



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 1854

31st August 2019 – 7th September 2019 – 22nd 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: Ecc 3:17-20.28-29, Heb 12:18-19.22-24, Luke 14:1.7-14

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Psalm: In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next week: Wis 9:13-18, Phil 9-10.12-17, Luke 14:25-33

Ramblings Be gentle and humble with others for Christ has placed you with the spirits of the saints who he has made perfect. What does it mean to be humble?

- Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less. C. S. Lewis
- Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real. Thomas Merton
- The proud man can learn humility, but he will be proud of it. Mignon McLaughlin
- If we can develop a truly humble attitude, we can change the world. Pope Francis
- Humility is really important because it keeps you fresh and new. Steven Tyler
- Humility, that low, sweet root, from which all heavenly virtues shoot. Thomas Moore
- Humility is throwing oneself away in complete concentration on something or someone else. Madeleine L'Engle
- There is something in humility which strangely exalts the heart." Saint Augustine
- Humility is nothing but truth, and pride is nothing but lying. St. Vincent de Paul
- One cannot be humble and aware of oneself at the same time. Madeleine L'Engle
- Selflessness is humility. Humility and freedom go hand in hand. Only a humble person can be free. Jeff Wilson
- To love God and neighbour is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus. Pope Francis
- In Mary we see that humility is not a virtue of the weak but of the strong who don't have to treat others badly to feel important. Pope Francis

Lots of 'Thanks' this week:

The **One World/Live Simply** group raised **£105.61** at their coffee morning recently, proceeds to Herts Welcomes Syrian Refugees.

OLSSG raised **£210** at their 2 recent coffee mornings.

Your donations to the recent **White Fathers Appeal** were magnificent. A total sum of **£1362.04** was raised.

††††††††††



**Zoë's Place
Baby Hospice**

Thank you on behalf of everyone at **Zoe's Place Baby Hospice** for your

kind donation of £115 raised at the recent Church Coffee morning. This truly is a wonderful sum. The help we have received from you helps us to provide around the clock care, every day, for babies and infants, with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. Each £30 you raise provides just over one hour's worth of care for one child to attend at the Hospice; annually we need to raise £1.3 million and without donations such as yours we would not be able to continue to provide care and emotional support to families during their darkest times. Once again, thank you.

††††††††††

And finally, **Irma & Derek Shipman** wish to thank all parishioners who prayed for their son Alan who was diagnosed with cancer. He had a 9½ hr. successful operation and is recovering very well. Holy Mass will be celebrated for you all on Monday 9th Sept. at 10 am.

We truly have a wonderful parish!

††††††††††



Sacramental Co-ordinator – Susanna Hawksley will be leaving our parish and moving to the north soon. She will be greatly missed and we will celebrate her time with us in due course but in the meantime need to recruit her replacement. If you are interested in this part-time post or know someone who might be please direct them to the Diocesan website <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/sacramental-co-ordinator/> for details of the post and application form. Closing date for applications 11th September.

††††††††††

Diary Dates

Sun 1 September			
Coffee Morning – Gardening Group ††††††††††			
2pm Hitchin Historical Society Hall			
Mon 02 September			
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am		
11am Michaelmas Fair Meeting LCR ††††††††††			
2:30pm Mass at Gosmore All welcome			
Tues 03 September St Gregory the Great			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
8pm UCM LCR			
Wed 04 September			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
11am Mass at Elmside All welcome ††††††††††			
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall			
Thurs 05 September			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
		Brownies	6.30pm
10am St Pio Mass followed by 10.35am St Pio Group Meeting LCR			
Fri 06 September			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.15am	Lectio Divina	EC 2pm
Sun 08 September			
Coffee Morning – Kiss ††††††††††			
2.30pm Healing and Wholeness service – church ††††††††††			
3.30pm RCIA Information Meeting Hall ††††††††††			

Future Dates

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.

††††††††††



Season of Creation Meditations: We will be holding a series of Meditations in the church to mark the Season of

Creation (1st September to 4th October). An opportunity to find quiet time with the Lord, reflecting on the wonders of Creation and how we can play our part in it. We will use material based on the Orthodox Church's Creation Season liturgy and focused on an Earthday Icon. Starting **Monday 2nd September**, Meditations will take place in the church on each Monday at 2pm and Wednesday at 7pm throughout September and will last about 1 hour. All are welcome.

††††††††††

Next **Sunday 8th September** is Education Sunday and we welcome children, staff and governors from Our Lady's School to the 10.30 Mass. On Education Sunday, Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the Church's enormous contribution in this country and pray for all those involved in Catholic education.

The Catholic Education Service (CES) is the agency of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales charged with safeguarding and promoting our remarkable network of successful Catholic schools. The CES represents Catholic education to the Government, Ofsted and other national bodies to ensure Catholic schools are empowered to flourish.

