



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 1823

26th January – 2nd February – 3rd 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: Neh 8:2-6.8-10, Cor 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Psalm: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Intercession: Lord, we are your body

Response: Help us share the good news!

Ramblings for Reflection

Why aren't more people called Theophilus? Don't we all wish to be a lover (philus) of God (Theo)? Haven't we, like Jesus, been given the Holy Spirit – a spirit of love? As Ezra read from the book, revealing God's great love was for his people, no wonder they began to weep. They had not realised the immense power of this love. Luke wants to bring us to the same realisation in his Gospel so that, in hearing the Good News, we will be filled and transformed by Joy. What we discover this week is that God's love is something shared and only in sharing will it ever become complete. True love can never exist on its own; it must be both given and received continually. If an electron stops moving, it disappears, so too with love which constantly flows in and through us from God. The body image that Paul uses is like a tapestry. Every element of this tapestry is unique and essential. The colour and piece we represent is more or less vivid, more or less alive, in so far as we share our love with others. (Fr Michael showed us what this meant.) Alas, we seem to focus on the underside of the tapestry, which looks like an utter mess. Fortunately, God only sees the beauty of the tapestry our beauty, on the topside. "Destiny itself is like a wonderful wide tapestry in which every thread is guided by an unspeakable tender hand, placed beside another thread and held and carried by a hundred others." — Rainer Maria Rilke

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A second collection in aid of SPUC was due to take place on the weekend of 13/14 January but was never collected. We will therefore have a second collection this weekend in its place.

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Many thanks for all your kind donations to Pax Christi last weekend. A total of £306.52 was raised.

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January KISS Coffee morning – Thank you for your amazing support and generosity at the recent KISS coffee morning which raised £152.00. God Bless you all!

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Help needed! We are looking for helpers to take down the Crib on Saturday 2 February after the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.15am. All volunteers who are available to help, please let Trish know. Thank you all.

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Living sustainably: When you next pick up your sandwich from Pret a Manger, or receive one of those 'official' letters, remember that those pretty plastic windows at the front are often not recyclable, therefore you may need to remove them before you put them into the recycling! If not, it is likely that they will not be recycled at all!

Diary Dates

Sun 27 Jan			
Coffee Morning – Diapalante			
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6pm Confirmation Session 3 Hall			
Mon 28 Jan			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
11am Bethany Meeting UCR			
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11am Mass at Stagenhoe . All welcome.			

Tues 29 Jan			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic service Church	7.15pm
Wed 30 Jan			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut ††††††††††			
7pm Finance Meeting Presbytery Lounge			
Thurs 31 Jan			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church	8pm
Fri 1 Feb			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
Sun 3 Feb			
Coffee Morning – Parents & Toddlers ††††††††††			
6pm Confirmation Session 4 Hall			

Future Dates

Saturday 8 June 2019 at 3pm

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral,

The Cardinal will be inviting all couples in the Diocese to this Mass who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Cheryl in the office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number). Names need to be submitted by **23 March 2019**.

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Monday 4 February at 7pm at Farm Street Church in Mayfair

Alexander Armstrong, Miranda Heldt, Alex Macqueen and the Choir With No Name will be performing at a fundraising concert in aid of St Vincent De Paul Vinnie Packs for the homeless. Tickets cost £30 and are available on the Eventbrite website www.eventbrite.co.uk

Other items of interest

A friend of a Parishioner is looking for a short term house rental, preferably a 2/3 bed house in Hitchin or surrounding area that allows a dog, has a garden and preferably a parking space. If you can help or know someone that can, please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks.

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The Catholic charity FACE is currently recruiting a Chief Executive Officer to oversee and lead its development in the UK. The recruitment pack, as well as links to the recruitment process, may be accessed via: <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/fellowship-and-aid-to-the-christians-of-the-east-face-/chief-executive-officer/614064?tsld=6>

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The struggle for social and environmental justice in the Brazilian Amazon – talk and Q&A on Wednesday 6th February 2.30pm at CAFOD's Volunteer Centre at Catholic Church of Christ the King, 1st Floor, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HE.

Indigenous communities in the Amazon rainforest are facing unprecedented threats to their way of life.

To hear about CAFOD's work in the Amazon please contact Tony Sheen tsheen@cafod.org.uk for further detail or to book a ticket.

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 113

Our Daily Love - Love is not irritable or resentful



If we allow ill will to take root in our hearts, it leads to deep resentment.

If we look for more and more faults, imagine greater evils, presume all

kinds of bad intentions, resentment grows and deepens

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

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This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 1



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