



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 1710
26th November – 3rd December 2016 1st Sunday of Advent



Mass Times	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 E-mail: frtomaa@gmail.com
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert Pastoral Support	07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 455577 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
Parish Safeguarding Representative Trish Bonnett Telephone: 01462 459126 (Parish)	

Sunday 27th	Coffee Morning – UCM Advent Service Church 6.15pm
Monday 28th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 29th Scout Hall Scouts 7.15-8.45pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm Choir Practice Church 8pm
Wednesday 30th	Rosary Group for All Hall 9.30am
Thursday 1st	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
Friday 2nd	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
Sunday 4th	Coffee Morning – Bereavement

Readings: Is 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Matt 24:37-44

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

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

Intercessions: Prepare us, O Lord...

Response: **Make us ready for Christ's coming!**

Next week: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Matt 3:1-12

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 4
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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The Parish Library - The library which is behind the organ has been replenished and offers many excellent books. Do find time to browse and if you choose a book, please fill in the register.

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



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

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.



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

At the Provincial Chapter, where I am, our theme is 'New wine, new wineskins.' An appropriate theme for Advent, a season of renewal, expectation and rising hope. Moving from a season of Mercy, reassured that, whatever the past, God's mercy having cleaned up our lives, we are now able to refresh and renew your commitment to give birth to Jesus, in our lives, in our families, and among all those with whom we come into contact. Advent is a season for nurturing new and old possibilities. Possibilities, like new wine, need time and patience, a time of waiting, in order to mature properly. For us it means setting time aside to sit with God, with Jesus, with Mary, with Joseph, to allow the Holy Spirit to work on the new wine, the new possibilities, promoting and fostering their maturity until ready to take flesh. The waiting improves the quality of the wine as well as our expectations and strengthens our HOPE. Then we, too, will be walking in new skins reflecting a more mature love of Jesus Christ for us, for our families and for our world. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

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Young Leader Opportunity – The Beaver and Cub groups have spaces for 4 youth leaders to help with running the sessions. This is a great volunteer opportunity for a student in year 10 or above. It develops leadership skills and experience of working with children. Counts as a volunteering section of D of E and looks good on a CV/personal statement. If interested, please email chrissievans@2thechapmans.com

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This weekend 6.15pm We are holding our **Advent reflection** in the church to help us prepare for the coming of our Saviour at Christmas. Please join us.

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The Hitchin Parish Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015 show an operating surplus of £19,848. Further details are published on the Notice Board in the Porch

Dates for Diary

Monday 28 November

11am Mass at Sue Ryder Stagenhoe. If you need a lift please be in the church car park by 10.35am.

Wednesday 30 November

7.30pm Tackling poverty and injustice across the world – An evening with CAFOD in Fortescue Hall, Pixmore Way, Letchworth. All are welcome

Thursday 1 December

10am St Pio Mass followed by a meeting in the Hall until 12 noon. All are welcome.

Sunday 4 December

3pm Healing and Wholeness service with the Sacrament of anointing of the sick for all who feel the need; the sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered. We also come to pray with and for people generally in need of healing during this time – so there is always a general invitation to the Parish to come along.

Other items of interest

Dec 10&11

12noon to 6pm The Hitchin

Christmas Tree Festival: Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Come and see the amazing display of 50 glittering trees, decorated by groups, families and businesses from across the town and beyond. Admission £4: accompanied children free

The weekend begins with the Christmas Tree Festival Preview and Concert on Friday December 9th, from 6.30pm -9pm (concert starts 7.45.)

Admission by advance ticket £12 (includes mulled wine and refreshments) from 01462 712212; toryevans@greatgreen.plus.com

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This Christmas season Somewhere to Go will be run from Built on Faith, Westmill Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin SG5 2PG. Christmas Day: 11am-5pm, Monday 26th Dec: 10am-4pm and Sunday 1st January: 10am-4pm. Please spread the word and let us know if you would like to volunteer for one or more days.

If you are able to make any donations or for booking please contact Leigh bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 8

Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)

The Bible presents the family as the place where children are brought up in the faith. This is evident from the description of the Passover



celebration: "And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to YOU?', then tell them." Exodus 12:26-27 and exuberantly proclaimed in Psalm 78:3-6: "All that we have heard and know that our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from our children - telling the generation to come of our praises of the Lord, His strength and the wondrous works He has done. So the generation to come might know of them, even the children yet to be born, who will arise and tell them to their children - that they too might put their confidence in God!"