



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 1855

7th September – 14th September 2019 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

Parish Prayer: During this Season of Creation, open our eyes to see the precious diversity that is all around us. Enlighten our minds to appreciate the delicate balance maintained by each creature. Inspire us to conserve the precious habitats that nurture this web of life. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Intercession: Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Ex 32:7-11.13-14, Tim 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32

Ramblings Commentators have a great time translating the word for *hate* in our reading. Most argue that Jesus meant *prefer*. Putting God first, however, does not mean that our families are secondary. Yet Jesus made it clear that living the Gospel and being his disciple was a radical move, demanding great resolve and commitment. Central to Jesus' teaching are the two commandments: to Love God and to Love our neighbour and that it is impossible to do one without the other. If we love Jesus Christ, we love what Jesus Christ loves. Loving God, putting God first, allows us to love our families much more than if we put God second. It is like giving away life in order to find life more fully – which is what Jesus did. We are always tempted to think in terms of *either/or*, yet following Christ and living the Gospel is a *both/and*. In a coin toss, we pick either heads or tails, but it is still the same coin! Choosing God does not exclude family, in fact it includes an even larger family. We recognise that we are all sisters and brothers in Christ with no exceptions. We then understand the importance of the wisdom needed to make wise choices. It follows that we also need prayer in which we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning our priorities. Wisdom shows us that putting God first allows us to give greater value, greater reverence, greater respect and greater love to our families – not the opposite!

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This Sunday, 8 Sept 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 second collection this weekend is for the Catholic Education Service.

The Children's Liturgy will begin again next Sunday 15 Sept.

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Diary Dates

Sun 8 September

Coffee Morning – Kiss

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2.30pm Healing and Wholeness service

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3.30pm RCIA Information Meeting Hall

Mon 09 September

Parents & Toddlers	9.30am	Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am
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Beavers	6pm
Cubs	7.15pm

2pm Season of creation meditation Church

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7.30pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting LCR

Tues 10 September

Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
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Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
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7.30pm – First Holy Communion Parents information evening in the Hall.

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 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 10 Sept. I look forward to meeting and working with you!

Wed 11 September			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
10.35am Praise Group Meeting LCR - . All who love singing are welcome. We sing with enthusiasm with the help of a guitar, choosing the hymns from the last month's liturgy. ††††††††††			
2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All welcome. ††††††††††			
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall ††††††††††			
7.15pm Liturgy committee meeting LCR ††††††††††			
7pm Season of creation meditation Church			
Thurs 12 September			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian	6.30pm
Hall		Meditation Grp	EC
		Brownies	6.30pm
10.30am Mass at Sloe Hill. All welcome			
Fri 13 September St John Chrysostom			
Parent & Toddlers	9.15am	Lectio Divina	EC 2pm
Hall			
Sun 15 September			
Coffee Morning – One World Group ††††††††††			
6pm Benediction Church			

Future Dates

- **Are you a Catholic with a non-Catholic partner?**
- **Are you non-Catholic with a child at a Catholic school?**
- **Are you thinking about becoming a Catholic?**

Would you like to know a bit more about what Catholics believe? Come to an Information Session on **Sun 8 Sept 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!

- **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 along to the same meeting to find out how.
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15 Sept - Home Mission Sunday. Over the weekend we celebrate Home Mission Sunday - an opportunity to look closer to home as we grow Missionary Parishes and form Missionary Disciples. There will be a second collection after all Masses next weekend.
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28 Sept Do take some time to look at the contents of your Michaelmas Fair information pack. As the date of the fair draws near it would be wonderful if you could display the poster for

the fair in your window as well as the one for the jumble sale the following week. Also in the pack are invitations to display flowers, art and crafts in the church, an opportunity to advertise in the programme and information about the popular promises auction. There is also an invitation for children to submit pictures on the theme, 'Trees and the Air we breathe,' this year's theme. Last but not least are some books of raffle tickets for you to buy or sell to friends and family. This year we have some wonderful prizes donated by parishioners as well as the traditional cash prizes. Ticket stubs and money can be taken to the office or given to the priests and members of the pastoral team.



