



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 1857

21st September – 28th September 2019 – 25th 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.

Ramblings (John J. Pilch)

In the preindustrial world of Jesus, agriculture was the heart of the economy. Contrasts such as “rich” & “poor,” “urban” & “rural,” “industrial” & “agricultural” were irrelevant at that time. The chief issues were who controlled the land and agricultural production, and who had the power to extract the surplus. The landowner’s steward manages the agricultural production of his property. The debtors owe the master produce: olive oil and wheat. There were three kinds of renters: some pay a percentage of the crop; others a fixed amount of the produce; while others pay rent in money. The debtors here fall into the second category. A modern approximation of their fixed rent is 900 gallons of oil and 150 bushels of wheat. The amount of the debt forgiven by the steward would be about 500 denarii. A steward was entitled to a commission or fee on each transaction, which was recorded as principal and interest, in a public contract. It was understood that an agent should pay for any losses he caused his employer. This steward is extremely fortunate. He is simply dismissed, not fined or imprisoned. The steward is both stunned and inspired by his master’s mercy. The dismissal is effective immediately, but the shrewd steward realizes he has a “window of opportunity” before the news reaches the renters in the village. He summons the debtors and instructs them to “sit down quickly” and generously alters their debts. When the master discovers the steward’s strategy, he faces a dilemma. If he rescinds the steward’s new contracts, as he is legally entitled to do because they are unlawful, he will alienate the renters and the entire village. They have already been celebrating the master’s generosity! If he allows these reduced contracts to stand, he will be short of produce this year, but

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

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them and I will be their Lord forever.

Psalm: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next week: Amos 6:1.4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31

his “honour” will spread far and wide (as also will the “honour” of the shrewd steward for arranging the deals). People will praise the noble and generous landowner!

Diary Dates

Sun 22 September			
Coffee Morning – Christmas Hamper Appeal			
Mon 23 September			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC
Beavers Scout Hall	6pm	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
11am Mass at Sue Ryder Stagenhoe. All welcome.			
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7.15pm Finance Committee Meeting – Lounge			
Tues 24 September - Our Lady of Walsingham			
Morning Prayer Church	9.30am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am		
Wed 25 September			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up - Scout Hall			
Thurs 26 September			
Italian Club Hall	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir Church	8pm
Fri 27 September - St Vincent de Paul			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.15am	Lectio Divina	EC 2pm
12pm Michaelmas Fair Preparation – All rooms			
Sat 28 September			
10.30am-2.30pm – Michaelmas Fair			
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FHC Inscription Mass at all Masses this weekend (Parents and Children)			
Sun 29 September			
Coffee Morning – Bereavement Group			

Sun 29 September

FHC Inscription Mass at all Masses this weekend (Parents and Children)

Michaelmas

Fair

SATURDAY 28TH SEPT

10.30 -2.30PM We have had excellent support from the parish for the fair through the donation of goods, offers of

help and promises for the auction. All we need now is your presence on the day. Do come along to support the fair, try our wonderful international food, do some early Christmas shopping, bid for goods, services and meals at the promises auction and have a really good time. There are many bargains to be had as well as a wide range of children's activities including an entertainer, a chocolate tombola, a special quiz and pig racing. This is in addition to a wide range of children's toys, games and books which will be on sale. Something for everyone including live music in the Food hall. All our usual favourites will be there: Bottle tombola; bric-a-brac; cakes and produce; books; new and gifts. The UCM, Our Lady's School and the Brownies will be running their own stalls and games. There will also be an opportunity to obtain a memento from Father Michael. The AAs have generously donated many of his belongings including books to the fair. Our theme this year is 'Trees and the Air we Breathe' following 'Save the Oceans' in 2018. A member of the Woodland Trust will be present to chat about the role trees play in our environment and bird boxes made from the pipe casings from the old parish organ will also be on sale. Your entry programme will include everything you need to know including the timings of the auction. It also entitles you to a free drink and cake.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

RAFFLE TICKETS The grand raffle will be drawn at 2pm and we have some wonderful prizes. Please return your stubs, cash and any unsold tickets to the office or contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) who will collect or supply more books if you would like them.

HELPERS CHART Do sign up for a session at your favourite stall. The chart will be on display in the porch until next Saturday morning.

PROMISES AUCTION A list of pledges received so far is attached to this newsletter. Advance bids may be made c/o Pam Brannigan (pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com) before the auction takes place.

