

CHURCH OF OUR LADY **IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW**

AUGUSTINIANS ASSUMPTION Thy Kingdom Co

16 Nightingale Road, **HITCHIN**, SG5 1QS (In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption) **Newsletter No 1763**

December – 9th December 2017- 1st Sunday of Advent



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

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Contacts	
Parish Priest	07547 171570
Fr Tom O'Brien	thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Euloge Kasine	07424 004647
Assistant Priest	eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert	07958 575442
Counselling Support	michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Andrew O'Dell	01462 459126
Retired Priest	
Pastoral Assistants	Tel: 01462 459126
Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
also Safeguarding Rep	
Susanna Hawksley	susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetics	
Parish Administrator	Tel: 01462 459126
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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

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. Դ

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.

Diary	
Sunday 3 rd	Coffee Morning – Bethany Club
Monday 4 th	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 5 th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
Scouts 7-9pm	Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm
·	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
	UCM Hall 8pm
Wednesday 6 th	Arts Council LCR 7pm
	RCIA EC – 7.30pm
Thursday 7 th	Padre Pio Group LCR 10.30am
	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
	Choir 8pm
Friday 8 th	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Saturday 9 th	Bishop's Blessing of Christopher H
	Bereavement Group Hall 1pm
Sunday 10 th	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

Turn your face towards us!

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: 4 Monday Team: 1

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



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



Hospital

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.

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Ramblings for Reflection: Advent rings of something new. It begins at a time when the trees reveal themselves in all their naked glory, uncovered they remind us of the beauty of simplicity. When the leaves are eventually tidied away, the land looks crisp and clean, ready to receive new life. Advent calls us back to basics, helps us to rediscover our own naked beauty us as we look forward to the promised new life. We are given a precious opportunity to reflect on why our God is so important to us. Advent, a time to pause and contemplate who our God really is, why does he come and why does he come as an innocent, defenceless baby? What are our expectations, how will we receive him, what difference will his coming make this year? As the countryside lays itself bare. it calls us to do the same, to cast off all that hides us from our true selves, from our vulnerabilities, our failings and our true needs. The new life that is promised is not just in a divine baby, it is promised to each one of us. The clay a potter uses has to be free from impurities or it will never be formed into something that will last. In Advent we ask the potter to shape and mould us, free from impurities, into something new. Will we allow this to happen? Will you be ready for new birth?

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This weekend there will be 15 minute briefings after every Mass for our Fire Wardens. If you are willing to help in this way please stay after Mass for this briefing. If you are unable to stay but want to help please let Trish know and she will brief you at a later date.

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Sunday 3rd 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.



Sunday 3rd 6:15Ppm Advent Service to help us reflect on the season and better prepare for the birth of our Saviour at Christmas.

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Next Weekend Bishop Paul will be visiting our Parish on the morning of **Saturday 9 December** to say the 10am Mass and to bless Christopher House and the Emmanuel Centre (this is the building which used to be the garage and shed at right angles to the Presbytery and is now the pastoral assistant's office and meeting room.)

Mass & thanks will be said in church. We will then move to the open area in front of the house where Bishop Paul accompanied by our Priest's will say the blessing. There will be refreshments in the Hall afterwards. Look forward to you all coming. R Lawrence-Hyde Chair PPC

Sunday 10th December



10.30 Mass is a **Funday Sunday** in the hall for all children of the parish. There will

be loads of Advent and pre-Christmas activities. Under 6's should be accompanied by their parents and it is a good idea to arrive at least 10 minutes early to be able to register your child so you can get into Mass on time. If you wish to help with the Funday Sunday please let Helen Bailey (hbailey@talktalk.net) know. The more people who can help the more often we can offer these events.

At all Masses we will have a short service of welcome for our 5 new altar servers who have done their initial training and will be receiving their cassocks and cottas. Please keep them in your prayers for their on-going training.

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At all Masses Kayiki Julius from the Kiss project will be giving a short thank you speech for our generosity for KISS.



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 20th December. Please check the date when you buy them. We need them to have a use by date after 26th December please.

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Altar server Guild of St Stephen We are delighted to announce that Richard Bradford, our new MC at the 5pm Mass has agreed to take over the running of the Altar server Guild in our

parish. This is just wonderful news and will ensure that our 85 year old guild should make it to its 100th birthday easily! God bless Richard and all the Guild members who serve so faithfully in our parish.

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Thank you for your donations to last week's second collection in aid of The Catholic Youth Service. A total of £209.43 was raised.

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 by email through Parish Account: the

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.

hitchin@rcdow.org.uk THANKS AGAIN.

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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.

Friday 22nd

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 21st 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 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 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

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 2nd 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.

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

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Carols in the Market Place Sunday 10th
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 22nd 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

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 caughtup 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, 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).