



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 1866

23rd November – 30th November 2019 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – 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: Sam 5:1-3, Col 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43

Entrance Antiphon: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.
Psalm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'.

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, Graciously Hear Us!

Next week: Is 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14 Matt 24:37-44

Ramblings

The Good Thief reminds me of a story about two brothers a very long time ago. From their early days they began pinching things that did not belong to them. As they grew older, they began stealing sheep to eat from the local farmers. At first, they were too wily to be caught but a trap was laid and they were caught in the act. The village council decided to have them branded with the letters S for sheep and T for thief on their foreheads. Wherever they went after that, people shunned them. One of the brothers decided to leave for a distant land where he would be unknown, but people avoided him there too, not understanding the marks on his forehead. The other brother decided to stay and make amends for his crimes. Although people avoided him, he would do little things to help; pick up litter, mend a broken fence, clear away leaves in autumn and snow in winter. He even tidied elderly peoples' gardens and weeded their land. Time went by and, one day late in life, when he was bent over and only able to shuffle along, he passed a young family. Her son turned and asked his mother what the two letters on the old man's forehead stood for. His mother didn't know because it had happened well before her time. So, she told her son that he was the most helpful and cheerful man in the village and, without hesitation, she said, S T must stand for SAINT! Whatever the past of the Good Thief, Jesus our King saw only the good in him and that applies to us too!

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There is **no** 10am Mass, reconciliation or exposition on Saturday 30th November as all our priests are engaged elsewhere that day.

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Many thanks for your kind donations to CAFOD - £358.06 was raised.

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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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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. The commitment is once every 4-6 weeks so not too onerous. If you can help, please let Fr Tom, David Wilson, Trish or Cheryl know asap. Many thanks.

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Terracycle recycling funds raised for charity 1st Nov 2018- 31st Oct 2019: Total = **£ 1604.29** Please note that this money is not paid into the account for 2 months but we just wanted to report on the results of your wonderful recycling efforts.

PLEASE KEEP IT UP!!!

Biscuit/Cakes: £ 76.18 **Bread bags:** £ 11.79 (Parish hardship Fund) £88.00

Tassimo/Kenco/L'Or : £ 1157.00 (PHASE)

Pens: £ 107.98 **Colgate:** £18.91 (Herts. Homeless Help / Sanctuary) £ 126.89

Pringles: £8.97 **Crisps:** £ 148.40 **Pet food:** £75.00 (Marine Conservation Society) £ 232.40

Diary Dates

Sun 24 November

Coffee Morning – Our Lady's Special Support Group

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3.30pm Baptism Course Session 2 - Hall

Mon 25 November

Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm 7.15pm
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Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	Half Term
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2.30pm – Mass at Gosmore. All welcome

Tues 26 November

Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
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Bethany Club Hall	10.30am	No Eucharistic service due to election hustings	
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7.30 to 9.30pm General Election hustings

Churches Together in Hitchin (CTiH) 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 at Christchurch. All the candidates have indicated they will be there and, as in 2017, the meeting will be chaired by Rev Canon Jane Mainwaring of St Mark's. The questions received by the deadline of Saturday 23rd are being considered with the aim of having a wide selection of issues.

Wed 27 November

Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
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We pray for Roy Pond whose funeral is on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 3pm at North Herts Memorial Park only. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort Brenda and her family.

6pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 28 November

Italian Club Hall	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
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Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir Church	8pm
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Fri 29 November

Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
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Sat 30 November

No 10am Mass, exposition or reconciliation

Sun 1 December First Day of Advent

Coffee Morning – Bethany Club

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a busy day for services



10.30am Mass is a Son Seeker Funday Sunday – all children welcome to come to celebrate the start of Advent with craft activities and liturgy.

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2.30pm we have our healing and wholeness service for those parishioners who feel the need for prayer or want to pray for healing for others. You are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.

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At 6pm is our Advent service for the start of Advent. This service is unique to us. 46 people contributed ideas about advent and memories of Fr Michael. There are at least 21 volunteers - reading or offering technical support. Everyone's contribution creates a coherent whole with every element playing its part. Our volunteers cover an age range of about 75 years with children, teenagers, adults and even older people so all in all a unique service for our parish community as we come together to prepare for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas and remember Fr Michael on the eve of the first anniversary of his death.

Future Dates

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association UK

Next summer, there will be a 'Sharing the hope of Jesus Christ' tour in various venues in the UK, including Milton Keynes and London, led by Franklin Graham. A free concert/launch event is being held at St Andrew's Street Baptist Church, 43 St Andrews Street, Cambridge CB2 3AR, 7.00 pm on Saturday 23rd November, and members of all churches are invited to attend. More information on <http://www.grahamtour.org.uk> or bof_biblewaychurch@yahoo.co.uk

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Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 6pm– 11pm

Long Table Social Club at the Millstream Pub. We are here to beat loneliness. Winter might be a very difficult time of the year (not only for singles), therefore we invite everyone to pop in at Millstream and have a seat by our long table. Meet new or old friends, have a chat, maybe have a dinner, have a pint or just keep someone a company (no need to order to be here).

P.S. from January 2020 it will be a regular monthly event!!

Please share, you never know who is feeling lonely

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27th November 2019 Be a #RedWednesday Champion of Faith

– will you join with Aid to the Church in Need and Stand Up for Faith and Freedom this #RedWednesday? The world is largely silent when it comes to religious

persecution, so it is up to us to defend religious freedom and shine a light on the suffering of persecuted Christians and others – especially in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and China. Your prayers and ACTION are vital. BE VISIBLE. Wear something red. For information, prayer resources, lighting instructions, to add your event/action to ACN's #RedWednesday Map, and for a FREE fundraising pack to help displaced Christian families in Syria, Nigeria and over 100 countries across the world: www.acnuk.org/redwednesday .

