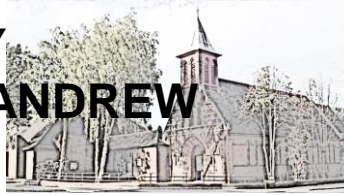




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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



Mass Times

Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Exposition Thursday 7pm-8pm
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am
during Exposition

Newsletter No 1809

20th October – 27th October 2018 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

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.

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me. O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Psalm: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you!

Intercession: In your mercy, hear us.

Response: Give us your grace!

Ramblings for Reflection:

For the first thousand years, St Augustine of Hippo inspired the spiritual thinking of the Church. He showed us how much God loved us, the importance of gratitude to God, and wrote about the care, protection and help that God offers us throughout our lives. Then came 'The imitation of Christ', which spoke about our unworthiness, insignificance, and sinfulness that sowed the fear of going to Hell. This was not wrong but too lopsided. It promoted an introspection and emphasis on becoming perfect before attempting to reach out and help others. It also encouraged the view that any form of joy or happiness was sinful – a forerunner of Puritanism. Fortunately, Pope Francis has reminded us of the importance of the JOY of the gospel and encourages us to reflect that JOY – a JOY (and LOVE of God) evident in St Augustine's writings. Because servants have not always been treated well, often as subservient, we have a difficulty with the idea of service, despite the effort Jesus made to show us its importance, value and richness. In fact, the call to service is something to be envied, not avoided. It is one of God's great gifts. It is a gift present in so many of our Saints e.g. Damien of Molokai, Jeanne Jugan (Little Sisters of the Poor) and St Teresa of Calcutta who said "The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty." She showed us that service is the best way of expressing our LOVE when done with JOY! "Faith in action is love. And love in action is service." This gift of SERVICE is offered to us.

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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of Missio.

Baptism The next baptism preparation course is taking place on Sunday 18th November from 3pm - 4:30pm and on Sunday 25th November from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and then 5pm Mass, where babies/children will be given the first anointing of baptism. These details are also on the website. The course takes place in the parish hall. Both Sundays are part of the course. Please sign up on the sheet in the Link (down the steps from the church porch, towards the door of the hall) if you are interested.

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The annual counting of the Red Boxes took place last weekend. A total of £28.14 was raised. Many thanks for all your contributions.

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A lady is looking for a **home help/ care assistant**, no qualifications needed, to work 2-3 hours a day over 4 to 5 days. She can be flexible on days, to start as soon as possible and will pay up to £500 a month. She is based in Henlow Village. For more information contact Joanne at Systematic Homes on 07939 475129.

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Christmas is coming to the Traidcraft Stall! It will be open after 08:30 and 10am Masses this Sunday. Cribbs, cards and gifts are available at special prices! Sadly, I've been notified that Traidcraft plc is closing down at the end of this year. Copies of the letter I received which explains the reasons are in the Hall and on a Porch notice board. Our stall will continue to sell for as long as possible and I will pass on any news when I can. Meanwhile, thank you for all your support of the stall for all the years it has been running.

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We pray for Audrey Cotton whose funeral is on 29th October 2018 at 2pm here at Our Lady's Church. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family

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Recycling good news alert - We are now collecting all varieties of empty crisp packets for a scheme to be launched in December. Please place them in the lower blue bin in the recycling area in the link. For details of the scheme go to the parish website Recycling in the parish page.

Diary Dates

Sun 21st Oct

Coffee Morning – One World Group

Mon 22nd Oct

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout	6pm Hall
Christian Meditation Group	11.45am EC	Cubs Scout	7.15pm Hall

11am Mass at Stagenhoe If you need a lift be in the car park at 10.35am.

Tues 23rd Oct

Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm

Wed 24th Oct

Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
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4.30pm RE Session LCR

Thurs 25th Oct

Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm

Fri 26th Oct

Parents & Toddlers	9.15am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
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7.30pm Claim Film - We are showing a wonderful film Claim about Archbishop Romero, his people and Pope Francis, in our parish hall. The film is 1hr 15min long and there will be a short Q&A session afterwards with Julian Filochowski, chair of the "Archbishop Romero Trust". Entrance is free but there will be a collection for expenses and a donation to the Trust.

Sat 27th Oct

9.45am – 4pm Laudato Si Retreat to reflect on Care for Our Common home. Starting with

Registration at 9:45 followed by Mass at 10am and Adoration, the retreat consists of meditation & reflection material to enable us to Hear Creation's Song, Hear her Cry and Discern Actions in response to Pope Francis' call 'to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face.' (LS 15) and consequently 'awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis [will] be translated into new habits' (LS 209). We will have a shared lunch and the retreat will finish at 4pm. Email oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk for more details and to book a place.

Sun 28th Oct

Coffee Morning – Diapalante

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Son Seekers All Hallows Eve Party

Sunday 28th October 4:30 – 5:30pm
£1 Per child (Tickets available on the door) 5 years & under must be accompanied by an adult

Future Dates

Oct 29th and Nov 8th 7pm to 8pm, A series of evenings on a healing power of prayer with Fr Keith Bartrop - Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5. Registration is required at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 100

Our Daily Love - Love is not rude Courtesy is not something that a Christian may accept or reject. As an essential requirement of love, 'every human being is bound to live agreeably with those around him.' (Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae)

If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions.



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

Contacts for email details see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/contact/>

Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Assistant Priest Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	Counselling Support Fr Michael Lambert 07958 575442
Parish Administrator	01462 459126	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 3



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net