



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



11th November – 18th November 2017 32nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year A

Mass Times
Saturday anticipating 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition

Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest	01462 459126
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett	Tel: 01462 459126 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 12th	Coffee Morning – UCM
Monday 13th Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 14th Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm RE Session – EC – 5.30pm No Eucharistic service tonight
Wednesday 15th	RCIA EC – 7.30pm
Thursday 16th	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
Friday 17th	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Sunday 19th	Coffee Morning – One World Group

Readings: Wis 6:12-16, Thess 4:13-18, Matt 25:1-13

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord!

Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God!

Intercession: Fill us with your Spirit
Response: Help us stay awake!

Next week: Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, Thess 5:1-6, Matt 25:14-30

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 2

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

The second collection this weekend is for Sick and Retired Priests. Your generous donations help ensure that Priests who have given their lives to the Church are cared for and supported when they are sick and when they retire. The fund helps cover medical, housing, convalescence and personal needs of these Priests as well as helping them in an emergency. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of our clergy – active, retired and ill.

Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring

07398821315

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.

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:

"Wisdom is bright, does not grow dim and is readily seen by those who love her." A carpenter was hired to restore an old farmhouse but his first day on the job did not go well. He had a flat tire and lost an hour's work, his electric saw broke down and his ancient van refused to start at the end of the day. The man who hired him drove him home. The carpenter sat, grim faced, in stony silence, but, on arrival, invited the man to meet his family. As he walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree and touched the tips of the branches with both hands. Upon opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His tan face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Later the driver asked him what he had done earlier at the tree. The carpenter replied, "Oh, that's my trouble tree. I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before." Isn't that wisdom?



Group raised £84.27 at last Sunday's coffee morning. Thank you everyone for your support and generosity.



COLLECTION next weekend (18th /19th November) Gift aid envelopes will be available in the Porch or from the collectors.

Stop the Maua Community eviction gained 82 signatures last weekend. Thank you for your support.

Caritas Westminster are partnering with the Prison Advice Care Trust (PACT) to buy and distribute Christmas presents for prisoners who are unable to buy their children a present. Gifts will be delivered through special Christmas Family days in prisons. Our parish would like to support this project.



How to donate a new Christmas gift

- Contact Elizabeth Wills at elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk or 07877 902313 who will allocate you a child to buy a present for. Please contact Elizabeth as soon as possible as the deadline is 26 November.
- Buy a present for £5 - £10 for your allocated child PLEASE DO NOT WRAP PRESENTS*

- Attach a label to the present with the child's name and age on it
- Return the gift to the Parish Office or give to a member of the pastoral team.
- Pact/ Caritas Westminster will arrange the collection and distribution to children in need of a gift.

*Gifts will need to go through prison security, but will be wrapped by prisoners and volunteers before distribution to children.

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Christmas shopping soon? Don't forget that whenever you buy

anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual



holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and 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. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

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Choir members needed If

you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a **Thursday evening** for the practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



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Opportunity for service! A parishioner with mobility problems needs someone to help clean her bathroom once a month. This is a voluntary role and would take about an hour a month and would be of enormous help to this lady. If you could help please speak to Trish.

Dates for Diary

Thursday 16 November

7.30 for 8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council/Annual General Meeting at Walsworth Road Baptist

The meeting will be in two parts:

8pm, Presentation by Geraint Edwards, Headteacher of The Priory School, on the joys and challenges of being in secondary education at the moment. This is the last in the series, initiated by the Rev Jane Mainwaring, the current CTH Chair, of sessions with significant leaders in our community life.

8.45pm CTH AGM when reports on the past year will be received and appointments and plans made for 2018. All are welcome at either or both parts of the meeting.

