



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 1813

17th November – 24th November 2018 – 33rd 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 The Lord said; I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me and I will answer you and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Psalm: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Intercession: Show us the path of life

Response: **Help us to stand firm!**

Next week: Dan 7:13-14, Apoc 1:5-8, John 18:33-37

Ramblings for Reflection: The inquisitiveness of man desires to know what the result will be before it happens, using the most ingenious ways to find out. The success of the lottery depends on this! This inquisitiveness works overtime to know what is going to happen at the end of time. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us not to worry about the end time; everything will be OK. He will make sure of that because we are people of faith. The faith Jesus refers to, however, is not just a set of beliefs, it is a trust in God that will see us through the unknown and uncertain. A faith that will take risks, leading us to places others fear to tread. It is stronger than any doubt or fear. A faith not preoccupied with the catastrophes Jesus alludes to but concerned with others and wants to help them through whatever the end time may bring so that we might all arrive at the end together. There is a theory that, when we die, we will actually find ourselves back in the place we have just left. But, having become like Jesus, we will see it in a wholly new way and experience all the riches of which we were previously unaware and see all the truths that we had never grasped before. The joy and experience of this discovery will lead us to give spontaneous praise and glory to God. Why? Because for the first time we will experience pure love: God.

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

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The Traidcraft stall is open on Sunday after 8.30 and 10.30 masses. Christmas cribs, cards and gifts available. Advent calendars can also be ordered at the stall.

Sunday 2nd December 2.30pm, we are holding our next Service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.



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Sunday 2nd December Advent Service 6.15pm our chance to think about the preparations we need to make for the coming of Our Lord as we reflect on parishioners' thoughts on preparing for the coming of a baby. An interactive service with readings, music and prayer for all the family.

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Saturday 8th December 2018 Morning of Reflection for Eucharistic ministers and those considering taking up the Ministry. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. You are invited to join a prayerful and quiet time to reflect on the wonder of the Ministry that we share. The morning will begin with the Parish Mass at 10am and finish at 1pm with a shared packed lunch.

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Saturday 8th December 7.30pm - The Orpheus Choir Christmas Concert in our Church. Get in the musical mood

for Christmas **Tickets £5** include refreshments from Parish office 01462 459126.

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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.

Diary Dates

Sun 18 Nov

Coffee Morning – One World Group

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3pm Baptism Course Session 1 Hall

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6pm Benediction Church We will be praying for the Holy Souls

Mon 19 Nov

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
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Christian Meditation Grp	11.45am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
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Tues 20 Nov

Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
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Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
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2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge

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8pm UCM LCR a talk by Sue Shanahan from the Herts Trading Standards

Wed 21 Nov

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

Thurs 22 Nov

Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
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Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm
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9.30am UCM meeting LCR

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8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council and Annual General Meeting at St Mark's tea/coffee from 7.30. It will include the CTH Annual General Meeting which will receive reports of the past year and make appointments and plans for 2019. All are welcome.

Fri 23 Nov

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
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Sat 24 Nov

10am Reconciliation Service

Sun 25 Nov

Coffee Morning – Our Lady's Special Support Grp

3.30pm Baptism Course Session 2 Hall

Future Dates

Thursday 22 November 6.30pm-8.30pm 'Slaves in our City'

Caritas Westminster is hosting an evening raising awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities. Bishop Nicholas Hudson will be joining us to introduce the evening which will focus on the issue of human trafficking and modern slavery, the response of the church,

and practical actions you can take as a parish community. Speakers include the Metropolitan Police, the Santa Marta Group, the Medaille Trust, and Caritas Bakhita House. The event will take place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception (Farm Street), London, W1K 3AH. Refreshments will be available from 6pm. RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk, or call on 0207 798 9030 for your free ticket. Alternatively, you can register your attendance on Eventbrite, by searching for 'Slaves in our City'.

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Tuesday 27th November 11am Mass for Deceased Clergy at St Joseph's Church Bedwell. All welcome

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Friday 30th November BOF Film Night

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. Starts at 7pm. Refreshments provided. For more info contact pastor Donald Smith - bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk.

Rated as 12, Contains moderate violence threat.

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Saturday 1st December 10am- 4pm CAFOD Retreat focusing on "Countering Consumerism: Lessons from Gaudete et Exsultate"

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Thursday 6th December Advent Day of Reflection

(9.30 for 10 am until 3 pm; closing with Holy Mass) Speaker to be announced. Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Watford, Herts, WD23 4EE. Suggested donation £14. Registration is required at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078.

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Monday 3rd & 10th December, 7pm - 8pm

Post-Adoremus reflections - The Eucharistic scripture references using art with Fr Geoffrey Wheaton, SJ. Venue: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN.

