



# 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

15<sup>th</sup> December – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 – Third 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.

### Ramblings for Reflection:

**Gaudete! Gaudete!** The word possesses energy and inspires a spirit of **Joy**. Joy because the Birth of Christ is around the corner - and how the world needs his presence! Gaudete inspires a deep yearning for his love and goodness, his peaceful presence, his openness and honesty, his desire for the good in us to flourish, to fill our lives. We hope this Joy will spill over into everything we do, say and are.

Because Christmas is almost here  
Because dancing fits so well with music  
Because inside baby clothes are miracles

#### Gaudete

Because some people love you.  
Because of chocolate  
Because pain does not last forever  
Because Santa Claus is coming.

#### Gaudete

Because of laughter.  
Because there really are angels  
Because your fingers fit your hands  
Because forgiveness is yours for the asking  
Because of children. Because of parents

#### Gaudete

Because the blind see. And the lame walk  
Because lepers are clean. And the deaf hear.

#### Gaudete

Because the dead will live again  
And there is good news for the poor.

#### Gaudete

Because of Christmas. Because of Jesus.

**You rejoice!** (Brad Reynolds)

*“Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you, and you will be*

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Psalm:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Intercession** Lord, we trust in you

**Response: Hear our prayer!**

**Readings: Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18**

**Next week: Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-44**

*faithful to your deepest self. To depend on God sets us free from every form of enslavement and leads us to recognize our great dignity.”*

*(Pope Francis: Gaudete et Exsultate §32)*



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm**

Reception of Fr Michael's body to the church.

**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 (*this is being catered*)

††††††††††

**Monday 17 December** – There will be **NO 10AM MASS** due to the funeral of Fr Michael RIP taking place at 11am.

††††††††††

**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. You can find the dates of the sessions on the website under Sacramental Preparation/Confirmation and a sheet of dates is also on the noticeboard.

††††††††††

**KISS Coffee Morning** - Thank you for supporting last week's KISS coffee morning which raised £170.00. Over this year our parish coffee mornings have raised a wonderful £1055.00 for KISS Thank you all so much!

††††††††††

**CAFOD** collection this weekend.

Justice and Peace Co-Ordinator required – please visit

<https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/justice-and-peace-co-ordinator/> for further details.

††††††††††

Christmas Cards are arriving at the Church for Parishioners. Please check the box on the table in the porch. Many thanks.

††††††††††

**Cheques for Christmas Collections.** It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collections are made out to the Parish – i.e. Our Lady's Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !"

††††††††††

Fr Michael RIP had asked for donations to the mission of the Assumptionist Parish of Hitchin. Donations may be made through Chenery Funeral Directors or directly to the Parish. Please ensure cheques are made payable to Our Lady's Church. Many thanks.

††††††††††

Christmas Cards are arriving at the Church for Parishioners. Please check the box on the table in the porch. Many thanks.

††††††††††

The Westminster Year Book 2019 is in the Porch for sale at £4.50. Please put money in the "Papers" box inside the Church. Many thanks.

††††††††††

Marriage and Family Life Ministry Christmas reflection. Please see link below.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/grow-through-advent-as-a-family/>

## Diary Dates

### Sun 16 Dec

Coffee Morning – One World Group

††††††††††

**4.30pm Reception of Fr Michael's Body**

followed by Mass at 5pm

**6pm Celebration**, tributes and refreshments

### Mon 17 Dec

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
--------------------	----------------	-----------------------	-----

Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
--------------------------	---------------	--------------------	--------

**11am Funeral – Fr Michael RIP**

### Tues 18 Dec

Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
-----------------------	--------	----------------------	-----

		Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
--	--	---------------------	--------

### Wed 19 Dec

Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
---------------	--------	---------	--------

**9.30am Toddlers Party Hall**

††††††††††

**4.30pm RE Session LCR**

††††††††††

**6.30pm CC Street Food Scout Hut**

††††††††††

**7.30pm Reconciliation service** in church

### Thurs 20 Dec

Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
-------------------	-----	------------------------	--------

Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm
----------------------------	--------------	--------------------------	-----

**2pm Reconciliation service** in church

### Fri 21 Dec

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall		
--------------------	----------------	--	--



**Your help is needed at 10.45am for the construction of crib.** We need as many people as possible to help with this. Please let Trish know if you are able to help even for a short while. Please bring **evergreen** fir and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Please bring **evergreen** fir and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### Sun 23 Dec

Coffee Morning – OLSSG

††††††††††

**6.15pm Carols and Readings** for preparing for the great day of our Saviour's birth, led by our Young Ministers of the Word and choir.

Mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Please do join us. The figures will be put into the crib during this service.



