



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 1864

9th November – 16th November 2019 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

Election Prayer: Father, as we prepare to vote, help us remember that it is you who governs us; that in all our public duties we are called to do your work: to bring good news to the poor, to set free those who are captive, to give sight to the blind. We ask for your wisdom, so that our choices respect creation and serve justice for all. Amen.

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

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.
Psalm: I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.
Intercession: Lord in your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Readings: Mal 3:19-20, Thess 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19

Ramblings

Despite all our understanding, knowledge and insight, *Heaven* defies definition, which is why we turn to music, poetry and art, to develop an appreciation and offer an experience of what heaven is like. However well we might describe Jesus Christ, the type of person and type of God he is, ultimately, we are called to have an encounter, an experience of him, for Jesus to make sense to us. This experience will hold something that is common to all and something unique. Simply put, we can lead people to water but only when they drink does the water become part of them. The Sadducees did not believe in the afterlife and argued about it as though it was another world – an argument that revealed their ignorance. St Paul speaks of the hope, comfort and strength that Jesus offers to help us fulfil our good works. If you think you have never had an experience of Jesus, think about experiences of comfort from others or when you have been inspired with hope by others or strengthened by the help and support received from others. Since hope, comfort and support find their existence in Jesus Christ, you are experiencing Jesus' presence in many different ways every day of your lives. Nevertheless, we need to make an effort, to reflect, to pause, to fully appreciate the import of these experiences. Heaven is the place where the experience no longer comes and goes but where we live the experience continually without beginning or end and where time becomes meaningless because we are truly at home with God as are our deceased loved ones. And that is all that will matter.

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A total of £83.09 was raised by the Live Simply Group at their recent coffee morning. Many thanks to everyone for your support.

Diary Dates

Sun 10 November			
Coffee Morning – UCM			
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6.15pm In Memoriam service in the church to remember our parishioners who have died this year. All who wish to light a candle and pray for their loved ones who have died are welcome to come.			
Mon 11 November St Martin of Tours			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm 7.15pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	Half Term
2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All welcome			
Tues 12 November St Josaphat			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am	Eucharistic service	7.15pm
7.30pm – FHC (Parents Only) – Hall			
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7.15pm – Finance Meeting - LCR			
7.30pm Reconciliation session 1 in the hall. (parents only)			
Wed 13 November			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
10.35am – Praise Group - LCR			
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6pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall			
10am Mass The funeral of Charles Smythe RIP			
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10.40 am Praise Group meet in the Lower Committee Room. 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.			
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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All welcome			
Thurs 14 November			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian	6.30pm

Hall	Meditation Grp	EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir Church 8pm
Fri 15 November		
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina 2pm EC
Sat 16 November St Edmund of Abingdon		
Sun 17 November		
Coffee Morning – One World Group ††††††††††		
6pm Benediction for the Holy Souls		

Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years. The fund is used to cover their essential needs at a time when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Your gift could help ensure our sick and retired priests have the housing, care and support they need. Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

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We pray for John Anthony Sole whose funeral is at North Herts Memorial Park on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 12 noon. We also pray for Charles Anthony Smythe whose funeral is on Wednesday 13 November 2019 here at Our Lady's Church at 10am. We also pray for Anna Lanni whose funeral is on Tuesday 19 November at 1.30pm here at Our Lady's Church. 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 **Sunday 17th November from 3pm - 4:30pm** and on **Sunday 24th November 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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Monday 18th November 7.30pm One World/livesimply Group AGM LCR

Our guest speaker will be Liz Wills who will tell us about the Feed up, Warm up project. Come and hear how this venture is helping people. Attractive refreshments will be served after the talk. All are welcome

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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: 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 16th December 2019. Don't delay - join today!

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White Peace Poppies will be on sale from this Sunday/27th until Nov 10th at Christchurch - available on Sundays before morning service (10-45am) & between 10-00am-3-00pm on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - Open Church hours. All proceeds to the Peace Pledge Union

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Message of thanks received from the recent sale of the Olive wood carvings from the Holy Land (Bethlehem).

Dear Father Thomas:

Hope this email finds you well. Allow me to thank you very much for allowing us to visit your Parish to sell the olive wood carvings from the Holy land and for the great help, support and hospitality - it was a great blessing and very successful. Just to let you know, that we managed to raise £ 700 from the sale of the olive wood carvings. Thank you again for your help, and for all the Parishioners who supported us as well. Please remember us in your Prayers.

Kind Regards,

Good Shepherd Nottingham.

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The Pastoral Parish Council consists of the clergy, the chair of the finance committee, the pastoral assistants and 12 elected lay members from the parish. We currently have 9 elected members so require **3 lay members** from the parish. We would like to invite parishioners to nominate members for the Council (of course with their acceptance of that nomination) The nomination forms are in the porch. They should be returned by **December 1st 2019** to the parish office. In the event that we have more than three nominations there will be an election held to decide the results the weekend of 9th/10th December. The work of the PPC is very important

in supporting the Clergy and Fr Tom as parish priest and provides a source of communication to the parish of all the good work going on in our parish. Members take on an area of responsibility to report on to the PPC. It is a privilege to serve our parish in this way and we are grateful for your consideration of this matter. We hope to be inundated with nomination forms.

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We have had a supply issue with the small diaries that we usually receive each year. It is looking unlikely that we will receive any for 2020. We have been assured that we will have our normal delivery back on track for 2021. In the meantime, if you do wish to purchase a small diary for 2020, please let Trish know and she can arrange to purchase some from St Paul's bookshop in Westminster. The Catholic Diary With Order of Mass 2020 in black, maroon or blue at a cost of £2.35.

