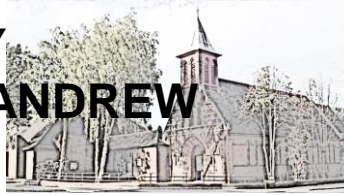




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1821

12th- 19th January –The Baptism of the Lord – 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

In reflection, the life of Jesus comes to us in snapshots: his Birth, a Holy Family, a visit of the Magi and now his Baptism. Whenever I ask people at a baptism why they want their child baptised, they invariably say that they want their child to become a full member of the family of the Church. Maybe that is what Jesus was doing at his Baptism, showing us that he belonged to the family of humankind – that he was fully one of us. What the Father said to Jesus he said to us in our baptism, “You are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased” and we too received the Spirit of God. Not only does Jesus become one of us, he enters fully into our lives. We are integrally united. The Star, the light that led the Magi to Jesus, is given to us in the form of a candle, not just a symbol of faith but the actual Light of Jesus now shines in us and will continue to do so for the rest of our lives. Our choice, like that of Jesus, is whether we let others see or experience this light, or hide it under a tub? Mary and Joseph were Jesus’ family but so too were the Father and the Holy Spirit and later his chosen disciples and his followers. Never make the faith journey alone, your church family is all around you to help, support, sustain, motivate, encourage, guide and love you all the way; just as you are for them!

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We pray for **Geraldine Evans** whose funeral is on **Thursday 24 January 2019 at 12noon at Hitchin Chapel, St John’s Road**. We also pray for **Josephine McGenny** whose funeral is on **Friday 25 January 2019 at 12noon** here at **Our Lady’s Church**. We pray for **Rose Horler** whose funeral is on **7 February 2019 at 12 noon at Hitchin Chapel, St John’s Road**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.



Entrance Antiphon: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Psalm: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Intercession: Lord how great you are!

Response: **We look to you!**

We have a further supply of Memorial Cards for Father Michael in the porch. Please help yourself.

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20 January 2019 Peace Sunday - The theme for 2019 is “Good politics serves peace” and the message from the Pope Francis can be read in: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/live-simply/> There will be a second collection to support the work of Pax Christi in the UK at the end of all the masses, please be generous. There will be Benediction at 6pm focused on peace. All welcome to spend some reflective time with our Lord.



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Members are needed on our Parish Pastoral Council for it to be a full representation of our Parish Life. We meet six or seven times a year to conduct Parish business and progress projects. If you are interested please call for further details. **Roger Lawrence-Hyde 07704275661**

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Thank you all for your most generous donations made to the Special Collections throughout 2018. Listed below is a list of the charities and the amounts collected:

Paid out to Poor and Needy	£2703.20		
Catholic Communications:	£ 105.50	Holy Places:	£ 650.78
Lenten Alms:	£ 432.07	Peters Pence:	£ 190.45
Racial Justice:	£ 183.65	Sick & Retired Priests:	£ 268.35
Priests Training Fund:	£ 241.72	Day for Life:	£ 188.41
Pax Christi:	£ 208.63	Growing in Faith:	£ 10.00
Apostleship of the Sea:	£ 609.28	CAFOD:	£3722.84

Crib:	£ 381.26	Mission Appeal:	£ 126.12
KISS:	£ 1055	SPUC:	£ 198.99
Comboni Appeal:	£1151.91	Missio:	£ 531.38

Diary Dates

Sun 13 Jan

Coffee Morning – KISS

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5pm Confirmation Session 1- "Give it your best shot Mass" in Church and afterwards in the Hall

Mon 14 Jan

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm

7.30pm Pastoral Council Meeting LCR

Tues 15 Jan

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

10.30am Bethany Club New Year Party Hall

Wed 16 Jan

Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
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6.30pm CC Street Food Scout Hut

Thurs 17 Jan

Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm

Fri 18 Jan

Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
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Sat 19 Jan

Sun 20 Jan

Coffee Morning – One World Group

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6pm Benediction focusing on Peace.

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6pm Confirmation Session 2 Hall

Other items of interest

17 January - the Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group sends an open invitation to their afternoon discussion meeting on "Faith & Social Action: Influence or Apathy - Our Choice" at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6JG. Doors open at 1:45pm for a 2pm start until 4pm, there is ample free parking on site. For further information, contact **Paul Gateshill** on: paulgateshill@hotmail.com or 0843 273 3306

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The Maryvale Institute (the International Catholic Distance Learning College) is offering various courses. Information evenings about them are being held on 29th, 30th and 31st of this month. For more information see the posters in the porch and on the noticeboard in the Link (between the church and the hall).

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CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement on the Settlement Scheme for EU citizens -The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all EUcitizens who have made their home here. As the majority are themselvesCatholic this is a special pastoral concern for us. To view the full statement, please visit our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

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 111

Our Daily Love - Love is not irritable or resentful



It is one thing to sense a sudden surge of hostility and another to give into it, letting it take root in our hearts.

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: 6 Monday Team: 3



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