Future Dates

Nov 18 8:45am **Being a Man in the Catholic Church Today** The Claret Centre · Buckden This is an event for men in the Catholic Church - married or single, lay or religious - who want to develop and live out a muscular faith in the company of other men. Book <https://www.facebook.com/catholicman.uk>

Nov 18 12pm **Mission Animation Event:** Fr Philip Knights and staff from the Missio National Office will reflect on world mission today. Fr Philip will share thoughts on his recent trip to Kenya. The day will begin with Mass at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Royston (SG8 7DB) and there will be a simple buffet lunch in the Parish Centre. While this will be of particular interest to APF Red Box holders, all are very welcome.

Nov 21 7.30pm One World Group AGM in the Lower Meeting Room followed by a talk at 8 pm given by Rev Dr. Gehad Homsey on "Mercy Ships - the hospital ship" speaking from his own experience of serving as a doctor in the ship, Dr. Homsey will speak on the charity's history, work and latest news. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. See poster in the porch notices.

Nov 22 11am **CAFOD Memorial Mass**

You are warmly invited to the CAFOD Memorial Mass, in memory of all our Supporters and Volunteers, at the Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HE at **11am on Wednesday 22 November**. 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

Dec 2 2.30pm **Add some sparkle to your marriage** - an event for young (and youngish) married couples to be held in the Abbey Hall ending with a Mass and renewal of wedding vows. Contact the Ealing Abbey Parish Office for details or to book. parishoffice@ealingabbey.org.uk

Other items of interest

LOOKING FOR "SOMEWHERE TO GO" THIS CHRISTMAS? Nowhere to go this Christmas? then you are welcome to join us for Christmas food, festive fun and good company at Walsworth Road, Baptist Church, Walsworth Rd, Hitchin, SG4 9SP!

Join us:

Christmas day: 11am-5pm

Boxing day: 10am-4pm

New Year's Day: 10am-4pm

For booking, donations or volunteering contact Leigh 07931 – 833838 or Donald 07737451105 bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk

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Herts Welcomes Syrian Families cards for Christmas




HWSF are selling packs of 10 cards with envelopes for £5 to help raise much-needed funds for Herts Welcomes Syrian Families. The two images feature Syrian patterns and can be used as Christmas or greetings cards. Both designs have the wording 'Best Wishes' in both Arabic and English. They are very grateful to Enas, who came to Hertfordshire earlier this year, for her beautiful designs. Contact Veronica at vraymond50@gmail.com for supplies.

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A car key was found in Church last weekend. If you think this might belong to you, please contact Cheryl in the office. Many thanks.

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 Thanks to nearly 50 people who turned up from our parish and others in the deanery to hear about Fire prevention and marshalling. More to follow about a practice evacuation.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 55

Seeds of the Word and imperfect situations: "Seeing things with the eyes of Christ inspires the Church's pastoral care for the faithful who are living together, or are only married civilly, or are divorced and remarried."



Donate a Christmas gift to Prisoners' children

Christmas can be a tough time for children with a parent in prison. It can feel lonely and be a painful reminder of the separation from their loved one.

Last year through the generosity of parishioners of Westminster we were able to make sure over 300 children were remembered with their own special Christmas gift.



Help us spread a little Christmas cheer by donating a gift, so together, we can reach many more children affected by imprisonment this Christmas.

"Christmas is filled with anxiety and worry for me and my girls. They miss their Dad who used to make a big thing of Christmas. The Christmas gift they received last year meant the world to them and put a smile on their faces – Thank you so much."



How to donate a new Christmas gift

- Contact your parish's point of contact
- Buy a present for £5 - £10 for your allocated child
- Return the gift to your local drop off point.
PLEASE DO NOT WRAP PRESENTS*
- Pact/ Caritas Westminster will arrange the collection and distribution to children in need of a gift. Gifts will be delivered through special Christmas Family days in prisons, youth sessions, support groups and a small number will be sent through the post.

*Gifts will need to go through prison security, but will be wrapped by prisoners and volunteers before distribution to children.



Your Parish point of contact is:

Elizabeth Wills elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk or 07877 902313

Your Parish collection point is:

Parish Office or the Emmanuel Centre