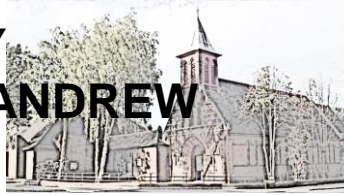




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1838

11th May – 18th May 2019 – 4th Sunday of Easter - Year C

Parish Prayer: Bless this parish, Lord. Let our community reflect your own communion of love. Help us to live peacefully and humbly, attending to the call of your Spirit and mindful of our duty to everything you have created. Strengthen the bonds of our families and friendships with patience and kindness. Make us joyful messengers of your kingdom and a source of comfort for those in need. Amen

Ramblings for Reflection

Considering that Shepherds were included among the sinners like Tax Collectors, heralding Jesus as the Good Shepherd would have raised many eyebrows. And yet, this understanding of Jesus makes him both human and endearing and reveals his deep, deep care and concern for us. Melito of Sardis (2ndC) wrote the following about Jesus:

*"I am the Christ;
I have destroyed death,
triumphed over the enemy,
trampled hell underfoot,
bound the strong one,
and taken people to the heights of heaven...
I am your forgiveness.
I am the Passover that brings salvation.
I am the lamb who was immolated for you.
I am your ransom, your life,
your resurrection, your light,
I am your salvation and your king.
I will bring you to the heights of heaven.
With my own right hand I will raise you up,
and I will show you the eternal Father. . . .
I am the repose of the dead,
the finder of the lost,
the light of those in darkness,
the redeemer of captives,
the guide of the wandering,
the refuge of those who mourn,
the Shepherd of those who are saved"*
(Melito of Sardis 2C).

Doesn't this want to make you shout Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Readings Acts 13:14.43-52, Apoc 7:9.14-17, Jn 10:27-30

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm: We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Alleluia!

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, Hear Us!

Next week: Acts 14:21-27, Apoc 21:1-5, Jn 13:31-35

Diary Dates

Sun 12 May			
Coffee Morning – Flower Group ††††††††††			
6pm Confirmation Session 12 Hall			
Mon 13 May			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	09.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
2.30pm Mass at Gosmore care Home with Fr Euloge. All welcome to come ††††††††††			
7.30pm Pastoral Council Meeting LCR			
Tues 14 May			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic service	Church 7.15pm
10.30am UCM LCR ††††††††††			
7.30pm Building Team Meeting LCR			
Tue 14 May St Matthias Apostle			
Wed 15 May			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut			
Thurs 16 May			
No Italian Club		Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm
Christian Meditation Group	6.30pm EC	Choir Practice	Church 8pm
Fri 17 May			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
Sat 18 May			
9.30am FHC Session 6 Parents and Children Hall			
Sun 19 May			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for Priests and for vocations to the Priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place this weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic Priesthood. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 27 of whom are for our own Diocese and last year eight men ordained to the Priesthood to serve as our future Priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained Priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd.

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Christian Aid Week begins on Sunday. If you do not receive an envelope through your door there are some in the porch for you to use – just pop them into the

parish office or through the church letter box and we will ensure they go to the right place. There are activity sheets for children also on the table in the porch for them to help themselves.

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MICHAELMAS FAIR SEPTEMBER 28th There will be a Michaelmas Fair planning meeting on Monday 20th May at 7pm in the Lower Committee Room. All are invited to come along with new ideas and offers of support. Further information from Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

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We pray for June Welbury whose funeral takes place on Friday 31 May 2019 at 12.30pm here at Our Lady's Church. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

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Children's liturgy training is being offered to all in the children's liturgy team and any parishioner who wants to find out more about sharing liturgy with

their children at home. The final session on 25th June may be particularly interesting to parents. All sessions will be held in the parish hall.

The dates are Tuesday 21st May 7.30-9pm
Children's liturgy
Session 1 Tuesday 4th June 7.30-9pm
Children's liturgy
Session 2 Tuesday 25th June 7.30-9pm
Teaching children how to pray

if you want to attend any of the sessions can you let Trish know so we know the numbers attending.

