



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 1828

2nd March – 9th March 2019 8th 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: Ecc 27:4-7, 1 Cor 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Psalm: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Intercession: Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer

Next week: Deut 26: 4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

Ramblings for Reflection This week we hear of blindness, splinters, planks, good and bad fruit and the HEART. On my dining room wall we had a picture of the Sacred Heart. It had pride a place over the fire that warmed the whole house. This was common in many houses at that time. The heart inspires. It is the source of everything we say and do, whether good or bad. For some, it is synonymous with our conscience. As our lives flow by, we come to realise how much our hearts have influenced the decisions we have made and the way we respond to the daily challenges. It is the source of courage and fear. In those early days, when life's challenges became too much or seemed impossible, we would look at that sacred heart and find comfort and strength to face the situation confronting us. The heart of Jesus comes in many guises. That of a shepherd who cares and watches over us, making sure we are properly fed and protected. The heart of a King who values us, who would rather serve than be served. The heart of a Saviour willing to give his life to guard us from harm and set us free. A merciful and forgiving heart, like the Father of the prodigal son. Jesus wants us to know that our hearts are modelled on his heart, made from the same cast; that we, too, are capable of caring and kindness, or mercy and forgiveness, of sacrifice and service. Jesus has set our hearts free to be like his.

If you would like to help out at this, or any other Son Seeker event, please speak to any of our helpers. We really need help with new ideas and more helpers during events. This is not a huge commitment and any help is very much appreciated.

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All proceeds from the Poor Box between Ash Wednesday (6 March) and Easter Sunday (21 April) will go to the Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal. Cardinal Vincent launched the 2019 Cardinal's Lenten Appeal with a particular focus on the growing issue of Food Poverty and Resilience. Speaking at the Borehamwood Foodbank in Hertfordshire, he warned that this issue, which is often hidden, will get worse, and invited parishes to consider the Appeal as the beneficiary of this year's Lenten Alms.

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We pray for Monica Miles-Gordon whose funeral is on Thurs 14 March here at Our Lady's Church at 1pm. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

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A Planned Offertory Appeal will be held over the weekends of 9/10 March 2019 and 16/17 March 2019. The Offertory Envelopes renewal will take place over the weekends 23/24 March 2019 and 30/31 March 2019.

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Sign-up for Lent Groups by Sunday 3rd March This year, the Lent study guide is **At the Cross** by Abby Guinness and thirteen groups (plus one for the residents at Elmside care home) have been arranged. Sign-up sheets with information about each group are in every church and this coming Sunday, (the 3rd) is the last day for adding your name.



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Our next Son Seeker Sunday will be **next Sunday (10th March) during the 10:30 Mass**. We will be discussing the first Sunday of Lent and enjoying craft and fun activities relevant to the gospel. ALL children are welcome. We do ask that under 5's are accompanied by an adult.

No 10am Mass on Tues 5 Mar. The funeral Mass for Evert Fernandes is at 11am.

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There will be Stations of the Cross after 10:00 Mass on Fridays.

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12:00 Fri 8 Mar - Please join the *Helpers Pro Life Group* for a peaceful Prayer Vigil outside the Lister Hospital (on the public space near the Treatment Centre). If you cannot join in person, please join in spirit and prayer as and when you can.

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Lost property - Please take a look through the lost property box in the Church porch. There are plenty of items that need reuniting with their owners! Many thanks.

