



# 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 1762

## 25<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017- Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

**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 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Diapalante
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
	Meditation UCR 11.45am
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm
	RE Session EC 5.30pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	RCIA EC – 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Padre Pio Group LCR 10.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
	Choir 8pm
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Reconciliation Hall 9.30am
	Fire warden briefing after 6pm Mass
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club
	Fire warden briefing after each Mass
	Healing service Church 2.30pm



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.

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power forever and ever.

**Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**Intercession:** We ask in the name of Christ  
**Response: Christ, who is our King!**

**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: 3 Monday Team: 4**



**No cash for the collection?** Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.  
 (Further details on page 3)

**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 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:

When I think of Christ the King, I am sitting in front of a wood and coal fire next to him, with his arm around my shoulder with me listening to a story he is telling. It is comfortable, warm, secure, and nothing else matters; believing that this is the most perfect place to be. That's because I have never met a shepherd. If we could stop, look around ourselves and become aware of our surroundings, at any moment of the day, we would eventually become aware of the presence of God, like the shepherd in the first reading. A presence that is reassuring, comforting, and offering a sense of security. With even more time, we would come to realise that every event tells a story that reveals a truth about God, ourselves, and the world in which we live. Don't think of today as the last Sunday of the year, even if it speaks of the end times. Rather, think of it as the Sunday when our King, Jesus Christ, reminds us of his presence and his love and he gathers us around him in order to tell us the story of his life as King, which will begin with Advent next week. Now, that will be some story! *"Christ's Kingship opposes the worldly logic that prizes ambition and rewards ruthlessness, by expressing itself in humility and selflessness, and affirming itself silently but efficaciously with the force of Truth."* Pope Francis.

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## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CONFIRMATION?

If you want to be confirmed in the coming summer, you need to sign up for the prep sessions. Applications are on the website and so are the dates. There is a parents' session on Tuesday 9th January from 7pm - 9pm. (This is a change from the date given in last week's newsletter.) Sign up on the sheet in the link (between the hall and the porch) and take an application sheet if you want to do it the paper way.

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## Appeal for Counters

With a number of existing members having to stand down, we urgently need people to join the Counting Teams who count all the different types of money coming into the Parish before it is banked. In all cases, no experience is necessary; training will be provided and you will be joining an existing team of 2 or 3 Counters. Counters are required for the Sunday Counting Teams who count the Offertory (Collection) money on a Sunday evening starting before the 5.00pm Mass. The count usually takes about an hour and the count comes around about once every 6 weeks. Counters are also required for the Monday Counting Teams who count all the other Parish income on a Monday morning. Again, the count

takes about an hour but comes around more regularly - about once a month. If you can help, it would be much appreciated. Please speak to Trish or contact Cheryl in the Parish Office. **Thanks in anticipation for your support of this very important Parish ministry.**

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**Fire Warden Briefing** Following our excellent Fire warden training from Precision we need to brief Fire wardens as we will be having a practice evacuation of the church before Christmas. We have invited all Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic ministers and Parish Councillors to be trained. If anyone else in the parish would like to be a part of the fire warden team please let Trish or John Chamberlain know and notes will be sent to you. There will be a briefing for Fire wardens after all Masses the weekend of 2/3 December. This will take no more than 15 minutes. Thank you for your help with this important health and safety work.

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There is a second collection this weekend in aid of The Catholic Youth Service.

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**Coffee Morning** this week will be in aid of Diapalante not Eadid

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## KISS - Mustard Seed Baby Home Orphanage - Hoima - Uganda

The Head Boy & Head Girl Team of John Henry Newman School are visiting the KISS Charity in Uganda over the Christmas period. They will be taking many donations of clothing and educational supplies with them. This year, the KISS Charity is supporting the Mustard Seed Home and would welcome donations of baby clothes and hand held toys up to the age of 2 years.

If you have such items to donate, please bring them over the next three Sundays and place them in the box in The Link. As always, thank you for your help. Greg Hewitson.

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## The Annual Report & Accounts of the Diocese

for 2016 have now been published. A summary, which you may have already seen in the Westminster Record, is now posted on the noticeboard in the Porch. If you would like to see the full report, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office and we will arrange that.

The report contains lots of interesting and positive information on the state of the Diocese and on all the good work that has been happening in our Parishes and Schools. It also shows some examples of the many excellent outreach-type initiatives that are happening,

particularly through the work of Caritas Westminster and through the funding afforded by your support of the Growing in Faith Appeal. Have a read and, if you have any questions, please let Cheryl know and she will pass them on to the Finance Team.

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**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)

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**2018 diaries** are available in the porch priced 50p. Please place money in the leaflets box between the church doors inside the church.

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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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Advance note – 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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### Text Giving

A new way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone !! Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

### Dates for Diary

#### Monday November 27

11am Mass at Stagenhoe with Fr Michael Doherty from St Hilda's. If you would like a lift please be in the car park at 10.35am

#### Thursday November 30

10am Padre Pio Mass followed by a meeting in the LCR. All are welcome

#### Sunday December 3



2.30pm 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.

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6:15PM We have an **Advent Service** to help us reflect on the season and better prepare for the birth of our Saviour at Christmas.

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### Future Dates

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

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

### Dec 9

1pm-4pm. An afternoon of **reflection and sharing** with the **Bereavement** group in the Hall.

### 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.



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 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/>

### Other items of interest



**Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass** Stuck for a Christmas

present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education.

CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass



Like last year **Hitchin Christian Centre** are helping to put together 100 Christmas Hampers for those who otherwise would not be able to afford a good Christmas

meal. We have been asked to provide chocolate logs once again for these hampers. Your response last year was brilliant. Could you please add a chocolate log to your shopping trolley when you next shop and then drop into the church porch in the box provided by 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please check the date when you buy them. We need them to have a use by date after 26<sup>th</sup> December please.

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**Do you support Catholic schools** and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; not we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools

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### **Freedom of speech outside abortion Clinics**

"It's folly that Jeremy Corbyn and MPs want to restrict freedom of speech/prayer outside abortion clinics. Let's pray for their conversion." Bishop Philip Egan. Find out what is behind the Bishop's statement by having a look at the work of the Good Counsel Network;

[www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

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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](mailto:bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk)

### **AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 57**

*Seeds of the Word and imperfect situations:* "When a couple in an



irregular union attains a noteworthy stability through a public bond - and is characterised by deep affection, responsibility towards the children and the ability to overcome trials - this can be seen as an opportunity where possible, to lead them to celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony". (Relatio Finalis 2015)