The two evenings will explore and discuss the Eucharistic scripture references of Cana, Supper at Emmaus and Last Supper and also the Feeding of the Five thousand. Fr Geoffrey will also show examples of how artists have interpreted the scripture passages from the catacombs to the present day. The participants will focus on two eucharistic moments each evening. There will be plenty of time each evening for discussion, comments and questions. Suggested donation £5. Registration is

required at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078.

Tuesday 11th December - Pax Christi popular Advent Service

Other items of interest

Thank you for your generosity to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Please continue to pray for sick and retired priests. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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Christchurch is looking to appoint a Family Worker who will join the church team in providing vision, energy and passion for work among young children and families in Hitchin. The post is part-time, 20 hours a week. If you are interested or would like to know more, contact Tom Lewis on 07859 228543. Deadline for applications - 19th November.

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SPANISH AFTER SCHOOL CLUB Mondays at 4.30pm in the lower committee room. For children age 5 to 10 years old. Learning Spanish with songs, games and lots of fun. Native speaker with more than 15 years of experience. Full DBS check. We offer a free trial. Book your free trial at spanishmontse@yahoo.co.uk 07732760751. Hasta pronto

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Countering Consumerism – Lessons from Gaudete Et Exsultate. Have you ever felt a conflict between putting your faith into practice and the demands of leading a busy, modern life? Have you ever thought about what it would mean to live more simply and meditatively: to live in ways which approach closer to holiness? Pope Francis offers some ideas. Join CAFOD for a day of reflection on either Saturday 24th Nov in Lambeth or Saturday 1st Dec in Oakwood, North London. For further details contact Westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208-449-6970 or register @

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Westminster-Retreat>

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A MASSIVE thank you to our supporters who have helped us raise **£86.07** this year for

Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin, simply by doing their online shopping via #easyfundraising! Remember to keep using easyfundraising when buying all your Christmas gifts this year and help us raise even more! www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for

Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is: 1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourlady-srchitchin>

2. Sign up for free

3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

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See <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/live-simply/> for details of the following items:

Bishops' statement on climate - The heads of six continental bishops' conferences have signed a rare joint statement urging political leaders to solve climate change.

"Global Healing" -a free download film See <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/live-simply/> for details

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Are you the sort of person who notices what needs to be done? Do you ever wish you could be more active during Mass? Would you like to help the congregation and the priest in an important and unique task? Why not join our altar servers?

You would be fully trained. You would learn about why things are done the way they are during the Mass and you would work as part of a team, assisting the priest in celebrating the Mass. It would be a regular commitment and your times of service would be on a rota, so you need to be reliable. Please think about helping to make our Mass celebrations really good! We need you! If you have made your first communion and want to help speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass.

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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. Speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS ELF Following last year's generous response to the appeal for presents for the children of people in prison we are once again asking for your continued generosity for those in need this Christmas. They are in need of **65 presents for 5-7 year olds** for HMP Belmarsh and YOI Isis. It's a 50/50 split between boys and girls, and gender neutral gifts are also encouraged. See the list in the porch or on the parish website (under news) for ideas.

Donate a Christmas Gift to a Prisoners' Child

Christmas can be a difficult time for children with a parent in prison.

At a time of family togetherness, this holiday is often a painful and lonely reminder of separation.

Through the generosity of parishioners last year we were able to make sure over 350 children were remembered with their own special Christmas gift.

Help us spread a little Christmas cheer by donating a gift, so together, we can reach even more children affected by imprisonment this Christmas.

How to donate a new Christmas gift for a prisoner's child

- Contact your parish's point of contact
- Buy a present for your allocated child, we suggest under £15
- Return your gift to your local drop off point
PLEASE DO NOT WRAP PRESENTS
- Pact will collect and distribute to children in need of a gift.
- Gifts will be delivered through special Christmas family days in prisons, youth sessions, support groups and a small number will be sent through the post

Gifts will need to go through prison security, but will be wrapped by prisoners and volunteers before being given to children.

DEADLINE FOR DONATION OF PRESENTS IS SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER




Your Parish Gift Coordinator is : Liz Wills - elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk

Your Parish collections point is: Church porch box



To contact Pact please email Christmas@prisonadvice.org.uk
Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) is registered in England and Wales as a charity (no. 219278) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 356443).
The registered office of Pact is 29 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UA.



If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions		AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 104	
<p align="center">Faith Development Helpline</p> <p>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</p>		<p><i>Our Daily Love - Love is not rude</i> Loving kindness builds bonds, cultivates relationships, creates new networks of integration and knits a firm social fabric. In this way, it grows ever stronger, for without a sense of belonging we cannot sustain a commitment to others; we end up seeking our convenience alone and life in common becomes impossible.</p> 	
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 Pastoral Assistants Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett		Parish no 01462 459126	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
 This week's counting teams: Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 3			If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net