



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 1767

30th December 2017 – 6th January 2018 – The Holy Family

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
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Diary

Sunday 31st	Coffee Morning - St Elizabeth's
Monday 1st	Happy New Year!
	Somewhere to go - CTH
Tuesday 2nd	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am
	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
	Choir 8pm
Wednesday 3rd	No RCIA
Thursday 4th	Italian Club Hall 1pm
	Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm
Friday 5th	Parents & Toddlers 9.15am
	Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
Sunday 7th	Coffee Morning – Mexican Appeal

Readings: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Lk 2:22-40

Entrance Antiphon: The Shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.
Psalm: He the Lord is our God. He remembers his covenant forever.
Intercession: Bless Us O Lord
Response: Help us to walk in your ways!
Next week: Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Matt 2:1-12

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 1
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No cash for the collection? Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.
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Coffee after the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses this Sunday is in aid of **St Elizabeth's school** in Much Hadham. "Rooted in Christian, gospel values, St Elizabeth's exists to offer to vulnerable people individually designed education, care and support services that maximise their opportunities to live life to the full." Please do support this wonderful school which has helped our young parishioners over the years.



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.
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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: Do you believe you are a member of God's chosen race, a saint? Out of love, God has clothed you in sincere compassion, kindness and humility, in gentleness and patience. God gave you the ability to accept others just as they are not as you would want them to be; the ability to forgive as soon as a quarrel begins. To unite and complete these gifts, God has clothed you with love. At Christmas, Christ offers you peace and a belief that you are an essential part, as are others, of the one body of Christ. We have so much for which to be thankful. Pope Francis in his letter *Amoris Laetitia / the Joy of Love* made it very clear that the family is the unique example of this relationship between God and us. There is no greater acclaim for the value of the family today. Listen to this: *The couple that loves and begets life is a true, living icon . . . capable of revealing God, the Creator and Saviour. For this reason, fruitful love becomes a symbol of God's inner life The ability of human couples to beget life is the path along which the history of salvation progresses. . . . the couple's fruitful relationship becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself, for in the Christian vision of the Trinity, God is contemplated as Father, Son and Spirit of love. The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection. (AL 11)*

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The text of **Fr Tom's Christmas homily** can be found on the homepage of the parish website. Well worth having a read!

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Thanks to everyone who helped make Our Lady's Christmas so wonderful. Fr Tom gave a general thanks at all Masses but we want to thank the following:

- The Flower team for the beautiful displays
- The Crib builders led by Ben for the most beautiful crib (and Janina for all her work over the past year refurbishing the statues.)
- The altar servers and MCs for their faithful service over Christmas. We celebrated with the guild on the Feast of St Stephen which was a wonderful Mass enrolling new servers and MCs.
- The choir and music group and organists for their wonderful accompaniment to our services.
- The children who read or acted so well at the Carol service and Nativity service and all those who made the services the prayerful and joyful occasions they were.
- To our priests for their untiring service to us at this time and throughout the year.
- To our parishioners who make our community the caring, sharing and loving body of Christ that it is; a parish to be proud of.



We pray for Elizabeth Eastwell whose funeral is on **Tuesday 9 January 2018** at **11am** here at Our Lady's Church and burial afterwards at Ickleford Burial Ground.

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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.

Next Sunday at the 10.30 Mass we have the formal launch of the Son Seekers Youth Ministry. Funday Sundays will now be called Son Seeker Sundays and this will be the name for youth events in the parish. A special logo has been designed and T-shirts will be ready soon. We will be calling for help for our youth ministry team to ensure we maintain the momentum which has gathered over the past year.



Dates for Diary

Wednesday

11am Mass at Elmside. All are welcome.

Other items of interest

A reflection from a parishioner - When I was a child, we prepared for Mass by fasting from midnight, dressing in our best clothes, picking up a prayer book to follow the Latin Mass, made sure we had collection money and set off. Now I am an old lady, I prepare for Mass by collecting up tinned food for the Foodbank, (with mental note to add chocolate log next week), add biscuit wrappers and now toilet roll centres (the 4 I had been collecting to use for pea seeds next Spring). I no longer need to check collection money because I pay by standing order and no prayer book because I follow the Mass in English and only need to fast for an hour before Communion so no hunger pangs or fear of fainting.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 62

The transmission of life and the rearing of children "The Creator made man and woman share in the work of his creation and at the same time, made them instruments of his love, entrusting to them the responsibility for the future of mankind, through the transmission of human life." (*Relatio Finalis* 2015, 63)