LOOSE CHANGE COLLECTION will be taken after all Masses this weekend to help supply floats for the stalls.

ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION All artists in the parish are invited to display work including needlework and woodwork in the church along with flower displays. They can be brought to the church by 7pm on Friday 27th September after which time the church will be locked. Exhibits can be collected by 5pm on Saturday 28th September.

CAKES Please bring cakes to the Hall by 10.30am on the 28th. The Hall will be open from 8am on the day and also between 2pm and 7pm on Friday 27th for setting up and the display of arts, crafts and flowers in the church.

FINALLY a word of thanks to you all. The Michaelmas Fair is a wonderful occasion for everyone in the parish and beyond to come together for a day of fun and friendship. It is also an opportunity for us to offer financial support to parish activities and Diapalante's education centre in Senegal.

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GIFT AID TAX REBATE = £21,672.57

A big **“THANK YOU”** to everyone who has signed up to Gift Aid their Mass Offerings and other donations to the Parish. We have now received the Gift Aid tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of: £21,672.57 which, in practical terms, will help keep the Parish running for nearly 8 weeks!! The return reflects really really well on the fact that so many of you have signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations and choose to Gift Aid your other donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which make a valuable 25p in the £1.00 addition to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to commit to making an offering ...**AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY MORE !!**

To sign-up or to check whether or not you have already signed up or to get more information, please contact David or Elizabeth, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organisers, on tel: 01462-627784 or by email through the Parish Account: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk **THANKS AGAIN.**

Many thanks to you all for your very kind donations to Home Mission last weekend. A total sum of £201.89 was raised.

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Children's liturgy begins again this weekend and is offered at the 10.30 Mass for children of school age from Reception to year 5. Children go out at the start of Mass when called by the Priest. Children are split into two groups. R-Year 2 go to the

lower committee room. Year 3-5 go to the upper committee room. The 4th Sunday of the month is a children's Mass and everyone remains in the church for a children focused liturgy.

Liturgy for the 0-4years and their parents is offered at the 10.30 Mass and everyone goes out to the hall after the gospel when called by the Priest.

Future Dates

The John Henry Newman School will have its open evening on **Thursday 26th Sept**. Tours start at 5.30pm and finish at 7pm and the Headteacher's address is at 7.30pm. Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening. It should be noted that families from local parishes, not attending feeder primary schools were able to gain a place at the school last year, due to the increased number of places on offer. Invitations for your child are available in the porch.

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 Sept 30th – Oct 3rd.**

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Saturday 5th October from 11am–1pm The Jesuit Refugee Service UK (JRS) is hosting a 'Come and See' event on at their offices: Hurtado Jesuit Centre, 2 Chandler Street, Wapping, London, E1W 2QT. This is a chance to meet the team to find out about work of JRS and how you can support refugees. Visit: www.jrsuk.net/news/event-come-and-see/ or email: nick.hanrahan@jrs.net for more information. Or contact Hedy Fletcher 07599 175 555/01462 673269 if you would like to travel on the train together.

Other items of interest

Simpsons Almshouses – 20-26 Hollow Lane, Hitchin At the present time No. 22 Hollow Lane is vacant and is available for a new resident. This is a single occupancy dwelling and certain conditions apply for residency. If there anyone is interested, please let Trish know and she can make you aware of how to apply.

Under the terms of the Charity Commissioners Scheme, the residency can be offered (in the following order) to a suitable needy person who:

1. worships at Christchurch
2. worships at another Church in or around Hitchin
3. lives in the Hitchin area

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London Half Marathon 2020 - PHASE are very excited to have five spaces available for Phase runners for this event on **1st March 2020**. It takes place around many of the iconic landmarks in London and is a great way to raise funds for Phase. Contact the office on 01462 422940 / office@phase-hitchin.org if you would like further information or are interested in taking up one of these spaces.

Volunteering opportunity: Phase has been given the opportunity by Hitchin Fireworks to help out at their Firework display on Sunday November 3rd at The Priory in Hitchin. Hitchin Fireworks will donate £20 for each person who helps them with the event during the evening. Donations for Phase will also be collected on Windmill Hill by some volunteers carrying donation buckets.

