



# 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 1766

23<sup>rd</sup> December – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017- 4<sup>th</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>

## Diary

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	No Coffee Morning See separate sheet for Christmas services
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Happy Christmas!</b> Somewhere to go - CTH
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Somewhere to go - CTH
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	No Parents & Toddlers Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – St Elizabeth's

**Readings: Is 7:1-5.8-12.14.16, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**Psalm:** I will sing forever of your love, O Lord!

**Intercession:** You are our Father

**Response: Show us your steadfast love!**

**Next week: Gen 15:1-6.21:1-3, Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19, Lk 2:22-40**

This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 4**  
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**No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.**  
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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!  
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Thank you for all your donations to CAFOD last weekend. £290.80 was collected. Many thanks for your continued generosity



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 comfort for those in need.

**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:** “Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News!” Just prior to the great event, we are given a flashback reminding us of Mary who had complete trust and confidence in God, that, somehow, the impossible would become reality. She had the inner belief that God would provide all that would be necessary for her to fulfil her mission. She, like all her people, believed that God would send a Messiah to bring peace, harmony, forgiveness and healing to the world. We want the same for our world today and, like Mary, we are called to place our trust and hope in the imminent birth of the baby who is the fulfilment of the promise. St Paul, reminds us that we, too, have been overshadowed by the Holy Spirit so that this promise can be realised in each of us, so that, like Mary, we too will be able to bring Christ to the People we meet. “We are waiting for someone we already possess. We are earthen vessels filled with a treasure... Our earthiness is only the wrapping that must be taken off so that the gift can be seen... This Christmas the earthen vessel of me greets the earthen vessel of you and prays for a happy unwrapping for all the earth.” (Macrina Wiederkehr) . . . and, with the angels, we will sing: “Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to God in the Highest!”

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A total of £2570.79 has been raised for the Mexican Appeal. This sum has been sent to the charity Siervas Del Sagrado Corazon De Jesus Y De Los in Mexico. It will then be used to help the people and the community of Oaxaca Mexico where the two earthquakes occurred on 19 September 2017. Leticia Kay will forward photos after her sister has visited in the New Year. Thank you all for your generous donations.

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The **Growing In Faith** Parish Bulletin which shows the donation figures for the period through to the end of August 2017 has now been published. A copy is posted on the Notice Board in the Porch and there are copies available to take away on the tables in the Porch. The report shows that, including the tax rebate on Gift Aided donations, the Parish has so far contributed over £130,000 towards the Appeal. A great achievement - thank you to all you who have contributed and to those of you that continue to do so. Diocese wide, an amazing £25 million has been raised and, in 2016 alone, over **800** Caritas and Parish projects benefited from Growing In Faith funding. Closer to home, the Bulletin shows the distribution of the money that we have raised for the different Growing In Faith initiatives and, in that respect, it is worth noting the contribution towards the Sick & Retired Clergy Fund of the Order, which had

helped finance conversion of Christopher House into retirement flats for Fr Andrew and Fr Michael. Thank you all, again, for your support of the Growing In Faith Appeal.

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Start the new year with a new hobby! New Irish dance classes starting Saturday 13 January 10:30-11:30am in the Scout Hut. Boys and girls age 4 and above are welcome. Classes will be taught by qualified teacher Laura Clarke (TCRG, DBS checked and registered with CLRG, Dublin). The First lesson is free. Please contact Laura on 07865599937/ brady-clarke@hotmail.com for more information

### **Dates for Diary**

#### **Friday 29 December**



We pray for Cathy McGonigle whose funeral is on Friday 29 December at 1.30pm here at Our Lady’s Church and burial afterwards at St John’s Cemetery. We also pray for Graham Welbury whose funeral is on Thursday 11 January 2018 at 1.30pm here at Our Lady’s Church and afterwards at North Herts Memorial Ground and Crematorium. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

### **Other item**

The SVP are distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

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### **Current vacancy at St. Margaret Clitherow School, Stevenage – spread the word!**

The Governing Body of this outstanding primary school is looking for a Deputy Headteacher to join our wonderful school with effect from the summer term 2018. Please contact Maria Streeter in the school office (01438 352863) or visit [teachinherts.com](http://teachinherts.com) for further information regarding this position.

#### **AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 60**

*The transmission of life and the rearing of children* “The child who is born ‘does not come from outside as something added on to the mutual love of the spouses, but springs from the very heart of that mutual giving, as its fruit and fulfilment.’”  
(*Gaudium et Spes*, 48)

