

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 1868

7– 14 December 2019 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – Year A
with the gospel according to Matthew



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: Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Matt 3:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Psalm: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord Hear Us!

Next week: Is 35:1-6.10, James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11



Ramblings

Wisdom, insight, counsel, power and integrity are particular gifts given in confirmation to help us recognise the truth of what faces us or, as Isaiah suggests, not judge by appearances. These gifts help bring balance and harmony to our lives while keeping enmity at bay. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are like these and, if we do not refuse them, they will kindle in us a fire of love for God and for people. It is obvious that John the Baptist was not judged by his appearance in animal skins and his eccentricities. In fact, he made such an impression that even the Pharisees and Sadducees were drawn towards him. And, despite his cry of "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" John did not believe that the Pharisees and Sadducees stood a chance. John spoke of a vengeful God while Jesus was quite the opposite. Jesus came to save the sinner not have him roasted. Part of our Advent preparation is linked with the second candle we light this week - the Peace candle. This involves making peace with ourselves and with God. This peace creates a balance and harmony within ourselves, in our families and in our communities. It is the peace that Julian of Norwich experienced when she said: All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. This is the peace that Jesus brings. Advent repentance requires a thorough look at our lives, of changing old habits and views that no longer bring life but hold us back. As John said, straighten yourselves out so as to become bearers of well-being – Good News

††††††††††

Our Christmas service sheet is available in the porch and on the parish website.

CAFOD There will be a second collection next weekend.

††††††††††



Our traditional Christmas Crib Service is being held at 4pm on Christmas Eve in the church. All primary school age children in the parish are welcome to come and take part, the older children as

narrators and younger children as shepherds, angels and stable animals (please provide your own costumes for the Nativity roles) The rehearsals are being held in the church on:

Thursday 19th December at 5.30pm

Sunday 22nd December at 11.45am (after 10.30 Mass)

Monday 23rd December at 09.30am

To help with planning, if you would like your child to be involved please contact Hannah Byrne on hannahbyrne51@gmail.com

††††††††††


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!

Diary Dates

Sun 8 December			
Coffee Morning – KISS ††††††††††			
 6pm Evening prayer and benediction for the start of the Year of the Word of God who speaks			
Mon 9 December Immaculate Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
11am Our Lady's School Reception Class Nativity Dress Rehearsal – Church ††††††††††			
11am Mass at Elmside. All welcome.			
Tues 10 December			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Hall	10.30am	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
2pm Our Lady's School Reception Class Nativity Play – Church ††††††††††			
7.30pm Reconciliation Session 2 (Parents Only) – Hall			
Wed 11 December			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
10.35am Praise Group – LCR †††††††††† After Mass at 10.40am in LCR			
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. ††††††††††			
2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All welcome ††††††††††			
6pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall ††††††††††			
7pm Advent Reconciliation service Your chance to receive the sacrament before Christmas. (Daytime service 18/12 at 2pm)			
Thurs 12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe GENERAL ELECTION IN THE HALL ALL DAY			
No Italian Club		Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir Church	8pm
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - 10am Mass will be followed by the rosary and then coffee in the lower committee room where there will be a PowerPoint presentation on the Feast day. This will be led by Leticia Kay. All welcome.			

Fri 13 December Saint Lucy			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
Sat 14 December St John of the Cross			
Sun 15 December			
Coffee Morning – One World Group ††††††††††			
2.30pm Christingle service a service focused on children where we create a symbol of Christ being the light of the world. This is the first time we have done this service so we hope that many of you will come to support it.			



Once again we have been asked to provide chocolate logs for 100 Christmas hampers for the needy. Your response last year was brilliant as usual. Could you please add a chocolate log to your shopping trolley when you next shop and then drop into the church porch in the box provided by 21st December. **Please check the date when you buy them.** We need them to have a use by date after 26th December.

††††††††††

Message from Brenda Pond

A big thank you to everyone who sent cards and for the support and prayers I have received since Roy died. I was so overwhelmed by the many people who attended Roy's funeral. A Mass on **Monday 9 December at 10am** will be celebrated for all your intentions. God Bless.

††††††††††



We pray for **Margaret Garment** whose funeral is at Harwood Park only on Thursday 19 December 2019 at 11.45am. We also pray for **Michael Mansi** whose funeral is here at Our Lady's Church on Monday 23 December 2019 at 11.30am. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

THERE WILL BE NO 10AM MASS ON MONDAY 23 DECEMBER.

††††††††††



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.

