



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 1830

16th March – 23rd March 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Lent – 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.

Ramblings for Reflection Abram received hope and promise from God. Paul writes about a homeland in heaven. Lent poses the questions. What are your hopes? What has God promised you? What do you regard as your homeland? The promise is salvation. What does that mean? Maybe the hope is that it will be a time when all will live together in peace and harmony. Where differences, troubles and upsets are met with understanding and forbearance in an effort to seek the common good and not victory over others. A hope in which living is a joy and suffering is accepted as making the love for another grow stronger. A homeland full of wonder and delight, with an atmosphere of openness because there is nothing to hide. Where honesty, forgiveness and reconciliation are an integral part of love. Group and community experiences, joining others on pilgrimage with disabled and sick pilgrims, can offer glimpses of this vision. Only if we help create this kind of world will we understand what Paul means by our homeland and share in the hopes and promise of Abram. Lent is a privileged time. We join millions and millions of others working to make these hopes, this promise, this homeland become real and thus experience the true delights of salvation. We can't earn salvation and don't need to - it is a gift. But we can show Jesus that the loving abandon with which he endured his suffering to make this possible was worth it!!

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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD.

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ANNUAL CHURCH FLOWER COLLECTION will be held after all Masses next weekend

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Planned Giving Offertory Envelope renewal takes place next weekend. (23rd/24th March)

Readings: : Gen 15:5-12.17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Psalm: The Lord is my light and my help.

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next week: Ex 3:1-8.13-15, Cor 10:1-6.10.12, Luke 13:1-9

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Thank you so much for those who support the KISS Coffee morning last weekend which raised a fantastic £186!!!! Your help and support is so much appreciated for projects going on with KISS in Uganda.

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The Fairtrade coffee morning on March 3rd raised £150. Many thanks to all those people who helped in any way, bringing cakes and raffle prizes, serving tea, coffee and cakes selling raffle tickets. It was a joyous occasion!

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Parish Offertory Appeal

Fr Tom thanks those of you who have already responded and responded so positively to the Parish Offertory Appeal, which started last weekend. If you haven't already responded and want to do so, particularly if you are new to the Parish and want to start using Offertory Envelopes or to make your offering by Standing Order, please complete the Pledge Card, which is attached to Fr Tom's letter, and hand it in or place it in the Offertory Appeal box in the Porch. If, for any reason, you did not get a copy of the Appeal letter from Fr Tom, which explains why we are having to have the Appeal, copies are available in the Porch. Members of the Finance Committee will again be available in the Porch after each Mass to answer any questions

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Evert Fernandes' family would like to say a special thank you to all those who came to his funeral and supported them. It was heart-warming to see so many of you sharing in the celebration and uplifting the occasion. Fr Tom gave an excellent homily complimented by the beautiful singing at the service by Trish, Tim and those present.

Diary Dates

Sun 17 March			
Happy St Patrick's Day ††††††††††			
Coffee Morning – One World Group. ††††††††††			
6pm Confirmation Session 8 Hall ††††††††††			
6pm Benediction and prayer for the deliberations on Britain leaving Europe.			
Mon 18 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
7.30pm Lenten Meditation - LCR			
Tues 19 March-Feast of St Joseph			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic service	Church 7.15pm
2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All welcome. ††††††††††			
8pm Union of Catholic Mothers Music from the Musicals. In the lower committee room.			
Wed 20 March			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut			
Thurs 21 March			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice	Church 8pm
Fri 22 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
12pm 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 when you can.			

Sat 23 March	
11.15am coach leaves for UCM Diocesan Mass from outside the Church.	
Sun 24 March	
Coffee Morning – Gardening Group	
6pm Confirmation Session 9 Hall	

Other items of interest

There is a **healing weekend** for men and woman who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner from 12th to 14th April 2019 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk .
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INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE CALL TO PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE? An evening of prayer and conversation with like-minded people on Sunday 24th March 2019 at 6.00pm at St Joseph's Church , Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ. Join the Westminster Diocese Vocations Team at the 6pm Mass when Seminarians and others will speak about their calling. After Mass there is an opportunity to relax and speak to each other and to priests, religious and seminarians about the call of God, closing with Night Prayer at 8pm.
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The **Cardinal's Lenten Appeal** funds is for the Church's Service in Society, putting our faith into action by serving the poor, the lonely and the marginalised. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about the last of these in particular and he has launched a new programme focusing on the food poverty that affects so many across the Diocese. Much of this poverty remains hidden. Many use foodbanks even though there is a wage earner in the family. To find out about volunteering opportunities, visit CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk

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 120
Our Daily Love - Love forgives Learning to pray over our past history, to accept ourselves, to learn how to live with our limitations and forgive ourselves, will help us to have this same attitude towards others.



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: 3 Monday Team: 4



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