



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 1811

3rd November – 10th November 2018 – 31st 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: Forsake me not, O lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!
Psalm: **I Love you, Lord, my strength**
Intercession: Fill us with your love
Response: **Help us keep your word!**

Next week readings: Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44

Ramblings for Reflection: “The ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens . . .” When we read words like this about Jesus, it seems to put him way beyond our reach. In fact, he appears to be so otherworldly that it seems impossible even to attempt to try to walk in his footsteps. I believe the writer of Hebrews wants to make it clear to us that Jesus has not only saved us but continues to watch over us. And, not only does he save us from the many pitfalls we encounter in life but, even when we fall foul of them, Jesus is there, ready to pick us up again and plonk us back on the right road. To be *holy, uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sin, to be heavenly* means that if you bumped into Jesus you would automatically feel perfectly comfortable in his presence, at home with him, like a lifelong friend. In his presence, everything would seem right and in harmony. Whatever stresses and strains you had been going through would diminish almost to insignificance. You would experience an inner joy that could only be explained by the presence of great love. You would feel valued and affirmed and even believe that with him everything is possible (because it is!) He would evoke within you those great gifts of reverence and respect, wonder and awe, not just for Jesus but, more importantly, for yourself for being in his company.



Message from Eileen Dutt Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for your kind words and gifts when Alan and I moved out of the parish they meant a lot. Re-locating isn't an easy thing to do at any time but when you factor in leaving behind a loving parish community it's even harder but dear friends I will certainly not be shaking 'dust gathered in Hitchin' from of my sandals (Matt 10:14). No! I will instead mix it with the soil of my

new parish 'St. Robert of Newminster' and in it plant seeds gathered from the fruit of your good works. To God be the glory! When we visit our son Peter and his family in Bedford we intend fitting into our stay attending Mass in Hitchin. Thank you again. Shalom. Eileen.



We pray for Peter Checketts whose funeral is on Thursday 8 November at 11.30am here at Our Lady's Church and afterwards at North Herts Crematorium.

We also pray for Donald O'Brien whose funeral is on Thursday 15 November at 2pm at North Herts Crematorium only. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

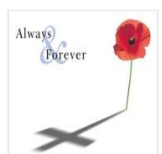


Sick & Retired Priests' collection next week

Next week our parish will take up a second collection to support the sick and retired priests of the Diocese of Westminster. This fund helps cover the medical, housing, convalescence, and personal needs of these priests, as well as helping them in an emergency. They have been here for us; let us be there for them. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church today. Please take one home, read about this important work, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations



Envelopes and slips of paper are available this weekend for the month of the Holy Souls. Holy Mass will be offered for them during the month of November. Please return your envelopes to the box at the back of the church.



Marriage Preparation Are you getting married in the next year? Our next marriage preparation course is being held on Saturday 17th November.

Places are limited so book soon if you need to do the course. Bookings should be made through this address: catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com

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Parishioner Jessica Jackson (and representative of Great Britain in the Common Wealth Games) raises money to conquer global hunger and chronic malnutrition. Please go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news> for details of how you can help.

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Gifts for the poor in the Congo (DRC); Young parishioner Elizabeth is asking for your generosity for Christmas boxes as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. She is aiming to create 400 Christmas boxes and needs your help donating the following:

- Toys: small stuffed toys (CE marked), small toy truck, skipping rope, yo-yo, small puzzle
- Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books, etc.
- Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, bars or wrapped soap, comb, hair brush
- Other: wrapped sweets, hat, cap, hair accessories

Please bring items and place in the box in the porch. We have until 18th November to make these contributions. She may also need the church's help to put the parcels together. If you are able to help please contact clarauche@hotmail.com For more details go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news>

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Sale of White Poppies after Masses: For those of you who missed the White Poppy making workshops, despair not. White poppies will be on sale after Masses this weekend. The money goes to help fund the Peace Pledge Union, an organisation working for peace since 1934. For more details: <https://ppu.org.uk>

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Saturday 10 November – There is an event in the Hall between 11am and 8pm. Please bear this in mind when coming to Church as the car park may be particularly busy.

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Job vacancy: Christchurch Family Worker. For details see the parish website - <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/job-vacancies/>

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Job Vacancy The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has an exciting opportunity for a **Digital Communications Officer**. See parish website for more details <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/job-vacancies/>

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Diary Dates

Sun 4 Nov			
Coffee Morning – Live Simply			
Mon 5 Nov			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.45am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
Mass at Gosmore 2.30pm. All welcome.			
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PPC Meeting – LCR – 7pm			
Tues 6 Nov			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
Reconciliation Session – Hall – 7.30pm Parents only			
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UCM Meeting – LCR – 8pm *See note below			
Wed 7 Nov			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
Mass at Elmside at 11am			
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RE Session – LCR – 4.30pm			
Thurs 8 Nov			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm
Fri 9 Nov			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
Sat 10 Nov			
10.30am – Reconciliation during Exposition.			
Sun 11 Nov			
Coffee Morning – UCM			

***UCM Meeting** – 6 Nov. Presentation by Dr. Lenka McAlinden on the charity "Just for a Child", which provides libraries for remote locations in Kenya.

Future Dates

Nov 7th 7pm - Memorial Mass for Fr Mark Ventura on Wednesday 7th November at St Joseph's, Stevenage. Fr Mark was murdered earlier this year in the Philippines. His mother, Evangeline, is a parishioner at Stevenage Old Town parish. There will be refreshments in the church hall after the Memorial Mass. See the website for more details.