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A pair of hearing aids have been found on the shelf in the kitchen area of the Hall. Apparently they have there for a few weeks. If these are yours, please collect them from the **Parish Office**. Many thanks

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<p>marriage and Family Life</p> <p>Newsletters Archive</p> <p>Parish Building, Maintenance and Restoration projects</p> <p>Parishioner Business - skills and talents that might be of use within our community</p> <p>Parish Ministry rotas</p> <p>Pastoral and Liturgy Planners</p> <p>Pastoral Parish Council</p> <p>Prayer websites which might be useful</p> <p>Proclaim '15</p> <p>Recycling in the parish</p> <p>Recycling Items free or for sale</p> <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Traidcraft stall - Items for sale</p>	<p>Our Lady's Parish Faith Development Helpline</p> <p>Problems or doubts about your faith? Are you feeling a bit lost?</p> <p>Try ringing 07398 821315</p> <p>Tues, Weds, Thurs 8pm - 10pm</p>	<p>SATURDAY 9th Feria 10am RVS Tommaso & Cosima Luzzi RVS Brian Harvey 2pm EAP/TSM 6pm Intercessions of Isabel Soares</p> <p>Photo Gallery</p> <p>View Diocese's gallery</p> <p>Parish e-Alerts</p> <p>Stay in touch with the latest news and events in your parish</p> <p>Sign up for e-Alerts</p>
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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) **Joy of**

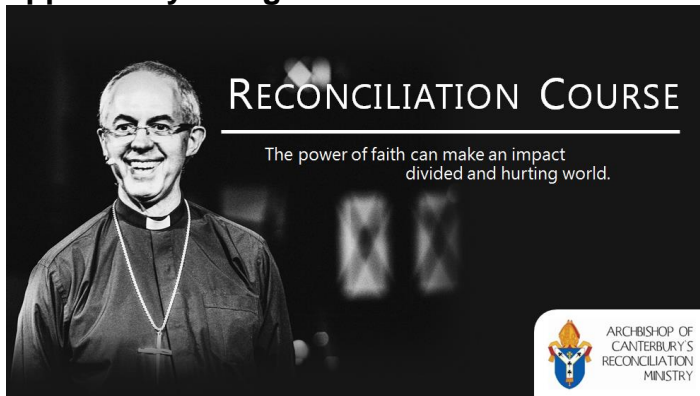
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Our parish is collecting for recycling Oral Care Products with Terracycle a new recycling scheme funded by Colgate, as a public collection site, with any funds raised from these items to go towards the *Helping Herts Homeless* just like the Writing 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.

joy of Love course is cancelled as only 3 people signed up. We will try to run this later on in the year. **Please see below for another opportunity though!**



Fr Tom, Susanna and Trish attended a course last week to run a pilot of the **Reconciliation course** in our parish. It is an exciting opportunity for us to be a part of a nationwide initiative led by Archbishop Justin Welby.

Many of us long for our faith to have a positive impact in a divided and hurting world, but in the midst of this it can be difficult to know where to start. We believe that God is in the business of restoring brokenness and transforming relationships, and that we are called to take part. Archbishop Justin Welby has brought together leading thinkers and peacemaking practitioners to create a 5-session course to help you do this. Discover your calling as part of God's story by joining a supportive community practising approaches to engage with division, and grow in confidence in navigating the challenges of today's culture.

We found this course interesting, exciting and amazingly helpful with conflicts of our own. It is for anyone who wants to be a reconciler in their own lives, whether at home in the family, at work, in our church, in the community or maybe even wider if there is the need. We are running this programme all **Sundays evenings in June** in the parish hall. **6pm for refreshments and then 6.30-8pm for the session.** To book your place on the course please email Trish or sign up on the list in the porch. Fr Tom really endorses this course and is keen for as many as possible to be a part of this pilot. We look forward to seeing you. To see a short video about this please go to <https://youtu.be/vUVwYSfOUt8>

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Sunday Lunch for the priests – this initiative has proved very successful and our priests are very grateful for your care and the wonderful meals. The new rota is about to be compiled so if

anyone else would like to help provide a lunch for our priests once every 11-12 weeks can you please contact Catherine Muncaster at perrymuncaster@yahoo.co.uk who can give you all the details of what is required and when.