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Counters urgently needed We have a group of counting teams who count the offertory collections on a Sunday evening. The teams are in need of helpers for this really important job to count the parish income. The commitment is once every 4-6 weeks so not too onerous. If you can help let Trish know asap.

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12 November 11am The Deanery Mass for Deceased Clergy of Stevenage Deanery in Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City. The Bishop will be celebrating it. Afterwards there will be coffee for everyone. A chance to remember all our dear priests and particularly Fr Michael as we come up to his first anniversary. Trish will be going so could take at least one other parishioner. All are welcome to attend.

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Reminder about evacuation in case of a fire. If there is ever a fire whilst you are at Mass a trained fire warden will come to the lectern to direct the evacuation to help the congregation leave the church safely.

In the unlikely event that this happens at the Mass you are at, we ask that you please leave the church as instructed and follow the instructions of the warden in the car park to leave promptly. All buggies should be left in the church. As a parish that aims for good health and safety we need to have an annual fire evacuation practice. This could happen at any time so we wanted to give you a reminder of what is needed to ensure the safety of all our parishioners. Groups who use the hall, scout hall and other facilities during the week should be aware that we will also be conducting a practice fire evacuation

during some of the user sessions. . We make no apologies for the inconvenience caused as this is to ensure the safety of all parishioners and facility users. Thank you for your patience

Future Dates

Inter Faith Week



Inter Faith Week 2019 runs from **Sunday 10th to Sunday 17th November**

Inter Faith Week is a time to celebrate and demonstrate the positive contribution that faith communities make to society and to shine a spotlight on the importance of inter faith understanding and cooperation. It is an opportunity to reach out to people of different faiths and get involved in multi-faith activities in your area.

For details of all events go to <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

Events local to us include

- **Peace Vigil MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 18.00 – 20.00** Market Square, Biggleswade, SG18 8AQ. All welcome - Churches Together in Biggleswade invite those of all faiths and no faith to light a candle for peace and pray/meditate/contemplate.
- **FREE storytelling event THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 18.30 – 20.30** Tokko Youth Centre, 7, Gordon Street, Luton, LU1 2QP. It has been performed in many Luton Schools and across the country. Families with children of primary school age will find it particularly interesting. Join us and enjoy meeting with people of different faiths and cultures and learn about the names of many Hats of Faiths. Luton Council of Faith is working with Beavers and Cubs Scouts for this event.

The 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak is Tuesday 12th November

Sikh communities have been preparing for this important anniversary all year.

The Vatican message invites Christians and Sikhs to join hands with people of other religious traditions and of good will to promote human fraternity everywhere.

The Pontifical Council For Interreligious Dialogue has published a message for **GURU NANAK PRAKASH DIWAS 2019** Christians and Sikhs: Promoting Together Human

Fraternity. This can be found on the parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/news/>

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Faith formation opportunities

Thursday 14th Nov, 7-8.30pm Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN Suggested donation £5. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk

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Thursday 21st November, 7.30 – 9.00 pm Living as if we believed in God

SCRIPTURE FROM SCRATCH with Sister Anne Walsh OP at Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Bushey, Herts, WD23 4EE. Suggested donation £5 per session. To register please e-mail at bookings@nilandconferencentre.co.uk or call 07746 707 247

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Praise and worship concert

Hitchin Congregation of Yahweh is holding a time of praise and worship to support Helping Herts Homeless. it will be on Saturday 16th November, 7.00 to 9.30 pm at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. Suggested donations £10 for adults, £5 for children. All welcome

Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH)

Churches Together is holding its next Council on Thursday 21st November, 8.00 pm (tea/coffee from 7.30) in Church House next to St Mary's. The meeting will include the CTH Annual General Meeting when we will hear about the past year and make appointments for 2020. There will also be a presentation by Compassion UK about its work with children throughout the world, supported by some churches here in Hitchin. Members of all churches are welcome. For more details, contact the CTH Secretary, John Richardson, on 07505 426876 or johnrichardson891@btinternet.com

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General Election hustings

Churches Together in Hitchin is organising its customary hustings at which candidates will have the opportunity to set out their policies and answer questions from voters. It will take place on Tuesday 26th November, 7.30 to 9.30pm at Christchurch and, as in 2017, will be chaired by Rev Canon Jane Mainwaring of St Mark's. The candidates so far confirmed have all indicated that they will be there and we will have a final list after nominations close on 14th November. If you would like to ask a question, please do so via the CTH website - <http://www.cthitchin.org.uk> - or by email to the CTH Secretary, John Richardson - johnrichardson891@btinternet.com



Last week we learned of the foundations of the Assumptionists in Kenya. The communities there soon took the missionary bit between their teeth and founded a house at Arusha in Tanzania. The Sisters of the Assumption were already there and were eager for us to join them. Today there are five communities in Tanzania. Three of them are parishes, the other two being houses of formation for the many vocations. This year there were eight novices. Please remember these young members of the Assumption in your prayers.

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

154 *Our Daily Love - Growing in Conjugal Love* The Spirit which the Lord pours forth gives a new heart and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ loves us. Conjugal love reaches that fullness to which it is interiorly ordained: conjugal charity." (John Paul II: Familiaris Consortio 1981, p94)

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

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 Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk

susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk

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This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 1 Monday Team: 2



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