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Diary Dates

Sun 3 March			
Coffee Morning – Traidcraft			
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2.30pm Healing and Wholeness service church			
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6pm Confirmation Session 6 Hall			
Mon 4 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
2.30pm - Mass at Gosmore. All welcome.			
Tues 5 March			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
NO BETHANY CLUB		Eucharistic service	Church 7.15pm
8pm UCM – Rosary, Pancake & Business evening in the Hall.			
Wed 6 March			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
11am - Mass at Elside. All welcome			
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ASH WEDNESDAY – Holy Day of Obligation			
7.30am, 10am, 7.30pm - Mass			
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Ash Wednesday lunch We mark the beginning of Lent each year with this simple meal in support of Christian Aid. This year, it is at St Faith's Church on the corner of Cambridge Road and Woolgrove Road, 12.30 pm . There will be a Traidcraft stall. All are welcome.			
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6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut			

Thurs 7 March			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice	Church 8pm

Hitchin Food Rescue Hub session - Some of you will remember the inspiring presentation on Letchworth's Best Before Café at last September's CTH Council. Our version, which has the name 'Hitchin Food Rescue Hub', is about to start. It will collect food weekly from supermarkets, cafes and shops in the Hitchin area to stop it going to landfill, and then make it available free. Volunteers are needed to be drivers, sorter-outers, welcomers, etc. If you are interested, or just want to learn more, drop in at a meeting in The Riot Lounge, 6 Sun Street, on Thursday, 7th March any time between 7.30 and 9.00 pm. John and Helen Richardson, along with Charmaine Ball of Our Lady's (and the Foodbank) have been on the steering group and you are welcome to contact John if you would like to know more beforehand.

Fri 8 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm

Sat 9 March

10am-2pm Symbols of Faith Workshop – to develop an understanding of faith formation for those with learning disabilities, and how they can be prepared for the sacraments of baptism,



reconciliation, eucharist and confirmation. Parish website for details of how to book.

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11am – 1pm - Churches Together in Hitchin Youth Council holds its second meeting in the Richard Johnson room at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. If you are in your teens or early twenties, this meeting will be a forum for you to discuss what you would like to see, do and/or develop amongst the Hitchin churches and in the community as a whole. We are still in the planning stage. Please join us and be part of what God is doing with the CTH youth of Hitchin. Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the meeting. For more info contact Pastor Donald Smith bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk.

Sun 10 March			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
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6pm Confirmation Session 7 Hall			

Future Dates

Mon 4 March, 6.30pm Catholic History Walks - Anglo-Saxon Christianity in London. For this event only, please book on the email address below. A few places remain. For all other walks, please see details on the notice board in the porch. chwalkslondon@gmail.com

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Tues 5 Mar, 6:35pm - The Lourdes Reunion Mass to welcome new volunteers is in the Cathedral Crypt (enter via Westminster Choir School Gates) followed by a social gathering in the Windsor Castle Pub on Francis Street.

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Sat 8 June 2019 3pm - Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony in 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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Other items of interest

Growing In Faith- Those of you who have been supporting the Growing In Faith Appeal will wish to be aware that our Parish element of the Appeal will come to an end later this year probably about the end of October – on the 5th anniversary of when our sign-up phase ended. At that time, if you are still involved, the Diocese will stop drawing down your donations and will send you a final statement detailing your contributions. When the Appeal itself comes to an end, we will receive a Parish statement showing our contributions to the different “good causes” and we will share that with you. Note that the Growing In Faith Appeal will come to an end - it will not be extended or rolled over into another appeal. However, you might well be invited to support an alternative initiative such as the Cardinal's Appeal. If you have any questions or queries, please let Cheryl know and we will try to follow up on them for you.

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On Tues 12 Feb 2019 Pope Francis cleared the way for the canonisation of the much-loved educationalist Cardinal John Henry Newman. The Pope received Cardinal Angelo Becciu, the Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and authorised him to promulgate two decrees on miracles for

sainthood, a decree on martyrdom and five on heroic virtues. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has warmly welcomed the news that Cardinal Newman will be declared a saint. Following the announcement, Cardinal Nichols said: "This is wonderful news which will be greeted with thanks to God by people across the world. Newman's exploration of faith, depth of personal courage, intellectual clarity and cultural sensitivity make him a deeply admired follower of Christ. He brings together so many of the best of Catholic traditions shared well beyond the Catholic Church. His canonisation will be welcomed especially in the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

For me the truly remarkable nature of this moment is that this is an English parish priest being declared a saint. During his life the people of Birmingham recognised his holiness and lined the streets at the time of his burial. I hope every parish priest in England will hold his head high today knowing Cardinal Newman is declared a saint." Cardinal John Henry Newman was beatified - declared a 'Blessed' - by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on his historic state visit to the UK in September 2010.

