



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 1819

29th Dec 2018 – 5th Jan 2019 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – 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: The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Psalm: They are happy who dwell in your house,
O Lord

Intercession: Turn towards us Lord

Response: Hear Our Prayer!

Readings: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Lk 2:22-40

Ramblings for Reflection

It is interesting that the gospel chosen is one in which Jesus causes a great deal of pain and suffering to his parents by staying in Jerusalem without telling them? What might this story teach us? Considering others is very important in families. It suggests openness and transparency as well as honesty and decency. At the same time we learn that when someone fails in any or all of these areas, it may have been done for the best of reasons and reasons that are exemplary. It should never be the cause of rift, or anger, or tension but rather forgiveness and understanding and a thankfulness that the family is together again. Note that Jesus stayed at home for the next 18 years; probably caring for Mary after Joseph's death. The harder lesson is to be reminded that we do not own or possess our children. They are a gift whom we nurture and prepare to give their lives to the Father, possibly as married or single people or as priests and religious. This giving is about witnessing to the Good News by living its teaching – loving God and neighbour. For all the Joy and Love that St John experienced, he wrote that his joy was not complete until he had shared the Good News with us, with all who were open to its message of peace and love. Whoever you are in the family, if you value the importance of its togetherness, develop a desire of unity and openness to others, you will be truly blessed.

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Tip of the Month - Living in solidarity:

Make a New Year Resolution to support at least one Justice & Peace campaign this year – either by joining Pax Christi, signing an online petition, joining a demonstration or writing about it to your MP. Let us live simply, live sustainably and live in solidarity with the poor.



Thanks to everyone who helped make Our Lady's Christmas so wonderful. Fr Tom, Fr Euloge and Fr Andrew want to thank the following:


- The Flower team for the beautiful displays
- The Crib builders for the equally beautiful crib
- The altar servers and MCs for their faithful service over Christmas. We celebrated with the guild on the Feast of St Stephen which was a wonderful Mass enrolling new servers and MCs and awarding 20 years of service to Anne-Marie and Chris Warren. We also thanked Ben Smith for over 40 years of devoted service to the Guild. Ben is now retiring from his MC role and will be missed in that role but will be still a faithful parishioner.
- The choir and music group and organists for their wonderful accompaniment to our services.
- The children who read or acted so well at the Carol service and Nativity service and all those who made the services the prayerful and joyful occasions they were.
- To our priests for their untiring service to us at this time and throughout the year.
- To Fr Michael whose Spirit was with us throughout our Christmas celebrations. We miss him and promise to carry on his legacy of caring support.
- To our parishioners who make our community the caring, sharing and loving body of Christ that it is; a parish to be proud of.

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.

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Masters of Ceremony (MC) at 10.30 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 an 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.



Diary Dates

Sun 30 Dec			
Coffee Morning – Diapalante			
Mon 31 Dec			
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC		
Tues 1 Jan Happy New Year!			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
Wed 2 Jan			
Rosary Church	9.30am		
11am Mass at Elmside. All welcome. ††††††††††			
6.30pm CC Street Food Scout Hut			
Thurs 3 Jan			
Italian Club Hall	1pm		
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm
10am St Pio Mass followed by meeting in the LCR.			
Sun 6 Jan			
Coffee Morning – Action Against Hunger			

Other items of interest

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

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 109


Our Daily Love - Love is not irritable or resentful The



word Paul uses here is *paroxynetai* - interior indignation provoked by something from without. A violent reaction within, a hidden irritation that sets us on edge with others, as if they were troublesome or threatening and thus to be avoided

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

 This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 1



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