



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 1863

2nd - 9th November 2019 – 31st 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: Wis 11:22-12:2, Thess 1:11-2:2, Luke 19:1-10

Entrance Antiphon: Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Psalm: I will bless your name forever, O God my King

Intercession: Lord, Hear us

Response: Lord, Graciously Hear Us!

Next week: Macc7:1-2.9-14, Thess 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38

Ramblings

Grace (2 Thess), in all its forms, is a gift from God. It is a power source like the oil for a lamp. It provides us with courage, fervour, purpose and belief. As with all God's gifts, it is freely bestowed to help us give of our best, enabling us to live life to the full as missionaries of Good News. Since the Holy Spirit is the bearer and depositor of Grace, we speak more of the power and the working of the Holy Spirit than of grace, having moved from the gift received to the giver of the gift. However, the title Grace allows us to understand its qualities and workings better. Calling someone gracious or speaking of graciousness we are mindful of words and qualities like kindness, gentleness, caring, pleasantness, magnanimity, courtesy, elegance, benevolence, respect, reverence, and dignity; qualities and attributes that we hope to find in others as well as ourselves. No wonder we speak of a gracious and loving God, the origin and giver of grace. The grace of God flows gently and lovingly into us every time we come into God's presence. Whenever we recognise the presence of God in someone, in a place or in creation, we come into contact with the grace of God and cannot but be touched by it in a beautiful way. Grace, then, signifies the presence of Christ in us, Christ who is our light. Let us pray with John Henry Newman: "Dear Lord... shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come into contact with may feel Your presence in my soul... Let me thus praise You in the way You love best, by shining on those around me."

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There will be an event in the Hall next **Sat 9 Nov**. Please bear that in mind when coming to Mass that day as the car park may be busy.

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We pray for John Anthony Sole whose funeral is at North Herts Memorial Park on Tues 12 Nov at 12 noon. We also pray for Charles Anthony Smythe whose funeral is on Wed 13 Nov here at Our Lady's Church at 10am. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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BAPTISM COURSE The next Baptism preparation course will be held on **Sun 17 Nov from 3pm - 4:30pm** and on **Sun 24 Nov from 3:30pm - 4:30pm**, followed by the 5pm Mass, at which your child will receive the first anointing of Baptism. Both sessions must be attended to complete the course. If you have a child in need of baptism or are expecting a child and want to get ahead, please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard in the Link (down the steps in the porch, toward the hall).

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CONFIRMATION PREPARATION All young people in Year 9 are invited to join the Confirmation Programme for 2020. You need to submit an application form to the parish office or to me at: <mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk>. The application forms and all the dates for the programme can be found on the parish website under Sacramental Preparation/Confirmation. Please also sign the sheet that is on the noticeboard in the Link (down the steps from the porch).

The deadline for applications is **16 Dec 2019**. *Don't delay - join today.*

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Diary Dates

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| Sun 3 November | | | |
| Coffee Morning – Live Simply Group | | | |
| Mon 4 November | | | |
| Parents & Toddlers Hall | 9.30am | Beavers Scout Hall | 6pm |
| Christian Meditation Grp | 11.30am EC | Cubs Scout Hall | 7.15pm |
| 2.30pm – Mass at Gosmore. All welcome. | | | |
| 7.30pm – Pastoral Council Meeting - LCR | | | |
| Tues 5 November | | | |
| Morning Prayer Church | 9.40am | Scouts Scout Hall | 7pm |
| Bethany Club Hall | 10.30am | Eucharistic service | 7.15pm |
| 8pm – UCM. Games evening in the hall. Don't forget Hamper Items! | | | |
| Wed 6 November | | | |
| Rosary Church | 9.30am | RCIA EC | |
| 6.30pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall | | | |
| Thurs 7 November | | | |
| Italian Club Hall | 1pm | Christian Meditation Grp | 6.30pm EC |
| Brownies Scout Hall | 6.30pm | Choir | 8pm Church |
| 10.35am – St Pio Mass LCR followed by meeting. | | | |
| Fri 8 November | | | |
| Parent & Toddlers Hall | Half Term | Lectio Divina | EC 2pm |
| 9.30am Systematic Homes - LCR | | | |
| Sat 9 November | | | |
| 10am – RE Session - EC | | | |
| Sun 10 November | | | |
| Coffee Morning – UCM | | | |
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| 6.15pm In Memoriam Service - Church | | | |

Future Dates

Tues 5 Nov, 2pm-8pm – Consultation about the expansion of Luton Airport. Have your say about it growing from 18 million to 32 million passengers per year. Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, SG5 1HX. See

<https://futureluton.lal.org.uk/>



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Wed 6 Nov 7pm - 9pm. Why should we help people overseas? Our government provides aid to countries living in extreme poverty all around the world - but why? And what difference is it making?

Hector Duncan from Hitchin volunteered in Nepal, bringing clean water to rural communities - come to our event to find out more about his experience

and to learn more about overseas aid. Refreshments available! The British schools museum, 41-42 Queens Street, Hitchin, Go to:

<http://bit.ly/AidMattersInHitchin>

Other items of interest



The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese.

At present, 80 priests are receiving support from the fund after years of dedicated service to God and their parishioners. Most

priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs such as ensuring they have a suitable place to live, and regular visits from carers when they are sick. Best of all, you'll help give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met. This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. You can donate online at: www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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Community Vegetable Gardens - Getting Rooted, Hitchin's local community interest company (CIC), plants two community veg gardens accessible to the public as part of its social enterprise and to offer people the chance



to pick fresh organic veg (mainly loose salads and green leaf veg in winter). The 'Sunnyside Pick-Your-Own Veg Patch' is the community front veg garden created with members of the local community a few years ago (23 Pulters Way, SG4 9JJ) and the pallet raised veg beds at Our Lady's Church/Hitchin Foodbank opposite Bancroft Gardens built and maintained by some of the local parishioners. Users of these gardens are welcome to help with maintenance of these gardens.

