



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 1714

24th December – 25th December 2016 The Nativity of the Lord



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 25 th	Happy Christmas!
Thursday 29 th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Upper Committee room 6.30pm
Sunday 1 st	Happy New Year!

Readings: 52:7-10, Heb 1:1-6, John 1:1-18

Entrance Antiphon: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Intercessions: We praise you, Lord...

Response: **And give you glory.**

Next week Num 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21

This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 4
+++++



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

There is a large box under one of the tables in the Church Porch full of lost property. There may be a long lost item of yours in there. Please check the box for any items that may be yours. It will be emptied and recycled in the New Year. Thank you.
+++++

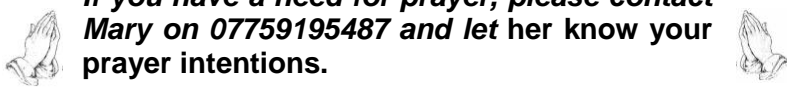
Building work will commence on the Grove Road House Project on 9 January 2016 and there may be some parking restrictions for the duration of the work. Thank you for your understanding and patience



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.

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.

There is an ancient story that at our conception when God gives us life, our Guardian Angel breathes into our very being all the stories, the wonders, the goodness and the love of God our creator. Once born, we spend our lives discovering the full beauty and richness of these stories, discovering something new and breath-taking every time the stories are told. It is the images of the Nativity story rather than the words that truly captivate us at Christmas: a baby's smile or laughter; the peacefulness that glows when he is asleep; the sheer presence of new life fills us with a warmth and sense of reassurance that can never be put into words. In fact our whole being sings our praise and thanks to God almost without us realising it. Come to the crib often, stand before the Christ-child and breathe in the utter goodness and love of God that is offered to you. And, everywhere you go, you will breathe out that same love and goodness of Christ. Visit the crib often, the world has need of it, of you, of Jesus Christ . . .

*Every time a hand reaches out to help another –
That is Christmas...
Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding –
That is Christmas...
Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other –
That is Christmas...
May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of understanding, closer to the blessing of peace; better at bringing Christ to our world!*

+++++

URGENT Masters of Ceremony (MC) at Mass We need more adults (young and old) to help with the Mass and support the Priest in setting things up before Mass and helping our altar server team during the Masses. Full training is available. Please do think about helping in this way. Please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more

+++++

URGENT Church Cleaning We have an urgent need for more people to help keep our church clean Monday or Saturdays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves.



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

+++++

Love in Action – Website now live.

Love in Action is our parish project resource on Catholic Social Teaching, designed to help your parish reflect on local needs through the social teaching of the church, and to determine what outreach your parish could engage in. The resources are free to download after logging in, and full support is available from the Caritas team. Please get in touch for more information. <http://stepforwardinlove.org/>

Future Dates

Jan 18

6.30pm Westminster Justice and Peace Annual Open Evening beginning with Mass in St John Vianney Church West Green Road N15 3QH

Mar 7 & June 6

The **Lourdes Reunion Mass** is now *quarterly* (used to be monthly).

All pilgrims, volunteers **and** friends are invited to attend this Mass which takes place in **the Cathedral Crypt Chapel at 6.30 pm** on:

**Tuesday 7th March 2017 and
Tuesday 6th June 2017**

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 12

Chapter 1 In the Light of the Word (continued)



Against this backdrop of love so central to the Christian experience of marriage and the family, another virtue stands out, one often overlooked in our world of frenetic relationship. It is **TENDERNESS**.

Let us consider the moving words in Psalm 131. "I stilled and silenced my soul, like a suckling child at his mother's side, like the suckling child is my soul." As in other biblical texts, the union between the Lord and those who turn to Him is expressed in terms of parental love. Here we see the delicate and tender intimacy between mother and child: the image of a babe sleeping after being nursed. As the Hebrew word *gamul* suggests, the infant is now fed and clings to his mother, who takes him to her bosom. They are 'infused' with tenderness. There is a closeness that is conscious and not simply biological.

We can also think of the touching words the prophet Hosea puts on God's lips "When Israel was only a child, I loved him. I called out, 'My son!' I rescued him....I lifted him, like a baby, to my cheek... I bent down to feed him."