Gates open at 4pm on the day and the display starts at 6.30pm. Volunteer availability is therefore needed between approx 3pm & 9pm. All volunteers will need to be fairly fit and able as this could be quite an active afternoon/evening! If you are interested in helping out at this event, please contact the office on 01462 422940 or emailing office@phase-hitchin.org.

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Michaelmas Fair Saturday 28th September 10.30am-2.30pm Auction List

Below is the updated list of auction promises so far. Final list will be in programme. If you wish to make a bid on one of these items in advance of the Michaelmas fair please email pambrannigan2004@hotmail.com with the Lot no, item name, and your bid.

Auction Time 11.30am

LOT 1: Home baked Christmas cake from Joan Tebbutt. This delicious cake will help you get in the Christmas spirit.

LOT 2: Two hours of gardening including weeding and pruning offered by parishioner Helen Bailey.

LOT 3: Session on how to organise and declutter your home given by Systematic Homes Organising and Decluttering Service expert – Joanne Harte

LOT 4: Spanish meal for 6 cooked in your home by Lola – experience gourmet Spanish cooking in the comfort of your own kitchen and dining room!

LOT 5 Lunch for two at The Hermitage, drinks excluded. Bar and Restaurant. Voucher has 12 month expiry from 28th September.

LOT 6 Family Day Pass for 5 (plus car) at Center Parcs Woburn Forest. Money can't buy opportunity.

LOT 7: One hour acupuncture session including 15 minute massage at Angells HealthCare (normally £60)

LOT 8: Voucher for a meal at the Plume of Feathers in Ickleford for a well deserved treat for you or share with a friend!

Auction Time 12.30pm

LOT 9: A standard Single or Joint standard Will prepared by a Solicitor at HRJ Foreman Laws Solicitors, 25 Bancroft, Hitchin. OPENING BID - £25 (£200 + vat for single standard will and £300 plus vat for standard mirror wills)

LOT 10: Hand knitted nativity set from Sarah Miller

LOT 11: Home baked Christmas cake from Joan Tebbutt. This delicious cake will help you get in the Christmas spirit.

LOT 12: Personal taxi service 6 return journeys to hospital, shopping, appointments etc. Offered by parishioner Bernard Glenholme.

LOT 13: One physiotherapy appointment @ Physio Hitchin (worth £40) from Farah Thompson

LOT 14: Personal hairdressing service offered by Leticia Kay - cut and blow dry at your convenience in your own home.

LOT 15: Voucher worth £25 for North Hertfordshire Wine school for tastings held in Hitchin, Harpenden or St Albans. Wine tasting evenings are generally priced at £27.50 so this covers a tasting session for one person. Voucher is valid for 2 years.

LOT 16 Enjoy a meal for two and a bottle of wine at the Radcliffe Arms, Hitchin serving amazing wood fired pizzas, warming one pot meals and local beers. Voucher valid for a year

Auction Time 1.30pm

LOT 17 Home baked Christmas cake from Joan Tebbutt. This delicious cake will help you get in the Christmas spirit.

LOT 18 Voucher for Sunday Lunch for 4 people at The Victoria, includes FOUR main courses. Lunch is served every Sunday 12 - 6pm. The Victoria is located at 1 Ickleford Rd, Hitchin, SG5 1TJ
www.thevictoriahitchin.com

LOT 19 Two for One - General Labouring Work - Philippe James & John Scott Two of the biggest and ugliest parishioners will carry out unskilled work for you - the heavier and dirtier the better! Previous auction tasks have included grubbing-out hedges, clearing undergrowth & turf-laying. We're not limited to - and certainly not particularly skilled at - gardening work. We can clear gutters, fix straightforward building problems, take rubble to the recycling-centre - in short anything you don't want to do yourself.

LOT 20 Two medium cod and chips from Town Fryer in Hermitage Road, Hitchin.

LOT 21 45 minute piano lesson offered by parishioner Steph Dias (all ages & levels)

LOT 22: One hour acupuncture session including 15 minute massage at Angells HealthCare (normally £60)

LOT 23: Metal 6'X2' safety glass wall garden greenhouse Victorian Apex roof design. (Picture available in programme.)



Today the scale and horror of modern warfare, whether nuclear or not, makes it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences between nations. War should belong to the tragic past - to history. It should find no place on humanity's agenda for the future.

Pope John Paul II, 1920-2005

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 147

Our Daily Love – Love endures all things



I (Pope Francis) think of the words of Martin Luther King: 'Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system....Hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the universe'

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This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 3



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