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Our Lady's is a Fairtrade parish. This means that we encourage all our parishioners to use products that are produced in ethical ways and that the workers who produce the goods are paid fairly for the work they do. All parish groups who use our facilities should be using Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar and other Fairtrade products whenever possible. Outside groups using our facilities should also be encouraged to use Fairtrade Products.

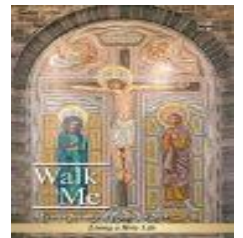
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Living sustainably: Have you replaced all your inefficient incandescent light bulbs yet? If not, do so now, (if necessary one per month to spread the cost) replace with efficient CFLs or LEDs. Also consider fitting motion-sensitive lights to places like hallways that are not frequently used.

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The Walk with me Lent reflection and prayer books are available in the porch, priced £1. Please put your money in the pamphlets box in between the doors into the church.





The Parish Library. Have you visited it since it was moved to its new position in the church? It used to be rather hidden by the organ. It's now in a specially dedicated alcove by the choir area. Please take time to browse the diverse selection of spiritual and Christian books looked after by our esteemed librarian, Mary Dawson. If you borrow one, please enter it into the provided register book.

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Caritas has a service to support and develop volunteering in the diocese. The aim is to make volunteering as easy as possible for everyone. www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer is the website where where you can find a role for you. Alternatively contact us directly by emailing caritasvol@rcdow.org.uk or by telephone 0207 798 9063 or 077 3818 3833.

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Westminster Justice and Peace Fulltime Coordinator - Westminster Justice and Peace are seeking a person who is self-motivated, with experience of campaigning and administration and a deep commitment to the gospel values of justice and peace. The closing date for applications is **15th March**. Full details can be found on the diocesan website following this link: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/justice-and-peace-co-ordinator/>

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Any church group interested? There is a coffee morning slot available on Sun 31st March. If there are any takers, please contact Cheryl in the office. Many thanks.

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The Westminster Youth Ministry would like to invite the youth groups of our Parish to their next Summit. The Summit will be taking place at St Joseph's Presbytery, Bedwell Crescent, in Stevenage on Friday 15 March. The Summit is a chance for young people in the Deanery to socialise, share a meal together, learn more about their faith and be introduced to a deeper level of prayer and adoration, supported by live contemporary worship music. The event will run from 7- 9pm and will be a great chance to meet other young Catholics particularly youth groups and confirmation groups, as the age range is 13 yrs to 18yrs. Food will be provided and the event is free of charge. For information see the website <http://dowym.com/>.



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Pilgrimages:

Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes is from Sat 20th - Fri 26th July 2019. For details; www.tangney-tours.com/westminster or 01732 886666

Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage to the Shrine at Walsingham is on Sat 21st Sept 2019.

Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is from Wed 20th - Thurs 28th Nov 2019. For details: Elizabeth Uwalaka, Pilgrimage Administrator, The Agency for Evangelisation, Diocese of Westminster, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN. Email: elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/pilgrimages/> Tel: +44 207 798 9173 Monday to Thursday.

If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 and let her know your prayer intentions		AMORIS LAETITIA - THE JOY OF LOVE 118	
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		 Our Daily Love - Love forgives We now recognise that being able to forgive others implies the liberating experience first of understanding and forgiving ourselves. Often our mistakes, or the criticism we have received from loved ones can lead to a loss of self esteem.	
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	Parish no	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants	Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett	01462 459126	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
 This week's counting teams: Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 2		 If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net	