



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 1856

14th September – 21st September 2019 – 24th 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. rce of comfort for those in need. Amen

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

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Psalm: I will leave this place and go to my Father

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next week: Readings: Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13

Ramblings

Sin, forgiveness, reconciliation, salvation offer much for reflection. However we describe sin, it is clearly something that weighs us down and entraps us, preventing us from living our lives joyfully in God's service. It separates us from God, distorts our vision of reality, of ourselves and of God. Forgiveness, reconciliation and salvation are the ways in which we are set free from all this. Although it is a freedom *from*, it is also a freedom *for*, a freedom that inspires us to good works, of seeing the goodness in the world that is hidden behind fears of all kinds. Through his stories Luke clearly shows that Jesus' great desire is to set us free and to promote within us that which endures (*heavenly things*); goodness, gentleness, caring, loving, generosity, self-giving, self-sacrifice, hope, joy, happiness, etc. All of which will flow naturally from us without any effort once we are set free. *"Passing some elephants, a man stopped, confused. Each huge creature was held by a small rope tied to its front leg. No chains, no cages. The elephants could easily have broken away but for some reason didn't. He asked their trainer why. The trainer said, 'When they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.' The man was amazed. These animals could easily break free but believing they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were."* Whatever your past, Jesus has set you free!!

††††††††††

Many thanks to you all for your very kind donations to Education Sunday last weekend. £293.94 was raised.

Children's liturgy will begin again at the 10.30 Mass on 22nd September. The rota for helpers will be out this week.

††††††††††

16 – 20th Sept. FHC Family Chats (parents and children) with Fr Tom and Susanna in the Emmanuel Centre. Appointments run from 4-7pm each day. Please sign up in the Porch.

††††††††††

KISS – thank you to everyone for supporting last week's KISS coffee morning. Education Sunday brought a bumper crowd to the Parish hall and raised £200.60 for KISS. Thank you all so much.

††††††††††

Please note - There is an event in the Hall next Saturday – 21st Sept – from 10am until 6pm. Please bear that in mind when coming to Church that day as the car park may be busy.

††††††††††

Home Mission Sunday 15th Sept 2019 – This 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.

††††††††††

Diary Dates

Sun 15 September			
Coffee Morning – One World Group ††††††††††			
6pm Benediction - Church			
Mon 16 September			
Parents & Toddlers	9.30am	Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am
		Beavers	6pm
		Cubs	7.15pm
4pm-7pm FHC Family Chats - EC			

Tues 17 September			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club	10.30am	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
2.30pm - Mass at Milford Lodge at. All welcome. ††††††††††			
4pm-7pm FHC Family Chats – EC ††††††††††			
8pm UCM – LCR. Speaker Mick Furr on her trip to Australia			
Wed 18 September			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
4pm-7pm FHC Family Chats - EC ††††††††††			
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up - Scout Hall			
Thurs 19 September			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm LCR
Brownies	6.30pm	Choir	8pm Church
4pm-7pm FHC Family Chats - EC			
Fri 20 September			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.15am	Lectio Divina	EC 2pm
4pm-7pm FHC Family Chats - EC			
Sun 22 September			
Coffee Morning – Christmas Hamper Appeal			

Future Dates

Thurs 26 Sep, from 5.30 – 8.30 pm. The John Henry Newman School warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an **Open Evening**. Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available during the evening.

Parents who are applying for a place at John Henry Newman school for Sept 2020 need to meet with Fr Tom bringing the completed self-

assessment form, baptismal certificate and a photograph of the child. There is no need to bring your child. Please sign up for an appointment on the notice board in the porch. Appointments are available from 30th Sept 30 – 3rd Oct.
††††††††††

Other items of interest

A volunteer is needed to replace religious cards, rosaries, etc., back into the storage cupboards after 10.30am Mass. A rota is in place which means the commitment would be once every 4-5 weeks. If interested, please speak to Brenda Pond. Many thanks.
††††††††††

The Michaelmas Fair is just two weeks away!

If you didn't collect a Michaelmas Fair pack last weekend they are available in the porch. Thanks to those who have already returned raffle ticket stubs and money. Additional books are available from the office.

Next weekend there will be a loose change collection after all Masses to provide floats for stalls at the fair. **We are also asking for non-perishable produce, ie., jam, marmalade, tinned and packet goods for the produce stall.**

As usual, items can be placed in the red baskets in the porch which are emptied every day.

Finally we need more helpers for the stalls at the fair. If you can spare an hour or so please sign up on the chart in the porch. Any queries? Please contact Pam Brannigan 01462 632587.
††††††††††

Our parishioner Farah Thompson is trekking 88 kms through Cambodia for Garden House Hospice. Her target is to raise £4000. Please contribute on her fundraising page; www.justgiving.com/fundraising/farah-thompson

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 146

Our Daily Love – Love endures all things



I (Pope Francis) think of the words of Martin Luther King: 'Another way to love your enemy is this: when the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy, that is the time when you must not do it. When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems'.

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: 2



If you are going into hospital please notify the

Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or

Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net