



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 1825

9th February – 16th February 2019 5th Sunday in ordinary time – Year C

A prayer for Yemen Giver of life, who hears the cries from Yemen: of mothers choosing between medicine or food; of parents grieving children lost to starvation; of those who have given up everything in hunger. In your mercy, soften hardened hearts, change closed minds. Let people come before power. Let life be holy again. Let your justice and peace shape the lives of all people. Amen.

Readings: Is 6:1-8, Cor 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

Psalm: Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

Intercession: On the day we call

Response: Increase our strength!

Next week: Jer 17:5-8, Cor 15:12.16-20, Luke 6:17.20-26

Ramblings for Reflection

Called to service by the Lord, both Isaiah and Peter recognise their complete unworthiness for the task in hand, yet their response is total and so is their trust. Before communion, we repeat the words time after time after time: Lord, I am not worthy. Do we say these words with our heads or do we feel that way in the depth of our being. Only in feeling really unworthy will we be able to completely trust in the Lord. This kind of trust means believing that God not only died and rose again to save us from sin but that we are truly and utterly forgiven. Added to this is the fact that, because this freedom is total gift, it is impossible to pay anything back and equally impossible to show that we are worthy of the gift. This leaves us with no excuses but to live the life Jesus asks of us. Only in doing so will we discover that this is the life we have always wanted to live! Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith. . . . We, the women and men of the Church, we are in the middle of a love story: each of us is a link in this chain of love. And, if we do not understand this, we have understood nothing of what the Church is. . . . Faith is not a light that scatters all our darkness but a lamp that guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey. **Pope Francis.**

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If you want to stay on top of what is going on in the parish you can be first to see new entries on the parish website. Go to the home page, scroll down and towards the bottom on the right hand side you can sign up for email alerts. Click on the link , add your name and email address and you are all signed up. *(please note you do not get an alert every time a change is made to the website. We have to send you an alert if it is an event or update of particular interest)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage and Family Life Newsletters Archive Parish Building, Maintenance and Restoration projects Parishioner Business - skills and talents that might be of use within our community Parish Ministry rotas Pastoral and Liturgy Planners Pastoral Parish Council Prayer websites which might be useful Proclaim '15 Recycling in the parish Recycling items free or for sale Safeguarding Traidcraft stall - Items for sale 		<p>SATURDAY 9th Feb 10am R/S Tommaso & Cosima Lezzi R/S Brian Harvey 2pm EAP/ESM 6pm Intentions of Isabel Soares</p> <p>Photo Gallery View Diocese's gallery</p> <p>Parish e-Alerts Stay in touch with the latest news and events in your parish Sign up for e-Alerts</p>
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Lent Discussion Groups studying people **At The Cross:** the centurion, one of the criminals, Mary Jesus' mother, Thaddaeus, Martha and Joseph of Arimathea using the gospels, this course is written by Abby Guinness. It offers the opportunity to discuss in small friendly groups while meeting people from other Hitchin churches. The list of places, dates and times is now available on the board in the porch for you to sign up by 3 March. Further information Helen Richardson helenwrich@btinternet.com 07880 682681.

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25 February - 10 March: Fairtrade Fortnight - the impact Fairtrade Fortnight has in making trade fairer depends on people across the UK getting involved, so we need you to spread the message: **She Deserves a Living Income.** See website for further details of things to do. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/traidcraft-stall-items-for-sale/>

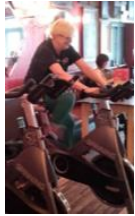


3rd March 2.30pm, Service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated. Our last service was the day that Fr Michael Lambert died. At the service in March we will have a reflection on his life and ministry focused on Healing and wholeness. We do hope many of you will attend.

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 **BAPTISM COURSE** The next Baptism preparation course will run on **Sunday 31st March from 3pm - 4:30pm and on Sunday 7th 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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 Thank you for those who sponsored Trish who did 20 miles in just over an hour on the static bike on Monday to raise funds for Seraph. Even with a cushion it was a bit painful but the cause kept her going.


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The Diocese need a temporary Safeguarding administrator to help in the department, if you are interested please check out the job vacancy page on the parish website or go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/administrator-safeguarding/>

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A parishioner is in need of a ¾ mobility bed that moves up and down and also a washing machine. If anyone in the parish has either of these items you want a good home for please contact Klazina Hofmann on 07882401992

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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. Last week's notice did not yield any offers of help hence the repeat! 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.



Choir members needed If you are willing to sing in praise of Our Lord come and join us. You need to be available at 8-9pm on a Thursday evening for the

practices and the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30 Mass. We have a particular need for male bass voices. If you think you could help the parish in this way and have some great fun at the same time please speak to Trish or Samantha Wilkins or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

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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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 Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin.

Diary Dates

Sun 10 Feb			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
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6pm Confirmation Session 5 Hall			
Mon 11 Feb			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am Hall	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
Tues 12 Feb			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic service Church	7.15pm
Wed 13 Feb			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
10.35am Praise Group LCR			
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10.40 am Praise Group meet in the Lower Committee Room. All who love singing are welcome. We sing with enthusiasm with the help of a guitar, choosing the hymns from the last month's liturgy.			
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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes , All welcome.			
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6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut			
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Second collection this weekend in aid of			

CAFOD. There will be a second collection next weekend (17 Feb) in aid of Racial Justice		
Thurs 14 Feb		
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall 6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice Church 8pm
Fri 15 Feb		
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC 2pm
Sat 16 Feb		
Sun 17 Feb		
Coffee Morning – One World Group ††††††††††		
6pm – Benediction in the church		

