



# 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 1711

3<sup>rd</sup> December – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 2nd Sunday of Advent



<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am and 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<b>Parish Priest</b> 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

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Bereavement
	Healing Service Church 3pm
	Confirmation Hall 6-8pm
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b> Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
	<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b> Scout Hall Scouts 7.15-8.45pm
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 10.30am-3pm
	Eucharistic Service Church 7.15pm
	Choir Practice Church 8pm UCM LCR 8pm
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosary Group Church 9.30am
	Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30-9pm
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Pastoral Office 6.30pm
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina Pastoral Office 2pm
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Rec Session (3) 9.30-11.15am Hall
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – KISS



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.

**Readings: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Matt 3:1-12**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Psalm: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

Intercessions: Prepare a way for the Lord...

Response: **In whose coming we rejoice.**

**Next week Is 35:1-.6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11**

**This week's counting teams:**

**Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 1**

+++++

**No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.**



### 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 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.

## This weekend



**3pm** Sunday afternoon, we are holding our next **Service of Healing and Wholeness**. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.

††††††††††

**Parish Finances** Along with those of other Parishes, the Hitchin Parish Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015 have now been “signed off” at the Diocese and, with adjustments for payments due and a transfer to reserves, the figures show an operating surplus of £19,848.

This result was better than forecast thanks to the efforts of many people, not least, you the parishioners – “thank you”. The reasons including the fact that Offertory Income did not fall-off as much as we had predicted; income from the hall remained high; and the Michaelmas Fair was very successful. At the same time, housekeeping and liturgical costs were reduced as were repair and maintenance overheads thanks, in particular, to the efforts of the Maintenance and Gardening teams. Moreover, amongst other things, we managed to absorb expenditure on replacing the cooker and providing a new washing machine and a dryer in the Presbytery; significant repairs to the gas boiler and kitchen equipment in the hall; the purchase of new smokeless Votive Candle stands for the Church; and replacement of the Church lights.

Further details of the Parish Finances for 2015 are published on the Notice Board in the Porch and, if you have any questions, please contact either David Wilson or Pascal Kwo from the Parish Finance Committee through the Parish email account [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)

††††††††††

### Announcement for the Parish from the PPC & Finance Planning team

Some time ago we promised the Parish that we would look for all means to ensure the best use of Parish funds.

To this end the Parish finances were looked at as a whole, and the conclusion was reached that investment in Grove Road House would achieve a better return than leaving Parish money sitting in the bank at historically low interest rates.

There have been eighteen months of exploratory work, consultation with Planning Authorities, support and advice from the clergy and the Diocese.

This has resulted in agreement and approvals from all parties to go ahead with a building project refurbishing Grove Road House.

This project will result in a ground floor flat for Father Michael and an upstairs flat for a retired clergyman. In addition the existing garage /storeroom building will be converted into a new Pastoral Centre.

Building work is planned to commence shortly after Christmas. Prior to then, the plans and proposals for site safety will be posted in the hall for everyone’s information.

††††††††††



**Our Advent tree** is up and we are focusing on the love in the family. We invite you to bring a **picture of your family** with a prayer for them on the back to hang on our tree. There are also some pictures of the **Holy family** for children to write prayers on and then hang on the tree.

††††††††††

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December your help needed at 10.45am for construction of crib.**



We need as many people as possible to help with this. Please let Trish know if you are able to help even for a short while. Please bring **evergreen** fir, holly and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

††††††††††

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

As we prepare for Christmas it would be good to ensure our Crib is well stocked with Poinsettias. We would be delighted to receive them in the coming days. Many thanks!



††††††††††

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6.15pm:**

Carols and Readings for preparing for the great day of our Saviour’s birth, led by our Young Ministers of the Word and choir. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Please do join us. The figures will be put into the crib during this service.

††††††††††



Thanks to those who have donated chocolate logs for hampers for needy people of the town. We have received 11 so only **89** to go! Could you please add a chocolate log to your trolley when you next shop and then drop into the church porch in the box provided by 22nd December

††††††††††

**Church Cleaning** We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday or Saturdays. If you can give an 1½ hours once



a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to Trish or email **Hannah Granger** at [steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steele.hana@hotmail.co.uk)

††††††††††††

There is a new **CD of the Holy Rosary** available in the Porch free to anyone either for themselves or for someone who would appreciate a copy, for example, the housebound, those in residential homes or prisons etc.

††††††††††††

**Thanks from the Foodbank** to the Confirmation group who raised £365 for them in their service to the community as part of their programme last year. They also raised a similar sum for Diapalante through their generous efforts.

††††††††††††



**Sunday 18th December** is our next Funday Sunday during the 10:30 mass. It is open to children of all ages

(under 4's need to be accompanied by an adult). If your children haven't yet experienced the Funday, please come along for lots of fun, learning and games. For any further information, please contact Helen Bailey at [hbailey@talktalk.net](mailto:hbailey@talktalk.net).

## Dates for Diary

### Tuesday 6 December

**3-7 pm MICHAELMAS FAIR REVIEW MEETING** at 1 Abbis Orchard Ickleford SG5 3TN. Do come along with any comments or suggestions for 2017. Tea and cake will be available all afternoon. If you can't come but have a comment please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) or email ([pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com](mailto:pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com))

††††††††††††

**8pm UCM LCR Business Meeting and Bingo**

### Wednesday 7 December

**11am Mass at Elmside** with Fr Tom. All are welcome.

### Thursday 7 December

**10am Advent at the Niland Centre** Advent Day of Prayer with Bishop Emeritus John Crowley. Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 3 pm). Suggested donation £12. Please bring a packed lunch; tea & coffee provided. Places are limited: advance registration required Register at <http://www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/events/advent-reflection-thursday-8-december-2016/>

### Friday 9 December

**7pm** The annual Diocesan **Youth Mass** at St Aloysius Church, Somers Town (next to Euston). followed by a reception in the hall.