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Mr Stephen Foster died on Friday 15th November. His artwork adorns many churches in the British Isles and in particular our Diocese. The funeral Mass will take place at the **Carmel, Ware, Hertfordshire on Thursday 28th November 2019 at 12 noon** followed by the burial in the **Ware cemetery at 1.15pm.**

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Saturday 30th November at St. Mary's at 3pm Joint Anniversaries Celebration Service.

Members of Tilehouse Street, Walsworth Road, St. Faith's and Christchurch warmly invite everyone to join with them on for a celebration of their special anniversaries year. There will be activities for children, the Revd Dr Paul Goodliff (General Secretary of CTE) will preach, refreshments will be served afterwards and a retiring offering will be taken for Helping Herts Homeless.

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Saturday 30th November to Sunday 1st December **Nativity Crib Festival** St Ippolyts Church This is taking place from. Over 200 cribs from around the world, each with its own story, will be on display. £3 entry, children free.

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Faith formation opportunities

December 3, 2019, 7:00pm - 8:30pm THE GOD WHO SPEAKS. JOURNEYING WITH THE BIBLE. Matthew: a Guide for 2020 at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

Overview of the gospel of Matthew with the study of some paradigmatic passages

LECTURERS: FR JAVIER RUIZ-ORTIZ, PH.D. AND SR MONICA CARDONA PH.D.

Suggested donation £5 per talk. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk

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BOF Free Film Night "The Case For Christ" Friday 6th Dec 2019 7pm

An investigative journalist and self-proclaimed atheist sets out to disprove the existence of God after his wife becomes a Christian. Come and see how he unwittingly builds "The Case For Christ"

Join us at Westmill Community Centre (Yellow Room) John Barker Place, Hitchin SG5 2PG. Pastor D Smith 01462 235259 or 07737451105

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Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival Preview Evening and Concert.

Friday December 6th Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd.

A concert of seasonal music performed among the 50 decorated trees of the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival by Holy Saviour Church Choir, The Radcliffe Singers and friends, directed by Trevor Hughes.

Before the music starts there will be plenty of time to enjoy the magical display of trees in a relaxed atmosphere, without the crowds - and with a glass of mulled wine!

6.30pm - 9pm (Concert begins 7.45pm) -

Tickets, £12.00 (including light refreshments) are now available from 01462 712212 : toryevans@greatgreen.plus.com or Hitchin Town Centre Office, Churchyard.

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The Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival 2019

Saturday December 7th & Sunday December 8th Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd.

Come and see the magical display of 50 Christmas trees, all decorated by local families, groups, and businesses Enjoy seasonal music from local choirs and musicians throughout the weekend and relax with excellent homemade hot & cold lunches and teas in the Festival Cafe. It's a lovely way to start your Christmas!

11.45am - 6pm Doors open 11.30am for grand switch-on of lights.

Entry £4 accompanied children free.

On Saturday morning 10.30-11.30, we offer a "quiet hour" for disabled visitors and their carers, who may prefer to enjoy the display when the church is not crowded or noisy.

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Saturday 7th December 2019, 10am – 3pm Scripture Retreat

with Sr Anne Walsh OP and Sister Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP for liturgical ministers and everyone interested at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN Suggested donation £15. Registration is required at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk

Other items of interest

Every three months the **Safer Neighbourhood Police teams** review and set their local policing priorities. These are the issues that affect local communities at a local level.

The Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood team are holding their next meeting at 7pm on 27th November at St John's Community Centre on St John's Road in Hitchin (SG4 9JP) and would very much welcome your input. The event will be a public meeting, which anyone is welcome to attend, so please feel free to mention the meeting to anyone you think may be interested. I would be grateful if you would RSVP to Cynthia.combe@hert.pnn.police.uk.

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JRS UK: Deputy Director. JRS UK are looking for an experienced manager, with sympathy for the mission and ethos of JRS, to join their team as Deputy Director. This new senior post focuses on managing JRS UK's services for destitute asylum seekers and those held in immigration detention, and the postholder will work closely with the Director to lead strategy for the organisation. **Closing deadline: 29 November.** For more information please see: <https://www.jrsuk.net/work-with-us/>

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Job Club Every Wednesday 10am-12 noon
If you know of anyone looking for work, they can just turn up at Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin and receive help and support with job searching. For more info contact: leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk
mobile 07931833838


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Job Vacancy Lay Chaplain at St Elizabeth School Much Hadham. Salary £25,449 - £28,501 Full-time, 37.5 hrs per week. Full details on parish website Job vacancy page.

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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

This is a confidential service and follows Parish Safeguarding Policies


AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION
The Kingdom Come

This week we come back to our foundations. The first Assumptionists went to Madagascar about 50 years ago. Besides the Provincial house and the study houses there are five other communities. A great part of the work undertaken is to provide education in the villages. There are twenty students for the priesthood and six novices preparing to make their first vows. This area has grown so quickly that it became an independent province of the Assumptionists in 2013. Once again we have reason to thank God for so much. of the Kingdom.

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

156 Our Daily Love - Growing in Conjugal Love
Marriage is an icon of God's love for us. God is communion: the three Persons of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity. This is precisely the mystery of marriage: God makes of the two spouses one single existence. (L'Osservatore Romano, 3 April, 2014.p8)

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/
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Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk	Pastoral Assistants Susanna Hawksley susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk
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 This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 4

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