <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Tel: Mobile: Website: E-mail:	01462 459 126 07547 171570 <a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Representative</b> Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

### Diary

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	Confirmation Hall 6pm
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Baptism Course – LCR 7pm	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
	Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30-9pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Marriage Prep Course Hall 9.30-4pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
	Advent Service Church 6.15pm



If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**  
Via text message: **07876 526935**  
Email: [chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net)

If you are in Pinehill Hospital, please contact the parish directly. When you come out of hospital or if you are ill and housebound please ring the parish office so we can minister to your needs if required.

*If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions.*

**Parish Prayer** Bless this parish, Lord. Let our community reflect your own communion of love. Help us to live peacefully and humbly, attending to the call of your Spirit and mindful of our duty to everything you have created. Strengthen the bonds of our families and friendships with patience and kindness. Make us joyful messengers of your kingdom and a source of comfort for those in need.



If someone close to you has died our Bereavement Team is specially trained to help. You can contact them through the Parish Office on 01462 459126.

**Readings: Sam 5:1-3, Col 1:12-20, Luke23:35-43**

**Entrance Antiphon:** How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**Psalm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'.**

Intercessions: Lord we pray

Response: **You are our King.**

**Next week: Sam 5:1-3, Col 1:12-20, Luke23:35-43**

**This week's counting teams:**  
**Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 3**



**Please note our new parish prayer to the left of the newsletter. Copies available in porch.**

**Faith Development Helpline**  
If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring  
**07582 648433**  
Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.  
Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself

## Ramblings for Reflection:

### Ramblings - Feast of Christ the King C 2016

However great a person is, however much we admire them or are inspired by them, there comes a point in our lives when we secretly want to know what the person is like at the lowest moment in their life, when they are really up against it. It would seem that that is the position of the liturgist who chose the reading for the day when we celebrate the kingship, the true glory of Christ who is both our king and our brother. The day we celebrate his absolute victory over evil and death. So the gospel takes us into the presence Jesus at the lowest moment of his life, hanging on the cross, where he even feels forsaken by his Father. The crowds are jeering at him, mocking him. How tempting it must have been to come down from the cross just to show them!!! But he doesn't. What does Jesus do? He hears the words of the 'good' thief who acknowledges the innocence of Jesus and the injustice of his punishment. And whatever evils the good thief may have committed are not only forgiven but he is assured a place in the heavenly kingdom the same day. Instead of saving himself at the lowest point in his life, Jesus chooses to save someone else. Isn't that the kind of King in whose kingdom you would want to live????

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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of the Catholic Youth Service.

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### Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass



Stuck for a Christmas present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education.

CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass

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A more urgent need exists for people to help take the collection at the Sunday 8.30am Mass. Again, if you can help, we would be very grateful to any volunteers. Thank you.

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**Trip to Lourdes 2017** Two of our parishioners are keen to organise a parish/deanery pilgrimage to Lourdes in the next year. If you are interested going to Lourdes please can you let Trish or any of the pastoral team know and then an information evening will be planned.

There is an update on the Parish Justice and Peace website page which is about the refugee camps in Calais and appeals for your help. Please look at it. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/justice-and-peace-information-and-petitions/>

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Don't forget that when you do your Christmas shopping online - you could

be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. 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. Thank you for your support!

Only 18 people have signed up over the past year but they have raised over **£200 at no extra cost to themselves**. It would be great if we could at least double that number in the run up to Christmas.

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We need a couple more people to help with the counting of the non-offertory collection on a Monday morning. Teams meet at about 9ish and empty the money boxes in the church and count that and any other monies that have come in during the week. It takes about an hour and is a vital service to offer the parish. If you can spare an hour once a month on a Monday please speak to Trish or David Wilson.



Also we need volunteers at the 8.30am Mass to take up the collection. Ideally 3 people should do it. All you do is gather the collection bag from the back of the church, hand it out to the congregation at the appropriate time and count the number of people at the Mass by clicking a counter as you pass the bag along. If you are a regular at 8.30 Mass please get up to help with this ministry which is vital for the financial well-being of the parish. Thank you in anticipation.



**Grateful thanks to** Tony, John and Brian who worked so hard to repair the damaged areas of the car park. During the coldest spell of weather we have had for a while they valiantly battled to get the work done and minimise the disruption to car park users. We are very lucky to have such wonderful parishioners who give us their time and labour.



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Like last year Hitchin Christian centre are helping to put together 100 Christmas Hampers for those who otherwise would not be

able to afford a good Christmas meal. We have been asked to provide chocolate logs once again for these hampers. Your response last year was brilliant. Could you please add a chocolate log to your shopping trolley when you next shop and then drop into the church porch in the box provided by 22nd December. If you are able to help put these hampers together from 10am-12pm on 23rd December at the Priory School please contact Phil Jackson on [phil.jackson@hcc.org.uk](mailto:phil.jackson@hcc.org.uk).