Many thanks for all the goods you have donated for the fair. This week we are asking for religious artefacts as well as more bottles for the tombola. Items can be placed in the red baskets in the porch which are emptied every day although bottles of wine, spirits or beer should be taken to the office. The generosity of the parish is wonderful and we are certain that this year's fair will be as well supported as ever.
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Season Of Creation Meditations: We are running a series of Meditations in the church to mark the Season of Creation **4 Sept - 4 Oct**. It is 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 focussed on an Earthday Icon. Meditations take place in the church on **Mon at 2pm and Wed at 7pm** during September and will last about one hour. All are welcome. There is a prayer card for the season in the porch for you to use.

Other items of interest

The gardening group's recent coffee morning raised £95. Thanks for your generosity and support.
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Care support and/or cleaning work required please contact Rita on 07592 494006 (afternoons).
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Please contact Fr Tom if you would like information on leaving a gift to the parish in your Will.
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Help is needed to help run the Card Stall in the Hall on Sundays after 10.30am Mass. If you can spare an hour or two, please contact the office or Brenda Pond. Many thanks.
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Growing In Faith

The Diocese Growing In Faith Appeal is drawing to a close and, for those of you who have been supporting the Appeal, your involvement should come to an end over the next few weeks if it hasn't already done so. On behalf of the Diocese, we thank you for your support of the Appeal and we will provide a summary of the results as soon as we receive them. Meanwhile, if you have been supporting the Growing In Faith Appeal and would now like to switch your donations back to the Parish, please let us know and we can arrange that. Please contact David through the Parish email address hitchin@rcdow.org.uk or speak to Cheryl in the Parish Office. Thanks again for your generous support of the Appeal.

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Wed 18 Sept 8 pm The next CTH council is on 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 a cup of tea or coffee from 7 pm.

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Wed 18th Sept, 2.30-4pm Invitation to CAFOD information afternoon. CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information afternoon with a guest speaker, Laura Ouseley, who has first-hand experience of our work in Overseas. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Meeting will take place at CAFOD's Volunteer Centre, 1st Floor, Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London, N14 4HE.

Bookings taken on 0208 449 6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk

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Wed 25 Sept, 6.30-8.30pm Caritas Westminster invites anyone interested in volunteering, to a free session covering the basic need-to-knows about becoming a volunteer. Refreshments from 6pm, at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN. Please RSVP by calling 020 7931 6077, emailing caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk or search the title "Volunteering in the Community: Getting Started" on Eventbrite.

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Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who would be able to use them. If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com

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The Comeback Prayer Group

We are always looking for new members of our Comeback Prayer group to make sure that every day of

every month there would be someone in the Parish who would pray for those family members or friends who had for any reason fallen away from the practice of the faith.

You are provided with a prayer book and picture to help as a focal point in your own home. You can pray for as little or as long as you wish on your allocated day for people who have fallen away from the faith that they will find their way back or will be led back by the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to be part of this group please give your name to Trish, Mike Edwards or Fr.Tom.

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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=3ri25e8MwII> 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 there is a designated bin.

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 co-operation and support.

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ALTAR SERVER
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

Are you the sort of person who notices what needs to be done? Do you ever wish you could be more active during Mass? Would you like to help the congregation and the priest in an important and unique task?

Why not join our altar servers?

It would be a regular commitment and your times of service would be on a rota, so you need to be reliable. Please think about helping to make our Mass celebrations really good! We need you! If you have made your first communion and want to Help, please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass.

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Lister Hospital Chaplaincy volunteers: The Chaplaincy really need some Sunday volunteers.... Is there anyone who could give up one Sunday morning a month to go round the wards, tell patients there is a service (or ask if they would like to see a chaplain) and then go back and collect them for the service? You'd be occupied 9-12, once a month. Patients are SO

grateful...and it might be you (or one of yours) in that bed, wondering how to cope....If you are at all interested, please contact Maeve Green maeve@heavenlycakes.co.uk

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We still need volunteers for our Children's Liturgy Team at the 10.30 Mass. You do not need to be a catechist or teacher but you do need to feel comfortable about talking to children about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Training for being a part of the team is 'on the job' and materials for the liturgy are all provided.



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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.

themselves.

If you can give 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to or email Trish.

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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 Samantha Wilkins or Trish directly or email trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



You would be fully trained. You would learn about why things are done the way they are during the Mass and you would work as part of a team, assisting the priest in celebrating the Mass.

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 145

Our Daily Love – Love endures all things



I (Pope Francis) think of the words of Martin Luther King: 'No matter what a person does, you see God's image there. There is an element of goodness they can never sluff off

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: 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