



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 1831

23rd March – 30th March 2019 – 3rd 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.

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

Entrance Antiphon My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Intercession: Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Josh 5:9-12, Cor 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3.11-32

Ramblings for Reflection

We stand on Holy Ground! Something easier to believe when we gather in Church, but, what about outside, what about our homes? Would we really treat our world the way we do if we believed it was Holy? But, it is, and, if we listened and used our eyes, we would hear and see the presence of God in it; reminding us that everyone and everything is sacred because everything is infused with God. The more we become aware of the holy in and around us the more we will realise that we are not the centre of the world. We are not called to save people – Jesus has already done that. Our job is to let people know that they have been saved. To show them that being saved enriches the whole experience of life, and that it is impossible to discover the true benefits of life, of being fulfilled, without God's presence. When everything else looks forlorn and hopeless – as with the fig tree – Jesus shows us he is willing to go the extra mile (again and again); not just to save us from ourselves but so that we can bear fruit that can be shared. We talk about growing things from the ground up. Since we always stand on Holy Ground what grows from it can only become better!! "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." — Mae West. "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." — Albert Einstein

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Thank you all for your generosity to CAFOD last weekend. A total of £355.83 was raised.

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We pray for Bismarck Joseph Dourado whose funeral is on Monday 15 April 2019 at 2.30pm at Hitchin Cemetery only. We also pray for Joan Dalton whose funeral is on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 10am here at Our Lady's Church. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families

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Son Seekers Next Sunday 31st March, Son Seekers will be running a very special Mothers Day Funday Sunday. We will be listening to the gospel, and enjoying relative craft activities.

We will also be celebrating our mothers and creating some gifts for the children to take home with them. If you would like to join us, please register in the porch before 10:30 mass. Children 5 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Our next **gardening session** is on Saturday 6th April from 9am until around 12. We welcome anyone who loves gardening, no matter your ability. Please just turn up in the church car park after 9am and we will point you to an area that needs some work. You can be paired up with someone if you are not confident working alone.

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Monday 15th April 7.30pm
Passover Meal in the Church Hall. To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. It is

a chance for us to understand more deeply our Jewish roots and our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Meal is a family occasion and children form an integral part of the proceedings, so all are very welcome.

You need to bring a number of things with you: **a baked potato for each person, cooked and wrapped in foil (to keep warm), sufficient wine for 4 toasts, soft drinks/water, cutlery, plates and glasses for each person.** Roast lamb is provided. (You can bring salad and toppings for the potatoes as well – to share with those around you, if you wish.)

It is a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. All ages welcome. Please sign up on the board in the porch as we need to know numbers by **8th April** so that we can order the meat.

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Stations of the Cross – Good Friday 19th April

Help needed with reading and movement of props. The first rehearsal is Sunday at 3pm in the church. Please do come along to help.

The type of help that is needed is:

Reading (14 people)

Movement of props (2 people)

Operating the lights

If you are willing to help with any of this please let Trish or Mary Deuchar know asap and come to the first rehearsal on Monday 1st April 7pm. Other rehearsals are Monday 8th April 7pm, and Sunday 14th April at 3.30pm.

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Offertory Appeal/Envelope Renewal


Fr Tom again thanks all of you have responded so positively to the Parish Offertory Appeal carried out over the last two weekends. If you haven't already responded, please complete the Pledge Card that was attached to Fr Tom's letter and place it in the "Post Box" in the Porch. Alternatively, you can hand it in to Fr Tom or to David who will be in the Hall after all of the Masses and will be pleased to answer any questions you might have. New boxes of Offertory Envelopes for the coming Tax Year will be available for collection in the Hall after each of the Masses this weekend. You can also collect your Envelopes if you requested them in the recent Offertory Appeal. If you don't already use Envelopes, you can sign-up or find out more about how the scheme works by speaking to members of the Finance team who will be available in the Hall after Mass. The use of Envelopes to make your offerings during the collection at Mass plays an important part in

financing the running of the Church because, under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, it allows us to reclaim the tax paid on the offerings you make and, in total, this amounted to over £24,000 of extra income last year. Importantly, the use of Envelopes DOES NOT involve making any commitment to how much or how often you give and the scheme is entirely CONFIDENTIAL. Parishioners who make their offering by Standing Order and would like a supply of Envelopes to use when making offerings during the collection at Mass (for example at Christmas or Easter) can also collect Envelopes at this time. If you already use Envelopes (or Standing Orders), or have just signed-up, thank you very much for your support of the Church in this way – it is much appreciated.

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Older parishioner needs help in Ninesprings area. Someone to go in and listen and chat and occasionally take him to medical appointments. Maybe 2-3 hours per week and very flexible. This is a paid position. Please contact Trish in the first instance on 07801 752141.

