



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 1869

14-21 December 2019 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Year A
with the gospel according to Matthew



Parish Prayer: Lord Jesus, when you rose from the dead you sent your followers to go and 'make disciples of all nations'. Through our baptism you send us, too. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit to help us share our faith, in what we say and do. May we bring light and life to the world, in your name. May all people hear the good news of your love and mercy and come to know it for themselves. This we ask in your name. Amen

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

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Psalm: Come, Lord, and save us.

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next week: Is 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24




Ramblings Why do we rejoice? Because we are over half way along our journey to Jesus' birth! So, what questions are you pondering? *Advent calls us to look deeper into ourselves and into our expectations and then to trust what we see. Whom or what we discover depends upon what we see.* John the Baptist had doubts about whether Jesus was the Messiah because Jesus did not appear to come up to his expectations. What are your expectations? What do you hope to see on Christmas Day? Will Jesus' birth meet your hopes? Could they be even greater than you expect?? We are called to wait patiently, for it is essential to have time to reflect, to mull over our questions and hopes if they are ever to come to fruition. Will Jesus be the one we truly hope for, not just for ourselves and our families but for our fractured and war-torn world, struggling not to strangle the life out of creation. Macrina Wiederkehr believes we are pure capacity for God: *"All too often we bemoan our imperfections rather than embrace them as part of the process in which we are brought to God. Cherished emptiness gives God space in which to work. We are pure capacity for God and should not, therefore, take our littleness lightly. Your littleness is a wonderful grace, a gift to receive. However, do not get trapped in the confines of your littleness, but keep pushing on to claim your greatness.* Advent waiting is the necessary time we need to welcome God into the world afresh and allow God to be God within us – in God is your greatness.

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There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD.

The Bethany Club is now on Christmas Break. Next gathering will be on Tues 7 Jan 2020.

Diary Dates

Sun 15 December			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			
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2.30pm Christingle service 			
Mon 16 December			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
Tues 17 December			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
No Bethany Club		Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All welcome.			
8pm – UCM – Advent & Social Eve in the Hall			
Wed 18 December			
Rosary Church	9.30am	RCIA EC	7.30pm
2pm Penitential service another chance for the sacrament of reconciliation before Christmas			
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6pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall			
Thurs 19 December			
No Italian Club		Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir Church	8pm
12noon – Flower Group - LCR			
Fri 20 December			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC

Sun 22 December

Coffee Morning – OLSSG (see below)

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6.15pm Carol service with the choir and led by the younger ministers of the word. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine – not to be missed.

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), a charity which provides support for prisoners and their families, will receive the proceeds from Sunday 's One World Group /Live Simply coffee morning.

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CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Final call to all young people in Year 9 to join the Confirmation Programme for 2020. You need to submit an application form to the parish office or to 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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KISS Coffee Morning – a massive thanks for your support at last weekend's KISS Coffee Morning which raised £180!

Over the last year, we have raised £1300 for KISS – all from the generosity of our Community who help in so many ways like baking, carrying,

servicing, washing up, providing raffle prizes – and of course all of you who support by coming in to the coffee morning!

THANK YOU – THANK YOU.

Next week, Students from The John Henry Newman School will be going to Uganda for Christmas and we hold them all in our prayers for a successful venture.

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Over the Christmas period, the Foodbank will **not** be open on Tues 24 Dec.

It will be open on Fri 27 Dec. and Tues 31 Dec.

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Christmas hampers now need 150 chocolate logs as there have been so many requests for needy families. We currently have six at the time of writing but I know we will get there. Please pop one into your shopping this week. They all need to have a 'use by date' of **after 26/12** and need to be in the parish by **22 Dec**. *Thank you for your generosity.*

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This is a reminder that all cars exiting the Church car park should turn left and exit via Ickleford Rd. Whilst we have no jurisdiction over College Road and there is no official One Way system, we do encourage parishioners to turn left and exit via Ickleford Rd, which is an easier exit. Also, it avoids a jam with traffic (and Police cars!) coming up College Rd. from Grove Rd. Many thanks for your understanding.



Among our more recent work in Africa we must underline Burkina Faso and Togo. In the former country there is a community of formation with 22 students preparing to make their final vows and for ordination. In Togo there is one parish and a novitiate both at Sokode and a new parish foundation in Lome. There is also a proposal to open a community in Angola. Please remember these younger foundations 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 158

Our Daily Love - Growing in Conjugal Love We should not however confuse different levels (human and divine). There is no need to lay upon two limited persons the tremendous burden of having to reproduce perfectly the union existing between Christ and his Church.

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
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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

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