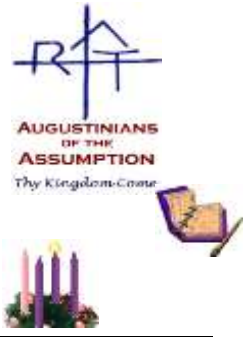




# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Newsletter No 1763

2<sup>nd</sup> December – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

<b>Mass Times</b>	
Saturday anticipating 6pm	
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm	
Monday – Saturday 10am	
Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm	
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am during Exposition	
<b>Contacts</b>	
<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:	01462 459 126
Mobile:	07547 171570
Website:	<a href="http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>

<b>Diary</b>	
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
	Meditation UCR 11.45am
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
	UCM Hall 8pm
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Arts Council LCR 7pm
	RCIA EC – 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 7<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 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Bishop's Blessing of Christopher H
	Bereavement Group Hall 1pm
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – KISS
	Funday Sunday!!!! 10.30 Mass

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted, let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.  
**Psalm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house"**  
**Intercession:** Lord, come to our help  
**Response: Turn your face towards us!**  
**Next week: Prov 31:10-13,19-20,30-31, Thess 5:1-6, Matt 25:14-30**



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.

This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 1**  
**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  
**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.





## GIFT AID TAX REBATE 2017 = £23,985

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has signed up to Gift Aid their Mass Offerings and other donations to the Parish. We have now received the Gift Aid tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of: £23,985.00 which, in practical terms, will help keep the Parish running for nearly 8 weeks!! The return reflects really really well on the fact that so many of you have signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations and choose to Gift Aid your other donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which make a valuable 25p in the £1.00 addition to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to commit to making an offering

**...AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY MORE !!**  
To sign-up or to check whether or not you have already signed up or to get more information, please contact David or Elizabeth, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organisers, on tel: 01462-627784 or by email through the Parish Account: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk THANKS AGAIN.

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**Signatures do count!** An agreement has been reached between the housing department and the owner of the building for the purchase of the Maua building for around £4.6 million (20 million reais). Community leader Neti Araújo and APOIO's Coordinator Heluiza Soares da Silva have confirmed there will be NO eviction this week!. **Thanks to all who supported this campaign.** For more details please go onto the parish website news page.

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**Our Advent tree** is a tree with a difference. The baubles hanging on the tree are little Christmas stories and we invite the children to take one off the tree and take it home and read it over the coming weeks before Christmas.



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**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December your help needed at 10.45am for the construction of crib.** We need as many people as possible to help with this. Please let Trish know if you are able to help even for a short while. Please bring **evergreen** fir and yew –

quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.



**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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A young man who is a parishioner has had to find accommodation locally but does not have any furniture other than a bed.

He needs the following items after the 9th December:

- Cooker
- TV
- TV stand,
- Two seater settee
- Bedside units,
- Table and chairs,
- Saucepans

If you are able to provide any of these items could you please contact his mother

Ellen at [mdove654@btinternet.com](mailto:mdove654@btinternet.com)

Thank you in anticipation of helping a deserving young man who is in a difficult situation.

## **Dates for Diary**

### **Monday**

**2.30pm** Mass at Gosmore Care home. All are welcome.

### **Tuesday**

**7.15pm** Our service tonight will focus on the readings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. We will also be praying for a radical reformation of the economy to ensure we protect humankind and abundant life on earth from climate change. We will have a Eucharistic meal with communion under both kinds.

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**8pm** UCM Business Meeting and Bingo.

**Wednesday**

**11am** Mass at Elmside Care home. All are welcome.

**Thursday**

**10am** St Pio Group Mass and afterwards in the LCR. All are welcome.

**Saturday**

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

**Future Dates**

**Dec 9&10**



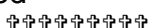
**12noon-6pm** The **21st Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival** will be held this year at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd; admission £4, accompanied children free.

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



**Carols in the Market Place Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm** will be preceded by a Lantern Parade organised by Rotary, leaving St Mary's at 4pm. The carols will be introduced by John Maguire, the newly-appointed Chair of Churches Together in Hitchin, and the Rev Jane Robson, and will be accompanied by Hitchin Band. All are welcome - bring friends and neighbours with you!

**Dec 22nd**



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm:** Carols and Readings for preparing for the great day of our Saviour's birth, led by our Young Ministers of the Word and choir. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Please do join us. The figures will be put into the crib during this service.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Meeting needs at Christchurch** is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone

can help please call Stephanie Kirby on 01462 816658 or email [stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com)



**Recycling News:** The LiveSimply team remind all parishioners to bring their milk bottle tops of any colour for recycling. We will then deliver them to the nearest Lush Cosmetics shop in Luton. Since August 2011, Lush has been collecting plastic bottle tops from their customers. You can watch a video about their motivations on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ri25e8Mwll> Lush also raise money for various environmental charities, the web-site is: <https://uk.lush.com/>



All High Density Polyethylene Plastic tops from milk or other bottles can be brought to the parish for this scheme. It is still possible to continue placing the coloured lids in the normal household recycling grey bin, but if you wish to help us support this campaign to help clean-up the UK environment and reduce the plastics that contaminate the beaches and get caught-up in the food chain of all fishes, then keep them aside and bring them to our recycling area, where a designated bin will become available soon. Very importantly, please make sure that all residues of milk and sugary flavours are washed off, so that we will not have a smelly build-up of moulds and bacteria



in the church porch that would develop into a health hazard for us all that use it. Let's do it, in response to Pope Francis appeal this month that we care for our common home! Thank you for your cooperation and support. There is now a collecting box in the link between the porch

**AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 58**  
*Seeds of the Word and imperfect situations:* "When faced with difficult situations and wounded families, it is always necessary to recall this general principle: 'Pastors must know that, for the sake of truth, they are obliged to exercise careful discernment of situations'". (Familiaris Consortio 84).

