



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 1822

19th- 26th January – 2nd Sunday in ordinary time – 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.

Readings: Is 62:1-5, Cor 12:4-11, John 2:1-11

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Psalm: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Intercession: Lord, give us your Spirit

Response: To do your Holy work!

Next week: Neh 8:2-6.8-10, Cor 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21

Ramblings for Reflection

After hearing the story of the Wedding Feast of Cana, water appears to be more than what it seems, hiding something special. And what is hidden is so much richer – at least wine drinkers think so!! If this is true for water, what does it say about people? Everyone hides within them an inner richness, beauty and goodness, which reflects something of the image of God. Jesus came to live among us in order to help, enable and open us to discover our hidden gifts. Gifts that act both as a light and as a mirror that in helping others we discover our own inner beauty and light. St Paul helps us understand this when he writes that we are all made and filled with the same Spirit - the Spirit that descended on Jesus in his baptism. Yet, our uniqueness only reveals itself when we share our gifts with the community. It is a uniqueness that, when freely and generously offered to others, increases in power. The psalmist would say that this power sings of the glory and praise of God. Listen to Pope Francis: "I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else - God is in this person's life. You can - you must - try to seek God in every human life." – especially your own.

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Our vibrant scout group has over 60 members and allows those children access to new skills and experiences. We camp, hike, sail and pursue all sorts of badges. The leadership team are a committed bunch from all walks of life with a great team spirit. We have 2 vacancies for help that have opened up - (1) a regular helper at cubs (kids are 8-10) - weekly meeting on Tuesday at 7pm to 8.30 and (2) a scout programme co-

ordinator - someone able to investigate activities that link to the selected badges, book events and speakers, shop for resources and remind scouts and their parent. No need to attend the meeting but needs to have a bit of time in the day. Speak to Trish or call/text our chair, Chrissi, on 07811328798.

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The Scout Group are looking for somewhere secure and dry to store the items they only use occasionally- Chariot (yes a chariot!), camping equipment, and a BBQ. They need access to the BBQ about 6 times a year, camping 2-3 times a year and the chariot only for the annual chariot race. Does anyone have a spare bit of garage they could use? Please contact Chrissi on 07811328798 or let Trish or the parish office know.

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Reconciliation after 10am Mass on **Saturday 26th January**: Children who have been preparing will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. Parishioners are very welcome to come to the sacrament after the children have finished. We expect it to take about an hour. Please hold the children in your prayers as they take this important step in their journey of coming closer to Christ.

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The Traidcraft stall will be open on Sun 20th January after 8.30 and 10.30 masses.

Diary Dates

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

| Mon 21 Jan | | | |
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| Parents & Toddlers | 9.30am Hall | Beavers Scout Hall | 6pm |
| Christian Meditation Grp | 11.30am EC | Cubs Scout Hall | 7.15pm |
| Tues 22 Jan | | | |
| Morning Prayer Church | 9.30am | Scouts Scout Hall | 7pm |
| Bethany Club Hall | 10.30am -3pm | Service for week of Christian Unity | 7.15pm |
| Wed 23 Jan | | | |
| Rosary Church | 9.30am | RCIA EC | 7.30pm |
| 4.30pm RE Session LCR †††††††††† | | | |
| 6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut | | | |
| Thurs 24 Jan | | | |
| Italian Club Hall | 1pm | Brownies Scout Hall | 6.30pm |
| Christian Meditation Group | 6.30pm EC | Choir Practice Church | 8pm |
| Fri 25 Jan | | | |
| Parents & Toddlers Hall | 9.30am | Lectio Divina EC | 2pm |
| Sat 26 Jan | | | |
| 8am Youth Forum LCR †††††††††† | | | |
| 9.30am Sacrament of Reconciliations Hall | | | |
| Sun 27 Jan | | | |
| Coffee Morning – Diapalante †††††††††† | | | |
| 6pm Confirmation Session 3 Hall | | | |

Future Dates

The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place in Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 9 February 2019** at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the Bishops and Priests. Attendees

in a wheelchair are asked to email rebeccagoode@rcdow.org.uk by **1 February** to ensure that the appropriate space is reserved in the Cathedral.

Other items of interest

Living the joy of the Gospel: St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis by Fr Paul Rout OFM

A series of 4 talks on the following themes:

January 24th, 2019, The experience of a heart full of mercy

February 7th, 2019, 'Francis, rebuild my Church': Being Church in the 21st Century

February 14th, 2019, 'Praised be you, my Lord, for all that you have made': Caring for our common home.

February 28th, 2019, Looking to Christ
Time: 7.00-8.30pm

Where: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a message at 020 7931 6078. A suggested donation is £5.

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An "under the counter" fridge wanted by a parishioner – either a larger fridge or fridge with a small freezer compartment. If you can help, please contact Klazina on 07882401992. Buyer can collect. Many thanks.

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The St Vincent De Paul Society is seeking a candidate for the post of Head of Digital and IT – London. For an application pack, please email matthews@svp.org.uk Closing date 28 January 2019.

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 112

Our Daily Love - Love is not irritable or resentful



My (Pope Francis) advice is never let the day end without making peace. How? Just by a small gesture, a little something, and harmony within your family may be restored. Just a little caress, no words are necessary.

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

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| 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: 1 Monday Team: 4



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