



# 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 1761

18<sup>th</sup> November – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 33<sup>rd</sup> 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

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 <a href="mailto:thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk">thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Euloge Kasine Assistant Priest	07424 004647 <a href="mailto:eulogeka@gmail.com">eulogeka@gmail.com</a>
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 <a href="mailto:michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk">michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk</a>
Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest	01462 459126
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Trish Bonnett <i>also Safeguarding Rep</i>	Tel: 01462 459126 <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>

### Diary

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am Meditation UCR 11.45am
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm Eucharistic Service 7pm UCM – Hall 8pm OWG AGM LCR 7pm
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	RCIA EC – 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Edaid

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.  
**Psalm:** O blessed are those who fear the Lord.  
**Intercession:** Give us your help, O Lord  
**Response:** **Help us to bear fruit!**

**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: 2 Monday Team: 3**



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



There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD. Giftaid envelopes are available in the porch or from the collectors.

The Traidcraft Stall will be open in the Hall after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses this weekend (19 November).

### 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

**H**

Hospital

If you are going into hospital please take a copy of the leaflet in the church porch and notify the Chaplain 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.



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:

*How do you know whether you are an excellent pianist or a champion cyclist if you have never played a piano or ridden a bicycle? You don't! After our days on earth are over, we will discover all the gifts and abilities with which we were blessed at our birth. It will be hard pill to swallow when we discover we were capable of so much more than we actually achieved. We will have lived our lives as if certain gifts and abilities had been taken away. It will have been like having a computer or a mobile phone but never switching it on! The monetary value of the talent Jesus spoke about in the gospel is far greater than we could imagine and yet the gifts and abilities with which we are blessed by God are worth infinitely more. How could we ever put a price on patience, gentleness, kindness, compassion . . . or love?? Our story this week shows us that our gifts and abilities grow stronger, richer and more blessed, the more we use them. In the process of using our gifts, we are enriched as our awareness of God becomes more sensitive and more attuned to God's Presence As a result our capacity for goodness increases. Then it will be easier to acknowledge the trust God has placed in us, we will become more grace-full and, like Mary, we will want to say, "My Soul glorifies the Lord!"*

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The clergy of this parish thank everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection last weekend. This important collection helps cover the financial expenses of Priests who are sick or retired in the Diocese of Westminster. Thank you for your prayers for all our catholic Priests and especially for those concluding a lifetime of service to the Church. A total of £720.71 was raised. Thank you all for your donations and generosity.

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There is another event taking place in the Hall next Saturday November 25 between 11am and 8pm. We will try to save spaces for those attending the 6pm Mass who need close access for mobility reasons. Please bear this in mind when coming to Mass that day as the car park will be busy and you may have to find alternative parking. Many thanks.

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There will be a second collection next weekend (25/26 November) in aid of the Catholic Youth Service.

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We pray for Paul Hartnack whose funeral is on Monday 27 November at 11.30am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at St John's Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



## CONFIRMATION COURSE COUNTDOWN

All baptised, unconfirmed young people who are between the ages of 13 and 18 are invited to enrol on the Confirmation preparation programme. The application form and the dates for the course are all on the parish website, here:



<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/sacramental-prep/confirmation>

Please also sign up on the list in the Link, between the church porch and the hall. An important session for PARENTS is on Sunday 10th December between 6pm and 8pm, in the parish hall. The deadline for applications is December 15th.

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### Advance note:

**2.30pm Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>,** we are holding our next **Service of Healing and Wholeness.**



Parishioners who feel the need for prayer for themselves or others are invited to share in this service, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.

**Saturday 9 December 1pm-4pm.** There will be an afternoon of reflection and sharing with the bereavement group in the Hall.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After the feast day Mass at 10am there will be a showing of a film about this feast.



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**Message from Diapalante** Thank you to everyone for the wonderful donation to Diapalante from the Michaelmas Fair. This will make a considerable contribution to the Diapalante Community Education Centre, a drop-in Centre in Kaolack, Senegal, West Africa. The Centre is attended by children and adults who come to study in their spare-time, hoping to improve their chances of gainful employment in the future. In one of the world's poorest countries a decent job brings the luxury of respite from the endless poverty, it brings food, clothing and a little bit of health care for families. The hope of such a job can become a reality, ex students come back to tell us of their success and a local employer recently rang the Centre to say how he values our IT training and Certificate Scheme. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue this valuable work. Our partners in Senegal have also asked us to pass on to you their sincere thanks.

**Helpers needed for children's liturgy** We offer children's liturgy most Sundays at the 10.30 Mass and we do need some more people to help us deliver this – we need leaders for the sessions and helpers to support them. All the materials are provided and training is offered too. With enough volunteers then you are only called on once every 4-6 weeks to deliver. Without this support we would not be able to help the children in our parish in this important way. Please can you offer to help? If you can speak to Trish or contact Maeve Green at [maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk](mailto:maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk)

**Organ Project** Our organ is over 100 years old and it has a few notes that do not work, which is challenging for anyone playing it. It works through an electrical interface and uses 3 phase input; the repair of this was estimated at 10-15K four years ago. The priests all feel that the pipe structure dominates their view when saying Mass. They would prefer to see more people in front of them. The fan of the organ draws in incense when it is used which has caused breathing problems for some members of the choir.