Saturday December 21st Your help is needed at 10.45am for the construction of crib. We need as many people as possible to help with this. Please let Trish know if you are able to help even for a short while. Please bring **evergreen** fir and yew – quite sizable pieces which we can cut down if necessary. Please bring leave foliage in the garden behind the parish office by Friday 20th Dec.

††††††††††

Sunday December 22nd 6.15pm Carols and Readings for preparing for the great day of our Saviour's birth, led by our Young Ministers of the Word and choir. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Please do join us. The figures will be put into the crib during this service.



Feed up Warm up are teaming up with "SOMEWHERE TO GO"



this Christmas in our church hall!

Join Us: Christmas Day 10am -5pm, Boxing Day 10am – 5pm, 1st Jan 10am-5pm
Nowhere to go this Christmas? Then you are welcome to join us for Christmas Food, Festive Fun and Good Company – no charge
For more info contact: Leigh -

leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk / 07931 833838
or Liz elizabethwills@rcdow.org.uk

For those who want to help on these days please contact Liz. At this stage they are looking for volunteers for all 3 days. Shifts are for 2 hours starting from 9am – 6pm. If people want longer shifts than that is fine too. Liz is looking forward to hearing from you.

Future Dates

Tuesday 10th December - The Welwyn and Hatfield Interfaith Group extends an invitation to all to their last meeting of 2019, at the Hatfield Fire Station, Wellfield Road, Hatfield, AL10 0DA, on the theme of "Rites of Passage - BIRTH - As seen by different faiths" doors open at 7pm, the meeting starts at 7:15pm to 9:30pm. There is ample parking, all are welcome

††††††††††

Carols in the Market Place Sunday 15th December at 4pm.



The carols will be introduced by the Rev Andrew Henton-Pusey of Walsworth Road Baptist Church and the Rev Phil Jackson of Zeo Church and they will be accompanied by Hitchin Community Band. All welcome - bring friends and family with you for this half an hour of Christmas worship.



The Assumptionists from Belgium and the Netherlands started mission work in the Congo in 1929. In recent years this apostolate has developed so well that now very few Assumptionist communities do not have at least one Congolese member. You will remember Fr. Jean-Marie Meso who worked here at Hitchin. and Fr Euloge who, is with us today. In the DRC we have a large number of students in training and each year the novitiate is full. Again we must thank God for these young men working for the coming of the Kingdom. Fr Jean-Marie suffered heart attack a short time ago but, thank God, he has made a good recovery in Nairobi.

**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

157 Our Daily Love - Growing in Conjugal Love

This communion of two spouses and one single existence has concrete daily consequences. With the simple ordinary things of life they can make visible the love with which Christ loves his Church and continues to give his life for her.

(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/
---	--	--

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



**Advent and
Christmas
Celebrations
for 2019**

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Service of Penance

Wednesday 11th December 7pm

(3 Priests)

Thursday 18th December 2pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 21st Dec after 10am Mass

(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament til
11.15am)

Masses and Services

Sunday 15th Dec 2.30pm

Christingle service a service
focused on children where we
create a symbol of Christ
being the light of the world.



Sunday 22nd Dec 6.15pm Service of
Christmas carols and readings by
candlelight. All ages welcome

Tuesday 24th Dec **Christmas Eve**

4pm The Christmas Story for families with
primary age children: through readings,
carols and action we relive the First
Christmas Night. If children wish they can
bring a present of a food item for the
foodbank to take to the crib.

*NB This is **not** a Mass.*

Christmas Eve Night

9pm **Carols, Readings & Vigil Mass**

Wednesday 25th Dec **Christmas Day**

Masses: 8.30am & 10.30am

No Evening Mass

Thurs 26th Dec **St Stephen**

10am Mass for Guild of St Stephen

Fri 27th Dec 10am Mass

Sat 28th Dec 10am Mass

Followed by the Sacrament of
Reconciliation and Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament
until 11.15am

Sunday 29th December

Solemnity of the Holy Family

Masses 6pm (Sat) 8.30am, 10.30am &
5pm

Mon 30th /Tue 31st Dec 10am Mass

Wednesday 1st Jan **Mary, Holy Mother
of God**

10am Mass

Sunday 5th Jan **Epiphany of the Lord**

Masses 6pm (Sat) 8.30am, 10.30am & 5pm



Fr Tom, Fr Euloge, and Fr Andrew
together with our Pastoral team, Susanna
and Trish; our Administrator Cheryl offer
you their greetings, prayers and best wishes
for the festive season of Christmas and
God's Blessings into the New Year. May
our New Born Saviour be with you all at
this special time!