



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 1853

24th - 31st August 2019 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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

Readings: Is 66:18-21, Heb 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30:

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Psalm: **Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next week: Ecc 3:17-20, 28-29, Heb 12:18-19, 22-24, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Ramblings Pope Francis speaks of the Joy of the Gospel, the Joy of Love, the Joy of being a Christian. So why does Hebrews put a damper on things and state that suffering is part of training? Suffering has been presented as a time of testing, an opportunity to share in Christ's sufferings, a challenge or trial, as something that Christ uses to prove our fidelity as though it is something good. Be clear, God does not play games with our lives. Like food, money, possessions, suffering is neither good nor bad. How we approach or use it is what makes the difference. In sport we are told "Pain is Gain!" The harder you push yourself (make yourself suffer) the greater the benefit and all-round fitness. This kind of suffering is embraced positively. Suffering also offers a warning sign of illness, causing us to rest, take a step back, slow down. Imposed suffering, through illness or disease, from cruelty or abuse, or torture, is what we find difficult and rightly so - it is an evil. Jesus does not ask us to embrace this kind of evil as if it were good. He did not die the way he did because it was good. He embraced it for a greater good – our salvation, our freedom, our Joy. Any kind of unjustified suffering is evil but can be embraced for the good of others viz. Maximillian Kolbe. Think of the many who suffer without complaint, who greet each new day with a smile, exhibiting patience and developing an aura of peace. They inspire and encourage us to be truly thankful for our good health and abilities and regard our own sufferings as insignificant. They have embraced their suffering for our good too!

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Are you an adult Catholic who has not been confirmed yet? Would you like to find out about how you can be prepared for the sacrament?

Come to the meeting on Sunday **September 8th** in the Parish Hall at **3:30pm** to learn more about what we can offer you.

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Craig Gentle and Maryanne will be celebrating their marriage during a nuptial Mass this Sunday 25th August at 1pm in our church. All parishioners are welcome to attend the Mass and parishioners at the 10.30 Mass are asked to try to clear the car park by 12.15pm to allow the wedding guests to be able to park.

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8th September 2.30pm Sunday afternoon, 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.

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Do you have a child entering Y3 in September? He or she is eligible to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion! The programme of preparation starts with an Information Evening on Tuesday 10th September, at 7:30pm, in the Parish Hall. Application forms and dates are available on the parish website, under Sacramental Preparation/Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Paper versions are available in the porch. Please submit your application by September 10th. Susanna Hawksley looks forward to meeting and working with you!

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Michaelmas

28TH SEPTEMBER We are so pleased with the quality and quantity of the goods donated so far for sale at the fair. Next weekend we are asking for new items and those suitable for gifts. We would also



like some more bottles for the Tombola. Goods can be left in the red baskets in the porch which are emptied every day. However, bottles of wine, beer or spirits should be left in the office. If you would like your goods collected please contact Pam Brannigan on 01462 632587. Many thanks to you all.

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On **Monday 2nd September** the **car parking** spaces by the wall of the church will be **unavailable** at the 10am Mass due to some cabling work taking place in the morning.

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Are you a non-Catholic with a Catholic partner? Are you non-Catholic with a child at a Catholic school? Would you like to know a bit more about what Catholics believe? Come to an Information Session on Sunday **8th September at 3:30pm**, in the Parish Hall and learn about a new discussion series we are offering. You don't need to be religious or believe in God! No strings attached!

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Church Cleaning We have an urgent 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. (Can be evening or day time.) We particularly need someone to team up at 8.30am on a Monday morning. If you can give 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to or email Trish.



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Non-Catholic and want to know more? Come to an Information Session on Sunday **8th September at 3:30pm**, in the Parish Hall and learn about a new discussion series we are offering.

Diary Dates

Sun 25 August			
Coffee Morning – OLSSG			
Mon 26 August			
Bank Holiday			
Tues 27 August St Monica			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
Bethany Club	10.30am		
Wed 28 August St Augustine			
Rosary Church	9.30am		
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hut			
Thurs 29 August			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Fri 30 August			
		Lectio Divina	EC 2pm
Sun 1 September			
Coffee Morning – Gardening Group			
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2pm Hitchin Historical Society Hall			

Other items of interest

Job vacancy - Lay Chaplain at St Elizabeth's school at Much Hadham Salary - £25,449 - £28,501. See parish website for full details under job vacancies. To apply and to find out more please visit www.stelizabeths.org.uk or telephone 01279 844524 for an informal discussion regarding the role. Closing date 18th September

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Neighbourhood Watch has launched a landmark new survey to understand the impact of cybercrime on communities. To take part in this survey please go to (<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/useful-websites-please-find-information-below-which-may-be-of-use/>)



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

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
Trish Bonnett

susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk

trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 2 Monday Team: 3



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or

Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net