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Living in solidarity: Give ethical Christmas presents, eg., CAFOD World Gifts, <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk> and/or buy Fair Trade products from the parish Fair Trade stall, or see websites such as <http://www.zaytoun.org>

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All donations are welcome; due to recent strong demand the items listed below are those most urgently needed.

Thank you for your continued support

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- Tea Bags
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Potatoes
- Dried Potato [Instant mash]
- Sponge Puddings
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Rice/Custard
- Juice [Longlife]
- Jam/Marmalade
- Dried Milk
- Deodorant

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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)*

The screenshot shows a parish website with a navigation menu on the left containing links like 'marriage and Family Life', 'Newsletters Archive', 'Parish Building, Maintenance and Restoration projects', 'Parishioner Business - skills and talents that might be of use within our community', 'Parish Ministry rotas', 'Pastoral and Liturgy Planners', 'Pastoral Parish Council', 'Prayer websites which might be useful', 'Proclaim '15', 'Recycling in the parish', 'Recycling items free or for sale', 'Safeguarding', and 'Tradecraft stall - items for sale'. The main content area features a 'Photo Gallery' with a 'View Diocese's gallery' link, 'Parish e-Alerts' with a 'Sign up for e-Alerts' link, and a 'Faith Development Helpline' section. The helpline text reads: 'Our Lady's Parish Faith Development Helpline. Problems or doubts about your faith? Are you feeling a bit lost? Try ringing 07398 821315. Tues, Weds, Thurs 8pm - 10pm'.

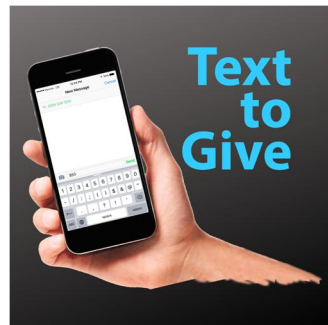
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Church Cleaning We have a particular need for more people to help keep our church clean on Mondays. Teams of 2-3 people can co-ordinate their time to suit themselves. If you can give an 1½ hours once a month to keep our church beautiful please speak to or email Trish

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Masters of Ceremony (MC) at 10.30 Mass. We need more adults (young and old) to help with the Mass and support the Priest in setting things up before Mass and helping our altar server team during the Masses. Full training is available. Please do think about helping in this way. Please speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass if you want to find out more.

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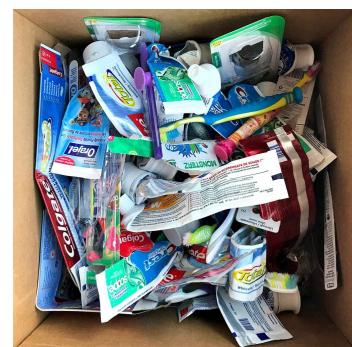


Text Giving - A way to support Our Lady's is now available to us - through text giving on your mobile phone !!Just text Parish HITCH to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added to your phone bill and the Parish will receive 97p

for every pound donated. This is not intended to be an alternative to giving by Standing Order or Envelopes or the Loose Plate even but rather to provide an easy way to make an extra donation to top-up your regular giving or to give if you have no cash to hand or to give if you are just visiting the Parish. At the moment, only donations in multiples of £5 per text are available and the donation cannot be Gift Aided. Thank you in advance for your support of this new scheme but please do not text during Mass !!

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Our parish is collecting for recycling **Oral Care Products** with Terracycle a new recycling scheme funded by Colgate, as a public collection site, with any funds raised from these items to go towards the *Helping Herts Homeless* just like the Writing Instruments we collect already, thus increasing our fund-raising for them. Many said these products could not be recycled - Colgate and Terracycle must have found a way to solve the problem, great news for us all. We will raise £1 for every 1kg of waste sent for recycling.



Accepted waste - are ALL BRANDS of:

- Toothpaste tubes and caps and their cartons,
- Toothbrushes and their outer packaging
- Electric toothbrush heads only and their packaging

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Don't forget that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to

your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. You may not be able to increase your weekly offering and here is a way to help raise income for the church at NO extra cost to you. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the train line and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is:

1. Go to http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ourlady_srchitchin
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping- your donations will be collected by Easyfundraising and automatically sent to our Lady's RC Church Hitchin. Go onto parish website for further details. Thank you for your support!

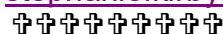


Meeting needs at Christchurch is a project run from Christchurch which aims to re-locate good quality items that are no longer needed to families in need who



would be able to use them.

If anyone can help please call me on 01462 816658 or email stephaniefkirby@hotmail.com



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?



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

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. 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 speak to a pastoral assistant, Priest or MC after Mass.



It was only in 1987 that the English and American provinces of the Assumptionists joined forces for a foundation in Kenya. Today there are about thirty religious living in a study house, a parish and a residence for postulants. This mission is now part of our East African region. It certainly has been blessed.

To donate to Our Lady's through text giving on your mobile phone !!
Just text **Parish HITCH** to **70800** to donate £5.

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 153



Our Daily Love - Growing in Conjugal Love
Conjugal love is an 'affective union' spiritual and sacrificial, which combines the warmth of friendship and erotic passion, and endures long after emotions and passion subside.

If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

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: 6 Monday Team: 1



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