The figures will be put into the crib during this service.

## Future Dates

**Tuesday 18 December** – Mass at Milford Lodge at 2.30pm.

††††††††††

Message from Hatfield Parish - **There will be Mass to usher in the New Year on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10.30pm.** Please join us in a vigil of prayer and praise at Marychurch. 26, Salisbury Square. Hatfield. Herts. AL9 5JD. All very welcome.

††††††††††

Simbang Gabi - Filipino Holy Night Masses. The Stevenage Filipino Community invite you to a series of Holy Night Masses, at St Joseph's Church, Stevenage, starting **Saturday 15th December to 23rd December, 8pm.** This series of Holy Night Masses is a traditional Filipino event called 'Simbang Gabi' or 'Misa de Gallo'. It is a devotional practice celebrated during Advent.

After each Mass there will be traditional Filipino foods and fellowship. Most Masses will be celebrated by visiting Filipino priests. Masses will be vibrant, reverent and lively - do come and join them and celebrate Advent in a Filipino way. All welcome!

## Other items of interest

Please 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

††††††††††

## Running for Roxy - our 12 in 12 challenge

Our little girl Roxy has Prader Willi Syndrome, a rare genetic condition that causes a range of physical and mental difficulties. It's defining characteristic is a constant feeling of hunger that can never be satisfied and can be life threatening if not monitored closely. Kerry (her dad) is running 12 marathons in 12 months this year to raise money for the Prader Willi Syndrome Association. Kathryn (her mum) couldn't sit back and watch him so has joined in and is running 12 half marathons in support. We are both about to do our final run. If you would like to find out about our efforts and feel able to make a contribution it would be very much appreciated. More details can be found at [justgiving.com/fundraising/kerrykathryn-simpson2018](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/kerrykathryn-simpson2018).

††††††††††

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?



**ALTAR SERVER**  
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

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.

††††††††††

**Recycling good news alert:** As some parishioners have already noticed, I have registered our parish to collect for recycling **Oral Care Products** with Terracycle a new recycling *scheme funded by Colgate*, as a public collection site, with any funds raised from these items to go towards the *North Herts Sanctuary (or Helping Herts Homeless)* just like the Writing Instruments we collect already, thus increasing our fund-raising for them. Many said these products could not be recycled - Colgate and Terracycle must have found a way to solve the problem, great news for us all. We will raise £1 for every 1kg of waste sent for recycling.

**Accepted waste** - are ALL BRANDS of:

- Toothpaste tubes and caps and their cartons,
- Toothbrushes and their outer packaging,
- Electric toothbrush *heads only* and their packaging.

However, waste that is **NOT** accepted:

- NO Dental Floss and Floss Containers
- NO Interdental Brushes
- NO Toothache Kits
- NO Breath Sprays
- NO Denture Adhesives Packaging
- NO Denture Tablets Packaging
- NO Denture Cream Tubes
- NO Battery Toothbrushes (Please dispose of these in WEEE waste facilities)
- NO Mouthwash Plastic Bottles
- Tubes that did not contain toothpaste
- Outer packaging that did not contain toothbrushes

N.B. **Best practices for recycling:** In order to recycle this waste stream properly, *please make sure all excess product has been removed* (i.e. leftover product) and place all the accepted packaging in a box. *If you choose to rinse your product, please note that it must be completely dry prior to shipping.*

Thank you everyone for all your support, please, please ensure that when you bring items to be recycled, that they are separated and placed in the correct bins, to avoid contamination and items being sent back to the wrong recycling centre, as that will invalidate our loads and we will not get any funds for the load, however big it is.

Thank you all for your support. Deolinda and Michael Eltringham.



## Text Giving

A new way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone!! Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass!!

††††††††††



### The Comeback Prayer Group

We are always looking for new members of our Comeback Prayer group to make sure that every day

of every month there would be someone in the Parish who would pray for those family members or friends who had for any reason fallen away from the practice of the faith.

You are provided with a prayer book and picture to help as a focal point in your own home. You can pray for as little or as long as you wish on your allocated day for people who have fallen away from the faith that they will find their way back or will be led back by the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to be part of this group please give your name to Trish, Mike Edwards or Father Tom.

**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](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

††††††††††

Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch 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 me on 01462 816658 or email [stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com)

††††††††††

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.

††††††††††

**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](mailto:maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk)

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 107

*Our Daily Love - Love is Generous*



We repeat that to love one another, we must first learn to love ourselves. Paul reminds us 'Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but to the interests of others' (Phil2:4).

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

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish no</b> <b>01462</b> <b>459126</b>	E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett			



This week's counting teams:

**Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 3**



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