

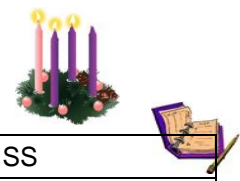
CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1712

10th December – 17th December 2016 3rd 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)	

Diary

Sunday 11th	Coffee Morning – KISS
	Healing Service Church 3pm
	Confirmation Hall 6-8pm
Monday 12th Scout Hall Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Christian Meditation Group UCR 11.45am
	Liturgy Meeting 7.30pm LCR
Tuesday 13th 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
	UCM LCR 8pm
Wednesday 14th	Rosary Group Church 9.30am
	Thinking about Life and Faith LCR 7.30-9pm
	Reconciliation Service Church 7.30pm
Thursday 15th Scout Hall Brownies 6.30-7.45pm	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Upper Committee room 6.30pm
	Exposition Church 7pm
Friday 16th	Parent & Toddler Group Hall 9.30 – 11am
	Lectio Divina LCR 2pm
Sunday 18th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

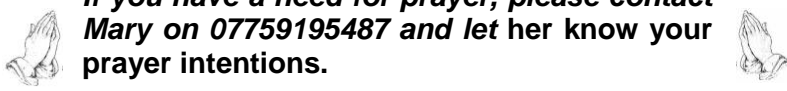


If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the RC Chaplain Rev. Anthony Curran (Deacon) on Tel: **01438 285138**
Via text message: **07876 526935**
Email: chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net

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.



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 35:1-6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11**

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Psalm: Come, Lord, and save us.

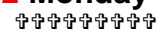
Intercessions: We pray to the Lord...

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

Next week Is 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 2



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.

Ramblings for Reflection

“Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say Rejoice!” This is a great way to begin any day and this Sunday is given the name ‘*Gaudete!*’ Time to rejoice! The circle of light in our Advent wreath is almost closed but this year we are gifted with four full weeks of Advent giving us more time for our preparations . . . Not that many years ago when the whole church came together for Vatican Council II in the 60’s one of its major documents was called ‘*Gaudium et Spes*’ and Pope Francis has focused his letters on this very theme *Joy and Hope*. When Jesus is asked if he is the Messiah: the Anointed, the Chosen Saviour, the Redeemer, his reply is “Look and See!” Today, we are very aware of where Jesus is not present in our world, in the wars, the injustice, the damage to creation, the poor and the marginalised. So, we need to make a bigger effort to see where Christ is present and where his saving work continues and flourishes: and flourish it does. In chocolate logs and Christmas food parcels, in visiting the sick and helping those in need, in the money raised to help children in need, in offering Christmas lunch to the needy and the homeless, support through Cafod and Fairtrade, in our efforts to reduce energy consumption and in our recycling, in our many and varied voluntary activities locally and in the Lister Hospital Look and See! Christ comes anew to refresh our Joy and our Hope so let’s Rejoice!

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Copies of the Catholic People's Weeks 2017 programme are available in the 'link' and in the Parish Hall. CPW is a Catholic lay organisation. For families and for adults, CPW provides a range of 'holidays that make a difference' where you'll find food for thought, faith and friends. Take a copy and for further details see the flyer in the 'Link' and / or contact Greg Hewitson who is the national chair of CPW.

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We have collected 84 of the 100 chocolate logs that we need for the hampers for needy families. **So just 16 to go.** Thank you for your generosity.

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A parishioner who is a wheelchair user and lives at Gosmore nursing home would like a lift to the St Pio Mass on the first Thursday of the month and home again afterwards. Trish was giving her a lift but is no longer able to on that day. The parishioner is able to transfer from the chair to the car with minimal assistance. If you are able to help once a month and can lift a folding wheelchair in and out of your car, then please speak to Trish.

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Please go to the News page of the parish website to find details of teaching training opportunities in schools in London.

Dates for Diary

Monday 12 December

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - **after 10am Mass** there will be a dvd shown about Our Lady in the church

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7.30pm Liturgy meeting, in the Lower Committee Room.

Wednesday 14 December

Praise Group Meeting in the Hall **after 10am Mass** singing hymns relevant to the previous month’s liturgy. All are welcome.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All are welcome

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7.30pm: Reconciliation Service as we turn towards the coming of our Lord at Christmas, we take this time to turn to him for his mercy. Two priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Thursday 15 December

7-8pm Exposition of the blessed sacrament, in the church. We intend to do this for the next two weeks but it can continue if there are enough people who wish to come and pray with the Lord at that time

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CAFOD collection will be taken after all Masses next weekend (**17/18th December**) Gift aid envelopes will be available in the porch or from the collectors. So far this year we have collected £2,807.32 for Cafod's development work, £664.50 of this was Gift aided. Many thanks'

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 10

Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)



The Gospel goes on to remind us that children are not the property of a family, but have their own lives to lead. Jesus is a model of obedience to his parents, placing himself under their charge (cf. Lk 2:51) but he also shows that children’s life decisions and their Christian vocation may demand a parting for the sake of the Kingdom of God. (cf Mt 10 34-37, Lk 9:59-62)

Jesus himself at twelve years of age, tells Mary and Joseph that he has a greater mission to accomplish apart from his earthly family (cf LK 2.48-50).

In this way he shows the need for other, deeper bonds even within the family: “My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of God and do it” (Lk 8:21).