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-Mark-Ventura,-tribal-rights-advocate-against-mining-interests,-killed-in-Cagayan-43749.html>

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Nov 7th 11am - CAFOD Memorial Mass - You are warmly invited to the CAFOD Memorial Mass, in memory of all our Supporters and Volunteers, at the Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HE. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. If you would like someone to be included in our Book of Remembrance, please send us their name by calling CAFOD Westminster on 020 8449 6970 or emailing westminster@cafod.org.uk

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Nov 11th 2.30pm - Armistice Day service at St Mary's to mark the Centenary of the end of the First World War. The Royal British Legion and uniformed organisations will take part and all are welcome to attend.

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Nov 11th 6.15pm - We have our Annual Service of Commemoration for those people who have died in our parish this year. All are welcome to come along and light a candle for their own deceased loved ones.

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Nov 12th 7.30pm - One World/livesimply Group AGM in the LCR followed at 8pm by a talk by Ellen Teague of the Columban Fathers IPCC Team. It will be on the subject of Justice, Peace and Care for Creation. The talk will focus on the links between caring for God's Creation and working for Justice & Peace with particular emphasis on those who have lost their lives in the struggle to protect the environment. Attractive refreshments will be served.

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Nov 13th 7.30-9.15pm - An evening organised by Transition Town Letchworth "I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas..." at Mrs Howard Hall, Norton Way South, Letchworth, SG6 1NX. Admission £2 donation. See poster in the porch.

Nov 14th 8pm Voices in exile from Sweden, India and UK At: St Mark's Church Hall, Lancaster Avenue, Hitchin, SG5 1PA. See poster on notice board for details.



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Nov 17th 1-5.30pm - Suicide Awareness for young people training course has spaces. Parishioners who are interested in attending should contact Helen Bailey hbailey@talktalk.net

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Nov 18th 3pm A Royal Walk - around Westminster to see Catholics and Royalty, from Henry VIII and his break with Rome, to the present day. We walk towards Buckingham Palace. Meet

on the steps of Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

Nov 27th 11am - Deanery Mass for Deceased Clergy at St. Joseph's, Bedwell. All welcome.

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Nov 30th 7pm - Built on Faith Bibleway Church. Join us as we watch "Do You Believe". The film explores the lives of a dozen different souls, all moving in different directions, all longing for something more. As their lives unexpectedly intersect, they each are about to discover there is power in the Cross of Christ, even if they do not believe. Refreshments provided. Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin. For more details contact the pastor, Donald Smith, bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk. (Rated as 12, Contains moderate violence threat.)

Other items of interest

White poppy display created to commemorate all the millions of people who have died as a result of war in the last hundred years is available at the Hitchin Quaker Meeting House on 6th Nov 2-4pm and 8th Nov 5-7pm. Everyone welcome.

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The Cathedral night shelter for the homeless needs help on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. They are looking for help with volunteering and also to cover the provision of the evening meal for 15 guests and volunteers.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/live-simply/> for details.

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Key Stage 2 Class Teacher required January 2019. Application form available on the school website. Closing date Nov 16.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Vale Lane, West Acton, W3 0DY. Tel: 0208 992 3980.

Headteacher: Mr T Doherty.

Email: head@holymfamily.ealing.sch.uk. Website:

www.holymfamilyealing.co.uk

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The healing power of prayer with Fr Keith Barltrop Nov 8th. see parish website.

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Advent Day of Reflection Dec 6th. see parish website.

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Scripture from Scratch: Why do we need the Old Testament? A Course. see parish website.

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CONFIRMATION If your child is going to be in Y9 next year, he or she is eligible to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. The course does not start until January, so don't panic! Watch this space and the parish website for information about how to apply and when.

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Masters of Ceremony (MC) at Mass We need more adults (young and old) to help with the Mass and support the Priest in setting things up before Mass and helping our altar server team during the Masses. Full training is available. Please do think about helping in this way. Please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more.

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Church Cleaning We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean on Mondays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves.



If you can give 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to or email Trish.

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We still need volunteers for our Children's Liturgy Team at the 10.30 Mass. You do not need to be a catechist or teacher but you do need to feel comfortable

about talking to children about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Training for being a part of the team is 'on the job' and materials for the liturgy are all provided.

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Choir members needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a

Thursday evening for the practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have

a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

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Garden help needed. You will have seen the appeals in the newsletter for helpers to meet up on a Saturday morning to keep the church gardens under control and they will continue but there is an ongoing need for people to just pop in and do an hour or so whenever they feel like it. We have a garden manual which shows the various areas of the church grounds and what needs to be done when. If you can give an hour or two even monthly then please let Helen Bailey know on 07771 552058 who will show you where the sheets and gardening equipment is kept. This is important work which makes our church grounds look lovely and also helps keep our costs down by not having to employ a gardener.



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Lister Hospital Chaplaincy volunteers: The Chaplaincy really need some Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied from 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Maeve Green maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk

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Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone can help please call on 01462816658 or stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com

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

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 102

Our Daily Love - Love is not rude To be open to a genuine encounter with others, 'a kind look' is essential. This is incompatible with a negative attitude that readily points out other people's shortcomings while overlooking one's own.



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 Cheryl Saunders	01462 459126	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett		Website: www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin



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



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