



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 1871

Dec 2019 – 4 Jan 2020 – THE MOST HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - Year A
with the gospel according to Matthew

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: [Ecc 3:2-614](#), [Col 3:12-21](#), [Matt 2:13-15, 19-23](#)

Entrance Antiphon: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger

Psalm: **O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next week: [Is 60:1-6](#), [Eph 3:2-3.5-6](#), [Matt 2:1-12](#)



Ramblings Feast of the Holy Family 2019

The Legend of the Flower: The poinsettia was named after Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the United States Ambassador to Mexico. In 1829, he brought this flower with him to his home in South Carolina, where it flourished. The people of Mexico call the **poinsettia** the “**flower of the Holy Night.**” A charming Mexican legend explains its origin: *On a Christmas Eve, long ago, a poor little boy went to church in great sadness, because he had no gift to bring the Holy Child. He dared not enter the church, and, kneeling humbly on the ground outside the house of God, he prayed fervently and assured our Lord, with tears, how much he desired to offer Him some lovely present— “But I am very poor and dread to approach You with empty hands.” When he finally rose from his knees, he saw springing up at his feet a green plant with gorgeous blooms of dazzling red. . . . And a story:* Once a father and son went to a kite flying festival. The young son was very happy at seeing the sky filled with colourful kites. He asked his father to get him a kite and a thread with a roller so he could fly a kite too. So, the father bought a kite and thread for his son. His son started to fly his kite and, very soon, the kite reached high up in the sky. After a while, the son said, “Father, it seems that the thread is stopping the kite from flying higher; if we break it, the kite will be free to fly even higher. Can we break it?” So, the father cut the thread and the kite went higher and higher, which made the son very happy. But then, slowly, the kite started to come down and eventually fell to the ground. The young son was surprised at see this and asked his father, “Father, I thought that after cutting the thread, the kite could fly even higher, why did it fall down?” His Father

explained, “Son, at the height of life we often think that some things tie us down and prevent us from going higher. The thread, however, was not holding the kite from going higher, but helping it stay high when the wind slowed down and when the wind picked up, you helped the kite go up higher in a proper direction through the thread. When we cut the thread, it fell down without the support you were providing to the kite through the thread”.

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Great thanks go to everyone who helped to make our Advent and Christmas celebrations beautiful and worshipful. We are blessed with so many people who work very hard to ensure everything is ready on time, our church is beautiful and our liturgies enable us to worship our Lord as a community. **Blessings be upon you all for a happy and healthy 2020.**

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Parish Database audit we are undertaking an audit on the information we have on the database. This is required under the **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** We have started sending out emails asking people to verify and update their information as appropriate. The next phase for those who are not on email or who do not respond will be a paper copy to update when you come to Mass. Hopefully we will reach the bulk of the parish in this way. Please do respond when you receive an email. We are very grateful for your help with this.

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Next Sunday at 10.30 Mass is a Son Seeker Funday Sunday for the feast of the Epiphany. Children of all ages are welcome to come – parents should accompany those aged 5 and under. Please arrive early to register your attendance.





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**Feed up Warm up ARE
TEAMING UP WITH
"SOMEWHERE TO GO" THIS
CHRISTMAS in Our Lady's**

church hall

Join Us: 1st Jan 10-5pm

Nowhere to go for New Year's day? Then you are welcome to join us for Food, Festive Fun and Good Company – no charge

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We urgently need one or more people to help clean the church on a Friday evening with another team member. This is a once a month commitment and takes about 75 minutes. Please speak to Trish asap if you are willing to help.

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Copies of the pastoral letter from the Cardinal are in the porch.

Diary Dates

Sun 29 December The Holy Family	
Coffee Morning – Diapalante	
Mon 30 December	
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC
Tues 31 December	
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am 7.15 Eucharistic Service Church
Wed 1 January 2020 Mary, Mother of God	
9am-5pm – "Somewhere to Go" - Hall	

Thurs 2 January			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
		Choir	8pm
10am St Pio Mass and then meeting in the LCR			
Fri 3 January			
		Lectio Divina	2pm EC
Sun 5 January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD			
Coffee Morning – Gateway Club			
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10.30 Son Seekers Funday Sunday			

Future Dates

4 January 11am "A spirituality for difficult times - justice and peace on a vulnerable planet" at Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden, by theologian **David McLoughlin** in the parish Undercroft, followed by a shared lunch. All are welcome to attend.

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Sunday 26th January 2020 at 3pm Annual General Meeting of Helping Herts Homeless in our church hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend for an update on their work over the last 12 months and get your valuable input as they move into the coming year on the issues to do with homelessness and rough sleeping in our town.



The Assumptionist community in England send their best wishes and prayers for a blessed New Year. A personal thank you; Last Sunday night I had a sudden nose bleed which I could not stop. Taken to the Lister I was cared for professionally and kindly. My only worry on coming home on Tuesday night was the condition of my flat which I had left with blood everywhere. It is with deep gratitude that I found everything in perfect order. Thank you so much to those who undertook this unpleasant task. I really am deeply grateful. Fr Andrew

**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 159

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Lifelong Sharing
After the love that unites us to God, conjugal love is the 'greatest form of friendship'... a union possessing all the traits of a good friendship: concern for the good of the other, reciprocity, intimacy, warmth, stability and resemblance born of a shared life.

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: 2 Monday Team: 1



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