We have had a legacy, which enabled us to investigate the possibility of replacing the organ. We have looked at an electronic organ which uses technology to replicate the sound of a pipe organ with authenticity. This organ can be programmed to suit the needs of individual organists who play it, providing them with a variety of sounds and settings and great flexibility. It has the ability to record key strokes so that a bank of hymns can be recorded and stored for use when an organist is not available. It is simply plugged in to a normal socket and needs four speakers and a bass speaker to provide the output of sound.

The existing organ could be sold but with its quality issues is unlikely to fetch much revenue. We have parishioners who are willing to help dismantle it. If not sold it would be recycled responsibly.

We hope that the parish will welcome this opportunity to be provided with an improved musical instrument, which all of our organists are pleased about, and have a new space in the church opened up to other possibilities. Suggestions for use of the space created by the removal of the organ can be seen on the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/parish-building-maintenance-and-restoration-projects/> The complete costs of this project are still being determined.

Your feedback is welcome. Please email John Chamberlain [jvnumber1@hotmail.com](mailto:jvnumber1@hotmail.com) with any comments you wish to make.

## Side Chapel Project

We love our church and its space and feeling of openness. However it is not without its drawbacks, including cost of heating all the space, the noise of the heating system, the lack of intimacy for smaller services and lack of adequate ventilation and natural light.

A parishioner has very generously agreed to pay for a side chapel to be built. This structure will extend out from the edge of the confessional to the side of the church. This will be external to the existing church built on the space towards the road. The inside wall will be glass so that people in the chapel will be able to see and hear the Mass when it is in the church. Such a chapel will be ideal for weekday Masses and other evening services which only attract fewer than 30 people for most masses. It will provide a warm intimate venue with outside access for parishioners. It will also provide an emergency escape route from the main church which is suitable for those parishioners in wheelchairs. On Sundays it can also be used by those families who are concerned about younger members of their family who can be restless. They will be able to see and hear the Mass without feeling they are disturbing those around them.

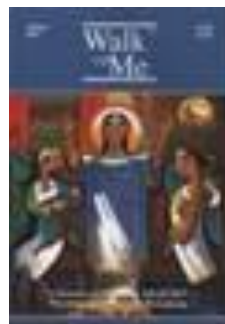
The Diocese own the building so are involved with the planning of this extension to our church. Planning permission for the structure has been granted by the district planning office. A further meeting with the Diocese is planned soon to determine all the stages in this building project.

Details of the plan can be found on the parish website

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/parish-building-maintenance-and-restoration-projects>

Your feedback is welcome. Please email **Roger Hyde** at [roger.hyde1@btopenworld.com](mailto:roger.hyde1@btopenworld.com) with any comments you wish to make.

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The Advent **Walk with me** is now available in the porch priced £1. Please leave money in pamphlets box with the church doors. The Advent calendars for children are free.

Thank you to everyone for confirming dates for coffee mornings 2018. We have one date left – 5 August. If anyone would like to book this, please let Cheryl in the office know. Many thanks.

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**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 email: bof\_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk

**Dates for Diary**

**Tuesday 21 November**

**2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge** at. All are welcome.

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**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.

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**8pm UCM** Talk about Home Start in the Hall.

**Future Dates**

**Nov 25** 11am – 5pm **LOVE HEALS - BODY MIND AND SPIRIT TEAM** Welcome you to come to a one day Retreat of quiet Reflection – Rosary, Latin Mass, Lunch (Please bring your own Lunch - Tea and Coffee available). Scripture Talk - Christian Meditation - Blessed Adoration, Healing Prayers - Praise & Worship, at The Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street, Piccadilly, W1F 9JR.

**Dec 2&3** 11am-5pm **Display of Nativity Crib sets at St Ippolyts Church.**

Come and see over 100 crib sets and read their stories. They're a delight to see. Tea and cake available too!

**Dec 8**

Friday 8th  
December: the weekend begins with the Festival Preview Evening and Concert. 6.30pm-9pm (concert 7.45)  
Tickets £12, available from 01462 712212: toryevans@greatgreen.plus.uk  
Be among the first to enjoy the delightful display of decorated trees, before a concert of seasonal music given by Holy Saviour Church Choir and The Radcliffe Singers.

Mulled wine and light refreshments included

**Dec 9&10 12noon-6pm The 21st Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival**

will be held this year at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd; admission £4.00, accompanied children free. Come and see the display of 50 beautifully decorated trees in a lovely setting, with seasonal music from local musicians and choirs. Excellent home cooked lunches and teas available. It's a wonderful way to start your Christmas!

On the Saturday morning, 10.30-11.30, the festival will be open for disabled visitors and their carers who may prefer a quieter time to enjoy the display.

this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

**Dec 15 7-9pm** Westminster Youth Ministry are organising an event at St Joseph's they call, **'The Summit'** for those aged 14-18.

Here's a link to further information:

<http://dowym.com/events/the-summit-stevenage/>



**AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 56**

*Seeds of the Word and imperfect situations:*

“Following divine pedagogy, the Church turns with love to those who participate in her life in an imperfect manner: she seeks the grace of conversion for them; she encourages them to do good, to take loving care of each other and to serve the community in which they live and work”.

