



# 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 1765

16<sup>th</sup> December – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017- 3<sup>rd</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>
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Mobile:	07547 171570
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## Diary



<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – One World Group
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent & Toddlers – 9.15-11.15am
<b>Beavers 6-7pm</b>	Meditation UCR 11.45am
<b>Cubs 7.15-8.15pm</b>	
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
<b>Scouts 7-9pm</b>	Bethany Club Hall 9pm-4pm
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm m
	UCM Hall 8pm
	Choir 8pm
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Reconciliation service Church 7.30pm
	RCIA EC – 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group
	Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	No Parents & Toddlers
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
	Carol Service Church 6pm
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	No Coffee Morning

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Psalm: My Soul rejoices in my God!**

**Intercession: Your mercy is from age to age**

**Response: We rejoice in you!**

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

This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 3**

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

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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Porch.



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.

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**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

### 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:** The questions posed to John the Baptist are Advent questions. Who am I? What am I doing? Why? Fortunately, none of us is the Christ, or Elijah, or John the Baptist. What we do is not who we are. The more honest we are about who we are the better. Qualities like patience, gentleness, kindness, motivating principles and beliefs, abilities and talents, but also our failings, our inabilities, our bad habits (things we dislike about ourselves) all make us who we are. And, all of these in their turn are shaped by our Faith – so, be true about what your faith means to you too. What am I doing? This is a good Advent question, not so much concerned about our work but how we live our lives, how we relate to others, about our purpose and our reasons for doing what we do? The question Why? needs longer reflection. Hopefully, like John the Baptist, it is connected to the coming of Christ. As John said, Christ is among us (as he always is) but he comes to renew that presence so that, like those who saw that new born baby, we will rejoice in telling others of his birth, of his continued love for us, of his desire to be with us, to inspire, motivate and challenge us. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy. May you be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and will not fail you! Let us rejoice!

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Following our fire warden training we will be having an evacuation of the church during Mass very soon. This is to ensure all fire wardens know what to do and how to help the congregation leave the church safely. If this happens at the Mass you are at, we ask that you please leave the church as instructed and follow the instructions of the warden in the car park to leave promptly unless you have a buggy to collect. All buggies should be left in the church on evacuation but can be collected once the church is fully evacuated. We make no apologies for the inconvenience caused as this is to ensure the safety of all parishioners. Thank you for your patience.

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**Christmas Cards** are starting to arrive in the Church Porch for Parishioners. Please could you check the box regularly and take the cards with your name on. Many thanks.

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**Cheques for Christmas Collections.** It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collections are made out to the Parish – i.e. Our Lady's Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place!"

Copies of the Christmas service times sheet are in the porch and on the parish website.

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In spite of the inclement weather, last Sunday's KISS Coffee morning raised an amazing £237.00. During this last year, from an appeal and the coffee mornings, £2,000 has been raised for KISS. Thank you all for your support throughout this last year. Kayiki Julius, the National Coordinator for KISS in Uganda spoke briefly at the morning Masses and ended with the words 'Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!'

### Dates for Diary

#### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**11am** Mass at Stagenhoe. All are welcome. Lift from the car park at 10.30am.

#### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**2.30pm** Mass at Milford Lodge. All welcome.  
**8PM** UCM Carol Service & Social Evening in Hall.

#### Friday 22 December



**Your help is 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.

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**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.

### Future Dates

**Jan 23** 9am–2pm **Domestic Abuse Awareness Workshop for faith and community leaders**, in the Council Chambers and Ingleheim Lounge. This is a free event to raise the awareness of domestic abuse To book, by 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, contact 07960644477 or phone [tania.stokes@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:tania.stokes@stevenage.gov.uk)

#### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 59

*The transmission of life and the rearing of children* "A child

deserves to be born of love for 'he or she is not something owed to one, but is a gift which is the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of the parents'."