### Dates for Diary

#### Sunday 20 November

Session 3 of the **Confirmation Course** is at **6pm** in the Hall on Sunday.

#### Tuesday 22 November

**Baptism Course** takes place in the LCR at **7pm**.

#### Saturday 26 November

**Marriage Preparation Course** will be in the Hall between 9.30 and 4pm.

#### Sunday 27 November

**6:15PM** We have an **Advent Service** to help us reflect on the season and better prepare for the birth of our Saviour at Christmas.

### Future Dates

**Nov 22** 'Full of Grace': Our Lady, the Annunciation, and us by Fr. Nicholas Crowe OP. Exploring Mary's consent to God's work of salvation and what this means for us.

**Nov 23** **11am CAFOD Memorial Mass** in memory of Supporters and Volunteers, at The Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HE at **11am**. If you would like someone to be included in our book of remembrance, please send us their name by calling CAFOD Westminster on 020 8449 6970 or emailing [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk)

**Nov 26** **10am Towards Advent 2016** - a Festival of Catholic Culture is being held in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue London SW1 1QJ Over 30 organisations will be attending and it is an opportunity for them to give an insight into their activities and they will also have many articles for sale. Admission is free. In addition some talks and workshops will be given during the event. Further details are available on 'towardsadvent@blogspot.com'

**Nov 28** **FAITH MATTERS: Advent 2016 'UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN' (ISAIAH 9:6): THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES AND JESUS** at Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN 7pm to 8.30pm. Booking is required as places are limited. Register at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or if you have no access to the Internet call at 020 7931 6078 to leave your details. Suggested donation is £4.50 per talk.

**Nov 28** **The Visitation:** Elizabeth's example of Marian Prayer by Fr. Paul Rowse OP. How should we speak to someone who does not live on earth anymore? Can it even be done? The mother of John the Baptist offers us prayer as the way our familiar and filial relationship with the Saviour's Mother is renewed by us.

**Nov 30** **"Tackling Poverty and Injustice across the World- An evening with CAFOD"** You are invited to an information evening at 7.30pm in the parish of St Hugh of Lincoln, 84 Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3TP. All are welcome.

### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 7

Chapter 1 *In the Light of the Word (continued)*.

We know the New Testament speaks of "churches that meet in homes" (cf. 1 Cor 16:19; Rom 16:5; Col 4:15; Philem 2).

A family's living space can turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table.

We can never forget the image found in the Book of Revelations, where the Lord says "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me (Rev 3:20). Here we see a home filled with the presence of God, common prayer and every blessing.





**Health and Safety inspection** for our parish is coming up in December. A number of members of the parish have been working hard to ensure that we make our facilities as safe as possible for all the parishioners and users. One thing we need to do is have a practice evacuation from the church. This will be unannounced so if it happens at the Mass you are asked to please be patient and follow the instructions given. We will do our best to ensure it does not interfere with the Mass and minimise the inconvenience to our parishioners.

### **Information to prepare you**

**Full details of the evacuation procedure are available in the porch. An extract of what you need to do follows:**

At the point of identification that an evacuation is necessary the Priest will announce to the congregation that we need to evacuate the church and the congregation should follow the instructions of the Fire Wardens who are identified by the yellow vests.

- a. The MC will evacuate the altar servers and the Priest through the sacristy corridor (providing this is not taking them to the source of any fire)
- b. The members of the congregation to the left of the altar (as you face the altar) will leave the church through the sacristy corridor (providing this is not taking them to the source of any fire) and will leave the corridor through the doors to the right and left at the top of the corridor.
- c. The members of the congregation to the right of the altar and around the organ will leave the church through the main entrance and leave through the porch.
- d. (10.30 Mass only) All the children in the children's liturgy groups in the hall and committee rooms will be evacuated by the back entrance of the hall. Parents should proceed to the back door of the hall to collect their children from whichever exit you leave the church. The Catechists will remain with the children until they have all been collected.
- e. Once out of the church all members of the congregation should leave the church grounds immediately as it is necessary to clear the cars from the car park as soon as possible so that any fire fighting appliances can gain access.
- f. People need to walk calmly and not rush to exit the church. All able bodied people need to leave immediately to create space for the less able. Families with children should leave immediately, other adults should offer to support the less able bodied. Parents who have altar servers at the Mass should meet them at the car park and not look for them in the sacristy.
- g. Fire wardens will be in the car park to assist the smooth emptying of the car park. All cars should turn left out of the car park.

**Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.**