



# 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 1872

4 –11 Jan 2020 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 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:** Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3.5-6, Matt 2:1-12

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**Psalm:** All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us!

**Next week:** Is 42:1-4.6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matt 3:13-17



## Ramblings



Deep down what are you searching for? Initially, it may be for money to pay the bills. The Magi were looking for the one who they believed would be the true hope of the world but they also wanted to pay him tribute – a sign of their gratitude for all that they had received in life - thanksgiving that they were given the opportunity to see him - thanksgiving for his presence. Whatever our search, whether for abilities or virtues or anything else, do we reflect on what we want to offer Jesus in thanksgiving? When I was small, I would receive one big gift at Christmas each year. One year it was a scooter, another time a pair of metal roller skates. I used my scooter so much the metal eventually wore out but my dad repaired it at work. I loved that scooter. I used my skates the same way but left them outside one day and they were taken. I mention this because one way of reverencing Jesus is to use the gifts he has given us to their fullest - in thanksgiving. If we could look on each of our gifts with this kind of gratitude, we will want to use them until they wear out – although Jesus would never let that happen. Look and see and experience everything with gratitude and your whole life will be a life of thanksgiving. Remembering that Eucharist means Thanksgiving surely we can't do better. It leaves very little time to search for anything else!

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We pray for Ida Bellamy whose funeral is on 9 Jan at 2pm at North Herts Crematorium only. We also pray for Peggy Brady whose funeral is on Thurs 16 Jan here at 11.30am. May they rest in peace and may the Lord comfort their families.

## Diary Dates

<b>Sun 5 January The Epiphany of The Lord</b>			
<b>Coffee Morning – The Gateway Club</b>			
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<b>10.30 Son Seekers Funday Sunday</b>			
<b>Mon 6 January</b>			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	Not on	Beavers Scout Hall	Not on
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	Not on
<b>7.30pm PPC - LCR</b>			
<b>Tues 7 January</b>			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
No Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	No Eucharistic Service	
<b>7pm – Scouts Meeting - LCR</b>			
<b>Wed 8 January</b>			
Rosary		RCIA	7.30pm
<b>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.</b>			
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<b>2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All welcome</b>			
<b>6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall</b>			
<b>Thurs 9 January</b>			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir	8pm
<b>Fri 10 January</b>			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
<b>Sat 11 January</b>			
<b>10am – RE Session - LCR</b>			
<b>Sun 12 January</b>			
<b>Coffee Morning – KISS</b>			

There will be an event next Saturday, 11 Jan in the Hall between 1pm and 10pm. Please bear that in mind when coming to Mass that day as the car park may be busy.

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We would like to thank all those who helped and supported our two recent coffee mornings. We raised a total of over £200 for OLSSG. God bless and thank you, have a blessed and good New Year.


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Offertory Income for quarter ending Dec 2019.

<b>Envelopes</b>	£ 8657.30	(£ 9098.26)
<b>Standing Orders</b>	£16036.25	(£16731.25)
<b>Loose Plate</b>	£ 4630.53	(£ 5236.60)
<b>TOTAL</b>	£29324.08	(£31066.11)

(Figures in brackets are for the previous quarter)

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 Living in solidarity: January 19th is Peace Sunday. Say this prayer at least one time in January: 'Dear God, Help us to spread peace by listening to one another, even when we don't agree. Amen' (excerpt from a Pax Christi Peace Prayer)

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**CHRISTMAS TREECYCLING**   
**11th-14th January 2020**  
*In exchange for a donation, we will collect and recycle your Christmas tree.*  
[www.ghhospicecare.org.uk](http://www.ghhospicecare.org.uk)   
**01462 679 540** Registered Charity No. 295257

Our 2020 Christmas Treecycling Campaign will run from Saturday 11th January until Tuesday 14th January.

As in previous years, our volunteers will collect Christmas trees in the following areas:


- Letchworth
- Royston
- Baldock
- Stotfold
- Hitchin
- Stevenage
- the surrounding villages.

Simply sign up to our Treecycle, pay a donation to the Hospice (minimum donation £10 per tree), strip your tree of decorations and leave it outside your home in a visible place ready for collection from Saturday 11th January. Our team of volunteers will collect your tree any time between Saturday 11th and Tuesday 14th January.

All trees will be shredded and chippings will be used in playgrounds in schools in our community.

There are limited collection slots available so book your tree collection today to avoid disappointment!

We are currently looking for volunteers and van drivers to help us collect the trees in the above areas. If you are available to give up a few hours of your time to help with the collection, please contact Richard on 01462 679540 or [richard.harbon@ghhospicecare.org.uk](mailto:richard.harbon@ghhospicecare.org.uk)

 This year is a preparation for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Assumptionists. Each week we will look briefly at the life of an Assumptionist whose anniversary of death is that week. Fr Aidan Kenny was parish priest here in Hitchin during the fifties but before that he had founded the Becket School at Nottingham, (1931) which is very strong today. He also, as parish priest, restored the war damaged church at Bethnal Green. Fr Aidan is buried in one of our graves in St Johns cemetery.

**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 161**  
 Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Lifelong Sharing  
 Marriage has an indissoluble exclusivity which is expressed by a stable commitment to share and shape together the whole of life.

If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b> Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish</b> 01462 459126 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
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**Parish Administrator** Cheryl Saunders [cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Pastoral Assistants** Susanna Hawksley [susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk)  
 Trish Bonnett [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: 3 Monday Team: 2**



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