Future Dates

CAFOD just one world **Meet, mingle and chat event**
23rd February, 11:30am at Holy Family Church Hall, 194 Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7RQ. As a member of the parish community you are invited to join with CAFOD volunteers and supporters from across Herts to learn about the different kinds of activities undertaken on behalf of CAFOD in other parishes. A chance to swap ideas with CAFOD supporters from those parishes and learn more about CAFOD's projects abroad from a CAFOD representative. We'll have a shared lunch (please bring a food contribution) and so we know how many to expect, register with Ann at ann.milner@cafod.org.uk. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet CAFOD people without having to go to London!
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Other items of interest

Herts Welcome Syrian Families – With 6 new families in the county since December, the demand for bikes has increased particularly for children going to school and parents going to college. At the moment they are looking for a boy's bike - suitable for a 4'6" boy, bikes for 2 girls aged 10 and 7 and 2 boys also aged 10 and 7 and a bike for an 8 year old boy. They do need to be in good condition. They also provide helmets, locks and hi viz vests so if anyone has any of these going spare they would very happy to receive them. Please contact woodcraftvicky@gmail.com



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Sunday 17th Feb 6pm Benediction All welcome to spend time in prayer and reflection in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesday 19th Feb 1-4pm Time Trek a fund afternoon of music, games, craft and bible stories for ages reception – year 6 at Christchurch, Bedford Road. Register by 10th Feb at timetrek.eventbrite.co.uk

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CLIMATE CHANGE
and how we can fight it

Public meeting, Weds 20 February 7.30-9.30pm

Our world faces a challenge so great, it could see the end of us. Come and hear three knowledgeable speakers discuss the threat and what we can do about it.

Laura Mackenzie - Friends of the Earth
George Barda - Extinction Rebellion
Ian Troughton - St Albans Green Party
Followed by questions and discussion

Fleetville Community Centre
Royal Road, St Albans AL1 4LQ
opposite Hatfield Road Morrison's
Refreshments available from 7.20pm

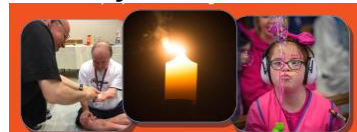
Green Party
ST ALBANS 6 DISTRICT

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Friday 1 March 1.30pm World Day of Prayer - at Holy Saviour Church in Radcliffe Road. This year the service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia. It is led by an ecumenical group from Hitchin's churches. Refreshments after the service will be from Slovenian recipes! Toy corner available for younger ones. All welcome.
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Saturday 9th March 10am-2pm - Symbols of Faith



Preparing parents, priests and catechists to work with people with learning disabilities. The Workshop will enable you to:

- Develop an understanding of faith formation for people with learning disabilities
- Understand how people with learning disabilities can be prepared to celebrate the sacraments of baptism, first communion, and confirmation
- Share experiences of good practice
- Be introduced to diocesan resources

For further Information and booking please contact Sue Day at sueday@rcdow.org.uk / 07525 812513 or Sue Prat at sueprat@rcdow.org.uk / 020 8202 3999

Elmside Care Home are looking to hire a pianist for a regular gig. We offer a fee of £30 for around 40 mins. This would really lift our residents' morale in such ways that you would not even realise, music brings so much to so many. The person involved may have to have a DBS which we pay for and have public liability insurance. This will be a regular slot and we can increase it if needed also it can be very flexible at weekends or during the day or evenings. Please text 07732992093 or call 01462 451737 and ask for Rhonda if you are interested

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Holy Land tour Pastor Matt Summerfield of Zeo Church is leading a Holy Land Tour from 2nd to 9th November 2019 and will welcome members of other churches to join. Full details at <https://www.christian-travel.com/tours/detail/summerfield-hl-jd-19.html>

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Talking Elephants A gathering of people who have been bereaved, meeting for coffee and conversation on the first Monday of the month from 12.30pm-2.30pm at Walsworth Road

Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP

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CAFOD are inviting everyone to pray for the people of Yemen and the desperate situation in that country. In a message asking for prayers, Chris Bain writes: 'As you may have seen in the news, the suffering in Yemen is one of the gravest humanitarian crises in the world today. After nearly four years of war, more than 14 million people are facing starvation and 85,000 children may have already died from extreme hunger since 2015.

There is some hope in Yemen, with a ceasefire brokered in December, promising to restore the Hodeida port and allow food and medicine into

the country. CAFOD has worked through partners in Yemen since 2016, and while we welcomed the UK government's announcement last week that it will uplift funding to the UN Peace process in Yemen by £2.5 million, we know that the situation is so desperate that more needs to be done. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for the people suffering in Yemen. Fr Tom has asked that we use the **Prayer for Yemen** on the front of the newsletter for the next few weeks in place of the parish prayer in our intercessions

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Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage: 20th to 26th July 2019 Join the Cardinal on the 31st Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes - Theme for 2019 - "Blessed are the poor, for the kingdom of God is yours". Brochures and booking forms are available in the porch or visit www.tangey-tour

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Phase is a charity which is dependent on donations. If you would like to make a donation and help us provide support to young people, please:

text MAKE05 £5 to 70070 to donate £5. Speak to your Church Phase Rep (Trish/Helen) or phone the Phase office 01462 422940 or visit our website www.phase-hitchin.org and click on 'Giving'

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Don't forget to continue to recycle and raise money for good causes. If you haven't already taken one please grab a poster with all the details from the porch and put it up where it will remind you to bring things when you come to church.

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 115

Our Daily Love - Love forgives When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say it is easy. The truth is that "family communion (union) can only be preserved and perfected through a great spirit of sacrifice." (John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio 22 Nov. 1981.)



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 E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk 01462 Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/ 459126

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 3



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