

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 1824

2nd February – 9th February 2019 4th 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: [Jer 1:4-5.17-19](#), [Cor 12:31-13:13](#), [Luke 4:21-30](#)

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Psalm: My lips will tell of your help.

Intercession: Lord, you are our hope

Response: Teach us how to love

Next week: [Is 6:1-8](#), [Cor 15:1-11](#), [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Ramblings for Reflection

One minute, Jesus is held in great admiration, the next they want him dead! The Media is famous for creating 'great stars' and then, when it has had its fill, tearing them down and destroying them; showing a complete absence of love and of basic human dignity and respect. Jesus understood the root value of love knowing that it is the source and origin of everything created. Whenever we reach out to people, we make contact with that original love. In each encounter, the love we experience in others is a reflection of our own love. At the same time, we come into direct contact with God's love for us. How could God be anything else but love? Pope Francis is very helpful on this: "Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. . . . God makes Himself felt in the heart of each person. . . . Agape, the love of each one of us for the other, from the closest to the furthest, is in fact the only way that Jesus has given us to find the way of salvation and of the Beatitudes. . . . God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it has been 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." For that is true Love!

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BAPTISM COURSE The next Baptism preparation course will run on **Sun 31 March from 3pm - 4:30pm** and on **Sun 7 April from 3:30pm - 4:30pm**,

followed by the Rite of First Anointing at the 5pm Mass; the course consists of both Sundays. If you have a child in need of baptism or are expecting a child and would like to do the course in advance, please sign up on the board in the Link (down the steps in the porch towards the hall door).

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CAFOD There will be a second collection next weekend (9/10 Feb).

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Thank you all for your kind donations to the White Flower Appeal (SPUC) last weekend. A total of £170.92 was raised.

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As is often the case at the start of the year, there seems to have been quite a bit of comment in the papers and websites recently about the challenges of negotiating January. 'Blue Monday', at the beginning of last

week, was apparently a low point.

Pope Francis has addressed that weariness that can be particularly marked in these winter months in a homily he gave in Panama last Saturday. The Cardinal thought it would be worth sharing with you. In it, the Holy Father writes:

'For some time now, a subtle weariness seems to have found a place in our communities, a weariness that has nothing to do with the Lord's weariness. And here we need to be careful. It is a temptation that we might call the weariness of hope. This weariness is felt when – as in the Gospel – the sun beats down mercilessly and with such intensity that it becomes impossible to keep walking or even to look ahead. Everything becomes confused. I am not referring here to that "peculiar heaviness of heart" (cf. Redemptoris Mater, 17; Evangelii Gaudium, 287) felt by those who feel "shattered" at the end of the day, yet manage a serene and grateful smile. I am speaking of that other weariness, which comes from looking ahead once reality "hits" and calls into question the energy, resources and viability of our mission in this changing and challenging world.

'Weariness from the journey can happen; it can make itself felt. Like it or not, we do well to have the same courage as the Master... The Lord says, "Give me a drink", he asks us to say those same words. As we say them, let us open the door and let our wearied hope return without fear to the deep well of our first love, when Jesus passed our way, gazed at us with mercy, and he chose us and asked us to follow him.'

The full homily can be found at <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2019/01/26/190126c.html>

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Super Seraph – Trish is cycling at the Cultivo lounge on 4th Feb with a group who are pretending they are biking from Lands End to John O'Groats only 847 miles, in a day, to raise funds for treatment for a friend of her grandson who is 3 years old and suffering from

paediatric cancer – only £255,000 (!!) required to help this little boy increase his chance of survival. To sponsor her (and she is begging for your help for Seraph) and those cycling please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/super-seraph-vs-neuroblastoma>

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Church Cleaning We **desperately** need more people to help keep our church clean on Mondays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. We had lots of volunteers offer to clean the church for Fr Michael's funeral. Please continue to give 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful.



I promise Trish will nag incessantly until we are up to speed! (be warned, ed.) We also need someone to co-ordinate the rota and do the nagging for new people in the future. Please speak to or email Trish with your offers of help.

