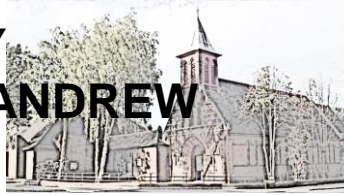




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1827

23rd February – 2nd March 2019 7th 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: Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23, Cor 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me

Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Ramblings for Reflection

Why do we use the language of war when speaking about our enemies? Jesus doesn't! Love your enemies! If they take something from you, give them something else! Turn the other cheek! This is quite the opposite. Being compassionate implies that Jesus doesn't ask us to overcome our enemies but convert them. Don't you think that God would rather convert Satan than defeat him? (Sorry Archangel Michael!) Jesus suggests that we shower an enemy with kindness, goodness, and love, so as to win their friendship. Oscar Wilde said, Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much! Pope Francis says: "This Gospel presents us with one of the hallmarks of Jesus' message. . . . My enemy is someone I must love. In God's heart there are no enemies. God only has sons and daughters. We are the ones who raise walls, build barriers and label people. God has sons and daughters, precisely so that no one will be turned away. God's love includes everybody. It is a parental love that never abandons us, even when we go astray. Our Father does not wait for us to be good before he loves us. He does not wait for us to be a little bit better or more perfect before he loves us; he loves us because he chose to love us, he loves us because he has made us his sons and daughters. He loved us even when we were enemies. No matter how sullied our hands may be, God will continue to place in them the Life he wishes to bestow on us. We must do the same!

††††††††††

Thank you for your contributions to Racial Justice last weekend – £243.88 was raised.

††††††††††



We pray for Evert Fernandes – Antoinette's husband - whose funeral is on Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 11.00am here at Our Lady's Church. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family. There will be **no 10am Mass** that day.

††††††††††

KISS Coffee Morning – thank you for your support and generosity at the recent KISS Coffee Morning which raised £145.00 for the work of the Ugandan Charity. Bless you all for your kindness. For more information about the work of KISS, visit the website kiddiessupportscheme.org/about-kiss

††††††††††

Saturday 2nd March we will be back gardening in the church grounds from 9 - 12pm. Everyone is welcome no matter your ability. There is no need to commit, we are always happy to see people turn up.

††††††††††



2.30pm Sunday 3rd March, we are holding our next 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.

††††††††††

Trish has received this message from Fr Euloge:
Hello Mother Trish
I had a nice journey. Now I am with my family. They are fine though they experience sickness. They greet you and all our parishioners. Thank you indeed for your prayers.
Shalom
Euloge.

Diary Dates

Sun 24 Feb

Coffee Morning – OLSSG

Mon 25 Feb

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

Mass at Stagenhoe 11am

Tues 26 Feb

Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am -3pm	Eucharistic service	Church 7.15pm

7pm PPC - LCR

Wed 27 Feb

Rosary Church 9.30am **NO RCIA**

4.30pm RE Session – LCR

††††††††††

6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut

Thurs 28 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 1 March

Parents & Toddlers Hall 9.30am Lectio Divina EC 2pm

1.30pm World Day of Prayer - formerly Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 1 March 1.30pm at Holy Saviour Church in Radcliffe Rd.

Sat 2 March

9.30am FHC Session 2 (Parents and Children) - Hall

††††††††††

10.30am Exposition and Reconciliation

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

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: 6 Monday Team: 1



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

Sun 3 March

Coffee Morning – Traidcraft

††††††††††

6pm Confirmation Session 6 Hall

Future Dates

This weekend Pope Francis has a meeting of the Council of Cardinals with a broad approach to the theme 'The Protection of Minors in the Church.' Cardinal Vincent has asked for our prayers. Details about this meeting can be found at <https://www.pbc2019.org/home> and in news on the parish website.

††††††††††

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,. 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 for you to sign up by 3 March. Further information Helen Richardson helenwrich@btinternet.com 07880 682681

††††††††††

New Testament Church of God

We will be having a fellowship evening including communion and washing of the saints feet on the 3rd march 2019 at NTCG Hitchin church 6 pm all are welcome. For more info contact Bishop Thomas bishopvision@yahoo.com

††††††††††

Save the date: Visit My Mosque on Sunday 3rd March. To find the nearest mosque participating see: <https://www.visitmymosque.org/>. For more information, please visit the Events page on our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 117

Our Daily Love - Love forgives There is no family



which hasn't experienced how selfishness, discord, tension and conflict can violently attack and at times mortally wounds its communion

(union) : many and varied forms of division arise in family life." (John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio 22 Nov. 1981