



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 1816

8th December – 15th December 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent – Year C

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 O People of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad!

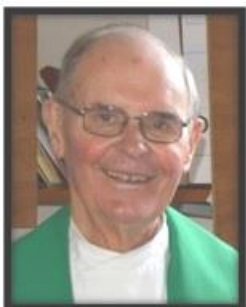
Intercession Lord we ask you

Response: Make us ready for you!

Next week: Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

Ramblings for Reflection: Seeing the way ahead clearly is what we all want. Clarity of vision helps us make better choices. Repentance is a turning back, a seeking of reconciliation that brings people back together. For many reconciliation is focused on our relationship with God and a desire to better understand God's relationship with us. We have a poor view of the first and totally underestimate God's relationship with us. But, before we can really focus on our relationship with God, we need to be reconciled with ourselves. We need to accept ourselves as we are - warts and all - with all our failings and inabilities but we also need to acknowledge our abilities and talents in order to get the best out of them. God has no problem with our failings, inabilities and bad habits – they may even be the source of what endears us to God. God's real interest is to help us get the best out of our abilities. With this knowledge, we discover that this is only achievable if we use them for the good of others. When we realise that all our gifts are the blessings God has lovingly bestowed on us (i.e. God does not do TRASH), we understand God better, ourselves better, and our way ahead becomes clearer. No wonder that our readings speak of a God of light and joy, experienced as an overflowing source of love.

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Fr Michael left us to be with Our Lord last Sunday but not before he rendered his final service as an organ donor. We pray for him and those who received the gift of continued life from him. We also pray for peace for the gentleman whose

car was involved in the accident. We know very little details but Fr Michael would want us to pray for him. Funeral details and updates can be found on the parish website.

Sunday 16th December

4.30pm Reception of Fr Michael's Body followed by Mass at 5pm and at 6pm we are continuing in the church with a celebration and tributes to him with and refreshments in the hall. **Please bring plate of food or bottle of wine or soft drink.**

Monday 17th December

11am Requiem Mass followed by refreshments in hall. For those who wish to attend the burial it will be at 1pm at St John's cemetery and back for refreshments

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Chocolate log update We have 17 of the 100 logs for Christmas hampers for the needy. There is now a box in the porch for them. Please ensure the use by date is

after 26th December. Thanks again for your generosity.

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Call for any 5-7 year old children or grandchildren, (they don't need to be in the parish), who would like to be part of a nativity at 4pm on Christmas eve in our church. Rehearsals are 12th and

19th Dec, 5.30-6.30 in the Church. Please contact Andrea Hughes at hughes.andrea@mail.com

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CAFOD collection next weekend (16th/17th Dec)

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Lost Property Box under the table in the porch. Please do have a good look through. This box will be emptied at the end of the year. Many thanks.

The Traidcraft stall will be open on Sunday 16th. A range of the craft items available can be seen on the parish website on the Traidcraft page. Further news as to the future of Traidcraft will be available at the coffee morning on 16th.

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The **CONFIRMATION Programme for 2019 will begin in January**. If you are in Year 9 or above and wish to prepare for this sacrament, **please sign up on the sheet** on the noticeboard in the Link (down the steps toward the hall), where you will also find an **application form**, which needs to be filled in and submitted by 30th December 2018. Application forms are also available on the website and may be submitted by emailing me on susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk.

Diary Dates

Sun 9 Dec			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
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2-4pm Bereavement Reflection afternoon – hall			
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6pm Benediction with prayer for Fr Michael			
Mon 10 Dec			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
Tues 11 Dec			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
Wed 12 Dec			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
10.35am Praise Group LCR			
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6.30pm CC Street Food Scout Hut			
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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes			

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
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Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	Parish no	01462 459126	E-mail:	hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants	Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett			Website:	www.parity.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 7 Monday Team: 1



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

Thurs 13 Dec			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm
11.30am Flower Group LCR			
Fri 14 Dec			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
Sun 16 Dec			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			
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4.30pm Reception of Fr Michael's Body			
followed by Mass at 5pm			
6pm Celebration, tributes and refreshments			

Other items of interest

Advent Retreat for Young Adults: Join the Assumption Sisters and Fathers for the full-day Advent retreat on **Saturday 15th December 2018**. The theme: "Master, what must we do?" will help us to prepare spiritually for the arrival of Christ. The day includes time for confession, spiritual accompaniment, talks, adoration, mass, faith sharing, prayer and activities. Venue: Milleret House, via 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN. Registration is essential - email us to book your place: youth@assumptionreligious.org Tel: 020 7361 4755. Cost: donations only, lunch is included.

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A parishioner who has no sight is in need of some paid morning care to support her as her husband (who was her carer) has just died. Ideally a job share with 3 days each. If you are interested please contact Trish in the first instance to register your interest.

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 106

Our Daily Love - Love is not rude These are the words



of Jesus: "Take heart, my son!" (Mt 9.2); "Great is your faith!" (Mt 15.28); "Arise!" (Mk 5:41); "Go in peace" (Lk 7:50); "Be not afraid!" (Mt 14:27). These are not words

that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn. In our families, try to imitate Jesus' own gentleness in your way of speaking to one another."