††††††††††††

**Sing Mingle Christmas Party 2016 - From the Creators of Catholic Speed Dating** We are

hosting a Christmas party for all single Catholics Over 50 people have registered so far! But by a small majority there are currently more women than men. Men please register quickly to confirm your space at a guaranteed great night. £10 includes entry, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Cash bar. Austin Forum, Augustinian Centre, Hammersmith W6 8AU. Be sure to register with [claire@austin-forum.org](mailto:claire@austin-forum.org)

### Saturday 10 December

**9.30-11.15am Reconciliation Session 3** in the Hall. This session is for Parents **AND** Children.

**Dec 10&11 12noon to 6pm The Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival:** Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Admission £4: accompanied children free

### Sunday 11 December

Fr Michael returns from his retreat in Colorado. We look forward to his return to the parish. He will be living in Fr Chris's house until after Christmas.

††††††††††††

St Francis Ramblers invite you to join them on their walk. Meet Stevenage station at 10am. Distance 10 miles with lunch stop (at The Rusty Gun, SG4 7PG), finishing at Hitchin in time for carol singing and mulled wine. Please call Paul on 07847 282626 for more details.

††††††††††††



**4.30pm Carols in the Market** place with a lantern procession leading up to it. The carols will be introduced by the Rev Andrew Henton Pusey of Walsworth Road Baptist Church and our own Father Tom O'Brien and will be accompanied by Hitchin Band.

## Future Dates

**Dec 14 4.30pm** Lister Hospital Stevenage. Join us around the Christmas Tree for carols at the main entrance.

**Dec 16 6pm** Please support a Carol Service in aid of The Passage, a charity working with homeless people in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, the parish church of the House of Commons. Readers include Nick Hancock, Lynda Baron, Kathryn Pogson and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Admission by advanced ticket only from The Passage tel. 020 7592 1856 email tickets @passage.org.uk minimum recommended donation £25.



**Dec 16** 7pm **Celebrating Christmas in Song** with Sister Avril OP & friends. Suggested donation £10. Followed by seasonal refreshments. Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE.

### Other items of interest



There is a fantastic opportunity for anybody aged 18-25+ who is looking to do a year (or more) of service as a missionary to the young people of Westminster diocese. Check out the Youth webpage on the parish website. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/youth-activities/>



A parishioner, Luis Gil, has a **small car for sale**, a Volkswagen Fox from 2008, since he and his wife are moving abroad. The price is negotiable. If you are interested please contact them on 079 283 4660.



### Recycling achievement report for our parish



In this season of Advent we bring glad tidings from the recycling projects in our parish! As a LiveSimply Parish a number of collections of various waste items are on-going in the parish, working together with the Terracycle company and others, to raise funds for the parish and other charities. The LiveSimply team say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone that in the last 12 months (1st Nov15 to 31st Oct16) has contributed items for recycling. In total we have raised **£531.00**.

**Below is a summary but full details can be found on the parish website and copies are available in the porch also.**

**The Writing Instruments appeal** – funded by “Bic” we have collected just over 40kg, which raised £80.00 for the North Herts Sanctuary across the road. Currently there are two Primary schools collecting for us, they are Our Lady’s and White Hill, but I would love it if all schools in Hitchin would come on board as well. **Is there anyone able to help this to happen?**

**The Coffee Packaging appeal** – funded by “Kenco” we have only collected 23kg, which only raised £25.00 for PHASE. We appeal to all parishioners that drink coffee in your homes and at work - please help us double the collection rate over the coming year.

**The Tassimo appeal** – funded by “Tassimo” we have collected some 551.5kg (over ½ ton) of all types of Tassimo discs and bags, they raised £326.00 for PHASE, the local charity set-up by Churches Together in Hitchin to provide faith and counselling support in Hitchin secondary schools.

**The Biscuit Wrapper appeal** – funded by McVities, we have collected almost 11kg, equivalent to about 4500 wrappers, which raised £100.00 for our parish’s hardship fund. Other news from now until the end of January 2017 we can take part in their Biscuit Wrapper round-up competition, and if we become one of the top 20 sites in the UK, we could be awarded a share of £500 prize funds on offer, so please bring your wrappers to be recycled! Please note that the wrapper must say that is from a sweet biscuit type product or it will not be accepted by McVities. All savoury product wrappers are excluded.

**The Mobile Phones recycling** - we recently teamed-up with another company “Phone Recyclers” and have sent them 35 collected mobile phones and raised £100 for the parish funds. However, we have to stop the collection of Laptops/tablet computers since Terracycle have also discontinued that service and we have not yet found a suitable alternative service.

**Coloured milk bottle tops or plastic lids** – that have been taken to either of the nearest Lush Cosmetics shop in Luton or St. Albans to be re-used in their products packaging manufacturing site. The type of coloured plastic that they use in their factory is only of type HDPE or High Density Polyethylene or type-2,

Our appeal today is for greater support if possible from everyone in the parish.

All that was waste - that did not end-up in a landfill site somewhere on Earth. Once again, it’s not money we are after – it’s some of your rubbish!

### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 9

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



Parents have a serious responsibility for this work of education (“And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to You?’, then tell them” (Exodus 12:26-27). Children, for their part, are called to accept and practice the commandment: Honor your father and your mother”.

Proverbs 6:20-22

My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.