Diary Dates

Sun 24 March			
Coffee Morning – Gardening Group			
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6pm Confirmation Session 9 Hall			
Mon 25 March			
Feast of The Annunciation			
			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
11.15am Mass at Stagenhoe . If you want a lift please be in the car park at 10.35am			
2.30pm Fundraising Team Meeting - EC			
Tues 26 March			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic service	Church 7.15pm
Wed 27 March			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
4.30pm RE Session LCR			
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6pm Meeting with Financial Secretary EC			
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6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut			

Thurs 28 March			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice	Church 8pm
Fri 29 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
Sat 30 March			
9.30am FHC Session 3 (Parents & Children) Hall			
Sun 31 March			
Coffee Morning – Gateway Club ††††††††††			
3pm Baptism Course Hall ††††††††††			
6pm Confirmation Session 10			

Saturday 6th April, 6 to 8pm Multi-cultural Celebration An evening of music and dance from around the world, arranged by North Herts Ethnic Minority Forum, at Hitchin Town Hall. Tickets £7 available from Fr Tom, Trish or Cheryl. Part of the proceeds will go to the Foodbank
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Saturday 11 May 2019 7:30 p.m CHRISTCHURCH QUIZ NIGHT for Christian Aid, Christchurch, Bedford Rd, Hitchin. Fish/sausage and chip supper, Vegetarian option
Tickets £11, No food £5 Teams of 6-8 For tickets contact: Sue Covington (452985)
suecov63@hotmail.co.uk

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Other items of interest

This Sunday March 24th 3pm “Talk & Tea” Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Hitchin; **Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire:** an illustrated talk by Anne Rowe, landscape historian. Tickets £10 (Friends £8). From 01462 646257, or Hitchin Initiative Office.
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Friday 29 & Saturday 30 March 7pm for a 7.30pm at WRBC PILGRIM: A Musical Play As part of the celebrations of its 150th anniversary, Walsworth Road Baptist Church is presenting PILGRIM - based on the book by John Bunyan. Produced by and starring members of the church, with friends from Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. Tickets £5 for adults, accompanied children go free! visit www.wrbchitchin.org.uk/events
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Built on Faith Free Film Night 5th April, 7pm We will be watching “The Last Reformation: The Life (2018)”. Join us at Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin SG4 9JJ. Refreshments provided.
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Standing Together Against Violence.

We invite you to participate in Ascension Trust Synergy Network & Partners- Standing Together Rally at Trafalgar Square on the 6th April 2019 from 2-4 pm regarding the high incidence of violence, especially amongst our young people in the city. See events page on the website.
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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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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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Our parish is collecting for recycling **Oral Care Products** with Terracycle a new recycling scheme funded by Colgate, as a public collection site, with any funds raised from these items to go towards the *Helping Herts Homeless* just like the

writing instruments we collect already, thus increasing our fund-raising for them. Many said these products could not be recycled - Colgate and Terracycle must have found a way to solve the problem, great news for us all. We will raise £1 for every 1kg of waste sent for recycling.

Accepted waste - are ALL BRANDS of:

- Toothpaste tubes and caps and their cartons,
- Toothbrushes and their outer packaging,
- Electric toothbrush *heads only* and their packaging.

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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. Please note re collection of old pens, that pencils and crayons cannot go into this collection but that EDAID collects these items for sending to needy families so please bring them in whenever the One World Group or EDAID have a coffee morning.

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New Recycling News: Good News! The LiveSimply team are inviting all parishioners to bring their milk bottle tops of any colour for recycling. We will then deliver them to the

nearest Lush Cosmetics shop in Luton. Since August 2011, Lush has been collecting plastic bottle tops from their customers. You can watch a video about their motivations on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ri25e8Mwll>

Lush also raise money for various environmental charities, the web-site is: <https://uk.lush.com/>

All High Density Polyethylene Plastic tops from milk or other bottles can be brought to the parish for this scheme. It is still possible to continue placing the coloured lids in the normal household recycling grey bin, but if you wish to help us support this campaign to help clean-up the UK environment and reduce the plastics that contaminate the beaches and get caught-up in the food chain of all fishes, then keep them aside and bring them to our recycling area, where a designated bin will become available soon. Very importantly, please make sure that all residues of milk and sugary flavours are washed off, so that we will not have a smelly build-up of moulds and bacteria in the church porch that would develop into a health hazard for us all that use it.



Let's do it, in response to Pope Francis appeal this month that we care for our common home! Thank you for your cooperation and support. There is now a collecting box in the link between the porch and the hall.

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Church Cleaning. We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean on Mondays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to or e-mail Trish

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 121

Our Daily Love - Love forgives We can learn to



forgive ourselves if we have allowed ourselves to experience God's forgiveness. God's mercy and love is prior to any of our own efforts. God's love constantly opens doors, promotes and encourages us.

Contacts for email details see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/contact/>

Parish Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570
Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders
Pastoral Assistants	Susanna Hawksley Trish Bonnett

Assistant Priest	Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647
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: 1



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