There will be a **2nd collection** on Education Sunday for the Catholic Education Service.

††††††††††

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.

††††††††††



2.30pm next Sunday afternoon 8th September, 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.

††††††††††

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!

††††††††††



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. I look forward to meeting and working with you!

††††††††††

18th September 8pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council meeting at



Walsworth Road Baptist Church. The agenda will include reports on CTH activity and presentations

on three particular initiatives that are happening locally - North Herts and Stevenage REACH-OUT to help people leaving hospital, the latest on the support being given by Helping Herts Homeless, and the work of Christians Against Poverty, especially its Job Club. At 7.30 pm, before the Council, Phase will have its annual update about its work in Hitchin schools, always something worth hearing about. Members of all churches are welcome at both these meetings and to come for tea/coffee from 7pm.

††††††††††

MICHAELMAS FAIR 28 SEPTEMBER

Michaelmas

It is only four weeks to go before the Michaelmas Fair and thanks to your generous response we are sure that this year's event will

Fair

be as enjoyable as those in previous years. Next weekend you will receive a pack which will include a poster for you to display, raffle tickets to buy and sell and invitations for you to offer your services in our popular Promises Auction. There will also be details of our Art and Craft exhibition held in the church as well as several other items. The Michaelmas Fair is an opportunity for all parishioners to support a wide range of parish activities as well as Diapalante's education in Senegal. Meanwhile next week we are asking for toys and games which can be placed in the red baskets in the porch. The baskets are emptied every day or if you wish your goods to be collected please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587)

††††††††††

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.

††††††††††

Other items of interest



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. **In this Season of Creation can we appeal that you only put in these collections those items which have been asked for** – we regularly get other rubbish deposited and recently they had a dirty baby's nappy, all of which has to be separated before the genuine items can be sent off. Mike and Deolinda and Ann work very hard to manage our recycling for the benefit of the parish and many other groups. If we are serious about recycling please let's do it responsibly. **Thanks very much for your consideration in this matter.**

††††††††††

Invitation CAFOD information Morning - Saturday 7th Sept 10am-12.30pm, Lambeth North.

CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information morning with a guest speaker, our new Director, Christine Allen, who has first-hand experience of our work in Uganda. Uganda is the country we are focusing on this Harvest Fast Day. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Meeting will take place from 10am – 12.30pm at CAFOD's Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB Bookings required and taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

††††††††††



Church Cleaning We have an urgent need for more people to help keep our church clean on Mondays. This can be Monday morning/afternoon or evening or on a Sunday evening. Teams can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. We have a need also for 1-2 people who can help at 8.30am on a Monday to support another volunteer. If you can give 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to or email Trish

††††††††††

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

An introduction to Christian Meditation led by Brijji Waterfield from The World Community for Christian Meditation - WCCM . To be held on **Saturday 14th September at 11.00am -1.00pm.** Coffee from 10 30am in the St Hilda room at St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church Letchworth SG6 3UF.

Meditation is a form of prayer that has been part of the Christian tradition since the early Church. Brijji will look at how it has been revitalised and practiced today. There will be space for discussion and quiet time for meditation. All are welcome. WCCM is an ecumenical community. To find out more visit www.christianmeditation.org.uk

Contact: Patricia on 07967152556 or Andrew on 07929785115



Support Victims of Modern Slavery Classical Concert, St Mary's Church (Cadogan Street) – **Wednesday 25th September, 6pm.**

In one of the hidden architectural treasures of London, St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, the Janus Ensemble, alongside soloists Ariana Kashefi (cello) and Oliver Wass (harp) will present an evening of classical music, in aid of Caritas Bakhita House & Saint John Of God Hospitaller Services.

Drinks and food will be provided during the intermission. Tickets are available to purchase by searching for the event title on Eventbrite.

Pilgrimage to Guadalupe

18th January - 27th January

Includes return flights from London with British Airways, 9 nights in 4* Hotels, breakfast & dinner daily plus stay in all inclusive beach resort, all transportation and internal flights, full religious programme, daily Mass, four days touring to The Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe, Square of the Three Cultures, Tulpetlac & Pyramides of Teotihuacan and Mexico city, local guide. Total price £ 1970.00. Book online @ aglowpilgrimages.com or call Jonathan on 0800 6894792 for more info.



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)*

Living simply & in solidarity with Creation: Once a week, replace at least 1 meat meal with a plant-based meal. If you are already a vegetarian, cut down on rice, it is one of the most carbon-intensive carbohydrates, producing 2.8 times as much CO2 per serving as pasta and 7.5 times as much as potatoes (although this is still small compared to animal products)

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 144 *Our Daily Love - Love endures all things*

I (Pope Francis) think of the words of Martin Luther King: 'And when you come to the point that you look in the face of every person and see deep down within him what religion calls 'the image of God', you begin to love him in spite of (everything)

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: 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