



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 1764
9th December – 16th December 2017- 2nd 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	
Contacts	
Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Euloge Kasine Assistant Priest	07424 004647 eulogeka@gmail.com
Fr Michael Lambert Counselling Support	07958 575442 michaellambert@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Andrew O'Dell Retired Priest	01462 459126
Pastoral Assistants Trish Bonnett <i>also Safeguarding Rep</i>	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

Diary

Sunday 10th	Coffee Morning – KISS
Monday 11th	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am Christmas Party
Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Meditation UCR 11.45am
Tuesday 12th	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm RE Session EC – 5.30pm Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
Scouts 7-9pm	
Wednesday 13th	Praise Group LCR 10.30-12 noon RCIA EC – 7.30pm
Thursday 14th	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm Choir 8pm
Friday 15th	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am Church Flowers – LCR 12.30pm Lectio Divina – EC 2pm Bereavement Group Hall 1pm
Sunday 17th	Coffee Morning – One World Group



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.

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: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Matt 3:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: O People of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Psalm: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Intercession: Let us see your mercy

Response: We know your help is near!

Next week: Is 35:1-6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 2

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

There will be a second collection next weekend (16th/17th December) Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Porch.

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.

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: The enigmatic figure, John the Baptist, cries out: *“Prepare the way of the Lord!”* Staying awake is not enough. How are we going to prepare with only two weeks to go! For important events we smarten up, search out background information, customs and traditions, so we can fully enjoy the moment. We even rehearse what we want to say. John says clearly REPENT seek forgiveness, in other words, get rid of excess baggage, slim down, stay focused, which takes time. The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us guidance as well as freedom. We seek to travel light so that the growing Advent light will shine more brightly for us and within us. There is no time to waste! Don't miss the opportunity! Sybil McBeth suggests that we make a three-sentence story like: *“We have purple candles on our wreath. / Purple is the new Red. / Like traffic lights, it signals STOP, wait, pay attention.”* Or, *“Mary was a Jewish teenager. / The angel asked her to be the mother of God's son. / Mary said, “Okay, I'll do it.”* Or, *“I hope for great schools and greater care for everyone. / I want older people to have fulfilling lives. / I hope God will help me become less judgmental.”* Or, *“Christ is longed for. / Christ is born. / Christ will spread like wildfire.”* I join with Sybil and ask: *“What would your three-sentence Advent Story be??”*

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The baubles on the **Advent tree** in the porch 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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Chocolate logs are coming in, thanks so much. To date we have 11 so only 89 to go! 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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There is novena prayer sheet available in the porch to pray for Creation starting on **16th December**. There are also tips for a greener Christmas. Please do take one.

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We pray for Vincent Mascarenhas whose Memorial Service is on **Thursday 21 December at 3.30pm** here at Our Lady's Church. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his Family.



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.

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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.

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Mustard Seed Home - Uganda - Thank you for your generous response for clothes and hand held toys for the Orphanage. These will be taken out with the John Henry Newman School Head Boy / Head Girl team when they depart to the KISS community in Uganda 17th December. If you still wish to donate till Christmas, please leave items in a bag in the Link. Many thanks - Greg Hewitson.

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There is a job vacancy for a book-keeper of a charity on the parish website on the job vacancies page.

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 12 December

After 10am Mass, The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will be a short video shown in the church, about Our Lady of Guadalupe and prayer sheets are available also.

Wednesday 13 December

After 10am Mass Praise Group Meeting in the LCR All are welcome.

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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All are welcome.

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AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 59

Seeds of the Word and imperfect situations: “While clearly stating the Church's teaching, pastors



are to avoid judgements that do not take into account the complexity of various situations and they are to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience and endure distress because of their condition”. *(Relatio Finalis 2015)*