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Other items of interest

Thursday 16 May 2019, 7:30pm - The Stort Interfaith Forum has extended an open invitation to an evening talk/soiree by author Janet Fleming Rose, she will speak about her recently published book "A Seed in Your Heart - A Baha'i perspective on race unity", at the Windhill Churches' Centre, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2ND. For further information see poster on the notices board or contact by E-mail: stortinterfaith@outlook.com

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Tuesday 21st May from 7:30 to 9:30pm the Welwyn & Hatfield Inter Faith Group is hosting an open meeting on the very topical subject: "Faith and Politics - Politics, Community Activism & Spiritual Life, is it a magical combination or dangerous mixture?" with speaker: Michal Siewniak a former Councillor, and member of the Focolare Movement in Hatfield, just 2 days before the European MEP Election. Venue: Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Road, Hatfield, AL10 0DA. Doors open at 7.15pm. There is ample free parking. Please see the poster for the event in the porch.

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Spirit in the City Festival, 31 May & 1 June 2019. Theme 'Life to the Full'. Catholic Faith Festival celebrating and witnessing faith in London's Leicester Square. Starts Friday evening from 7pm in Notre Dame de France Church. Saturday all day in the Square gardens. Includes live stage music, street evangelisation, prayer teams, all day Adoration, Confessions, feet washing, activities for children, talks, etc. Come be refreshed and renewed in your faith. For more information, contact Allegra, info@spiritinthecity.org or call 0791 5537125. Or why not join the Mission Team and help others encounter Christ through one of these areas? To register as a helper, visit spiritinthecity.org

The Divine Mercy Apostolate Annual Conference 2019 will be held on Saturday 15 June 2019 at the Church of Our Lady Mother of God, 2 Windsor Road, Ealing W5 5pd from 10:45 am to 6 pm. Guest Speaker Sr Briege McKenna, OSC who has a world-wide Healing Ministry and Intercessions for Priests. Entrance by ticket only

at £12 pp donation. Please contact millie on 07957594646 or the Divine Mercy Apostolate on 020 8998 0925.

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Life of Christ 18-22 June 2019 In case you did not know Trish was not only in the Passion at Trafalgar Square but will also be in the Life of Christ at Wintershall (so far, as a washer woman) If you would like to come to this event we may be able to arrange a coach for the day depending on numbers.

Prices are

Adult £20 65+ £18 Child (3-18) £9.50 plus the coach costs which will be cheaper than a day return on the train.

If you would like to take part in this extraordinary day which tells the story from the Annunciation to the Ascension and at which you are fed with the 5000, and walk the way of the cross and and experience the sadness of the crucifixion and the joy of the resurrection (oh and get to spot Trish somewhere in the cast!) then please sign up on the board in the porch asap.

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Teacher Subject Specialism Training for Religious Education with a focus on Key Stages 3,4 and Core RE. Email teachingschool@cvms.co.uk for further information

Do you have public speaking skills? Want to help tackle poverty and injustice?

CAFOD wants to recruit volunteers in the Westminster Diocese to promote its work for justice and development. We are looking for volunteers with public speaking skills and the ability to work with, and co-ordinate, small teams of volunteers locally.

To find out more, why not book a place on our volunteer day on Saturday 11th May? The meeting will be held in our office near Lambeth North tube station. Contact Tony on 0208-449-6970 or tsheen@cafod.org.uk for further details.

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St Richard Reynolds Staff - Three Peaks Challenge. A team of 27 members of staff from St Richard Reynolds Catholic College will attempt to complete the 3 Peaks Challenge in May 2019. Staff are raising funds to complete their College sport hall and get it into use as soon as possible for their students. The National Three Peaks Challenge involves climbing the three highest peaks of Scotland, England and Wales within 24 hours. The total walking distance is 23 miles (37km) and the total ascent is 3064 metres (10,052ft) - twice the ascent of the Yorkshire Three Peaks, over a similar total walking distance. The total driving distance is 462 miles. Thank you to all who have supported us so far. If you have yet to do so, please follow the link attached -

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/srrccthreepesaks#donationSummary>

To donate to Our Lady's through text giving on your mobile phone !!
Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5.

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 128

Our Daily Love - bears all things We often forget slander can be quite sinful: it is a grave offense against God when it seriously harms another person's good name and causes damage that is hard to repair.



Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

Assistant Priest Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647

Parish 01462 459126

E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk
Pastoral Assistants Susanna Hawksley susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk
 Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 4



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