



# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS  
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



**6<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – The Epiphany of the Lord**

**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**

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien	07547 171570 <a href="mailto:thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk">thomasobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>
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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>
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**Diary**

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – Mexican Appeal
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b> Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 7.15-8.15pm	Parents and Toddlers 9.15am Meditation UCR 11.45am PPC LCR 7pm
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b> Scouts 7-9pm	Morning Prayer Church 9.30am Bethany Club Hall – 10.30am-4pm RE Session LCR 5.30pm Eucharistic Service 7.15pm Confirmation (Parents) Hall 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	RCIA – EC 7.30pm
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Italian Club Hall 1pm Christian Meditation Group Emmanuel Meeting Room 6.30pm Choir 8pm
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Parents & Toddlers 9.15am Lectio Divina – EC 2pm
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Reconciliation Liturgy Hall 10am
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee Morning – KISS Confirmation Session 1 Hall 6pm

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come and kingship is in his grasp and power and dominion.  
**Psalm:** All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.  
**Intercession:** Show yourself to us!  
**Response:** Let us serve you always!  
**Next week: Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Matt 2:1-12**



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.



**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.

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



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



There will be a second collection in aid of Pax Christi on **Peace Sunday, 14th January.**

**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 Epiphany 2018

(Poem by Sr Macrina Wiederkehr OSB)

Creator of the Stars  
God of Epiphanies  
You are the Great Star  
You have marked my path with light  
You have filled my sky with stars  
naming each star, guiding it until it shines into my  
heart awakening me to deeper seeing  
new revelations and brighter epiphanies  
O Infinite Star Giver I now ask for wisdom and  
courage to follow these stars for their names are  
many and my heart is fearful.  
They shine on me wherever I go:  
The Star of Hope  
The Star of Mercy and Compassion  
The Star of Justice and Peace  
The Star of Tenderness and Love  
The Star of Suffering  
The Star of Joy  
And every time I feel the shine I am called to follow  
it to sing it, to live it all the way to the cross and  
beyond.

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**Reconciliation on Saturday 13th January:** the children who have been preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation will be receiving the sacrament for the first time, after the 10am Mass. This means that, although the priests will be available to hear parishioners' confessions on that morning, there will be a wait while we process the children through. It will take about an hour for them to all receive the sacrament, so please bear this in mind if you wish to come to Reconciliation on that morning. Please pray for the children as they come to this important step in their faith journey.

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**The Confirmation Course** begins on **Sunday 14th January** with candidates attending 5pm Mass to enrol and then, in the hall, for the first session from 6 – 8pm. Parents of children wishing to join the course are asked to attend the parents' evening on **Tuesday 9th January in the hall at 7:30–9pm**. We are looking forward to seeing you!

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*Thank You!*

**The Assumptionists** are deeply grateful for all the gifts and cards you gave us for Christmas but most of all for all your love and support which you have given us over the past year. You will be in our prayers throughout the coming year. Thank you.

**Carol Mascarenhas** thanks everyone for their kind messages, cards, phone calls, emails and condolences received for Vincent and to all who helped at the Memorial Service – thank you all.

Message from Charmaine Rogers of **Family Matters** Thank you all so very much for the kind gifts; I shall be taking them along on Friday when Family Matters the Nurture & Learning Community Group returns after our Christmas break. Although our festive season is a time of happiness and joy, for vulnerable, disadvantaged families Christmas can be extremely stressful. Your thoughtful, generosity and extreme kindness is very much appreciated and I know the families will be thrilled to receive the gifts. We wish you a Happy & Peaceful New Year.

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**Message from St Elizabeth's School Much Hadham** from Katuscia Pulford, "Thank you so much, I have just received the funds raised from your Coffee Morning. Wow! What a lovely surprise, you must have all worked very hard. Happy New Year and thank you so much for supporting St Elizabeth's again."

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**Adult Faith Formation** There are a number of opportunities coming up in the Diocese for us to develop our knowledge of and deepen our faith. To see what is happening go to the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/sacramental-prep/adult-formation/>

### Dates for Diary

**Monday 8 January**

**2.30pm Mass at Gosmore.** All are welcome.

**Wednesday 10 January**

**2.30pm Mass at Foxholes** at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

### Other items of interest

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** 18-25 Jan. In Hertfordshire we have a quite outstanding and powerful witness to our Church's commitment towards Unity. Every week at 12 noon Catholic Mass is celebrated in St. Albans Abbey in St. Albans. There is no other Anglican cathedral in the country where such a thing happens every week. The Mass is very well attended by Catholics from various parishes and is an uplifting experience. Why not come along? You will be very welcome and it will mark the Week of Prayer in a significant way.

### AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 63

*The transmission of life and the rearing of children* The choice of adoption or foster parenting can also express that fruitfulness which is a characteristic of married life.