Diary Dates

| Sun 3 Feb | | | |
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| Coffee Morning – Parents & Toddlers | | | |
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| 6pm Confirmation Session 4 Hall | | | |
| Mon 4 Feb | | | |
| Parents & Toddlers | 9.30am Hall | Beavers Scout Hall | 6pm |
| Christian Meditation Grp | 11.30am EC | Cubs Scout Hall | 7.15pm |
| 2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All welcome. | | | |
| Tues 5 Feb | | | |

| Morning Prayer Church | 9.30am | Scouts Scout Hall | 7pm |
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| Bethany Club Hall | 10.30am -3pm | Eucharistic service | NOT HAPPENING TODAY |
| 7.30pm FHC Session 1 Hall (Parents only) | | | |
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| 8pm UCM Welcome back with Mass and AGM in the LCR | | | |
| Wed 6 Feb | | | |
| Rosary Church | 9.30am | RCIA EC | 7.30pm |
| 11am Mass at Elmside. (please note this may have to be cancelled if there is continuing illness at the home) | | | |
| 4.30pm RE Session LCR | | | |
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| 6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut | | | |
| Thurs 7 Feb | | | |
| Italian Club Hall | 1pm | Brownies Scout Hall | 6.30pm |
| Christian Meditation Group | 6.30pm EC | Choir Practice Church | 8pm |
| St Pio Mass and afterwards in the LCR. | | | |
| Fri 8 Feb | | | |
| Parents & Toddlers Hall | 9.30am | Lectio Divina EC | 2pm |
| Sat 9 Feb | | | |
| 10.30am Exposition and Reconciliation | | | |
| Sun 10 Feb | | | |
| Coffee Morning – KISS | | | |
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| 6pm Confirmation Session 5 Hall | | | |

Future Dates

Mon 4 Feb 7pm - The Choir With No Name will be performing with Alexander Armstrong, Miranda Heldt, Alex Macqueen at Farm Street Church in Mayfair. It is 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

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Wed 6 Feb 2.30pm The struggle for social and environmental justice in the Brazilian Amazon – talk and Q&A. at CAFOD's Volunteer Centre at Catholic Church of Christ the King, 1st Floor, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HE. See <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/events/>

Sat 16 Feb 9.30am to 3pm- Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019 with Bishop Paul McAleenan on at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, Colney Heath Lane, St Albans AL4 0TT. This is to help all who are interested in sharing their faith to respond to Pope Francis' call to grow 'Missionary Parishes'

and form 'Missionary Disciples'. You are invited to hear talks and presentations, and join in discussion with participants from other parishes, looking at practical ways to enrich and grow our parishes, and to reach out to others through local evangelisation. The event which is free to attend is open to all. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lunch. To register for Proclaim Spring Gathering e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk Or telephone on 0207 798 9152.

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10am Fri 22 Feb to 10am Sat 23 Feb, Phase are planning on running 480km in 24hrs on two treadmills. That's the equivalent distance of Hitchin to Luxembourg (as the crow flies)! This is a fundraising challenge for Phase, taking place at PureGym, Hitchin, aiming to raising £4800; £100 per person per hour! Can you commit to run for 1-hour on a treadmill covering around 10KM, or can you sponsor someone to run through the night?! Please email Kieran Murphy - kieran.murphy@phase-hitchin.org or tel 01462 422940 for more details.

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Other items of interest



CTH Lent Groups 2019 The Study guide for 2019 is **At the Cross** by Abby Guinness. Abby is involved with Spring Harvest. The guide follows

the experiences and attitudes of the centurion, one of the criminals, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Jesus' mother, Thaddeus and Martha. The Bible passages are from the gospels. The weeks of Lent are March 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st April 7th. Holy Week is April 14th. If you would like to host or lead a group please contact Helen Richardson by 3

February. If you are running a year round house group/prayer group and are willing to pause your study and join in this CTH one do let me know. Would existing groups let me know how many people from other churches you could accommodate for the Lent period. The blessing of small discussion groups made up other traditions is that they enrich the understanding and interpretations of our Christian life. Those who have participated in previous years have found them enjoyable and interesting.

Telephone Helen Richardson on 07880 682681 or email helenwrigh@btinternet.com

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Do you know someone who is blind, visually impaired, physically handicapped, has limited mobility or generally finds reading a strain?

Stevenage & North Herts Talking News offer a weekly free service of local news (from the Stevenage Comet and the Royston Crow) as well as a selection of popular magazines from the RNIB, which we record onto a USB memory stick. If you know of someone that would be interested, please contact Ian on 07981 442341 and he will arrange a suitable time when two of our volunteers could visit to deliver a free, suitable media player and offer guidance on its use.

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 114

Our Daily Love - Love is not irritable or resentful



If we hold deep resentment, every mistake or lapse on the part of our spouse can harm the bond of love and the stability of the family. The just desire to see our rights respected needs care it doesn't turn into a thirst for vengeance rather than a reasoned defence of our dignity.

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: 3 Monday Team: 2



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



Our Lady's Parish

Faith Development Helpline

Problems or doubts
about your faith?
Are you feeling a
bit lost?

**Try ringing
07398 821315**



**Tues, Weds,
Thurs**

8pm – 10pm

This is a confidential service and follows Parish Safeguarding Policies