



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 1873

11-18 Jan 2020 – THE BAPTISM 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 42:1-4.6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matt 3:13-17

Entrance Antiphon: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Psalm: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Is 49:3.5-6, Cor 1:1-3, John 1:29-34



Ramblings

The Holy Spirit always appears when something of great importance is about to happen. The Holy Spirit was present at the beginning of Jesus' life - the annunciation. The Spirit is present at Jesus' Baptism, marking the start of something very special confirmed by the Voice from Heaven. Isaiah explains that Jesus, the Messiah, comes to establish true Justice; not just an external Justice in and between all nations but a justice within ourselves. A justice that restores balance and harmony to life: sight to the blind, freedom to captives, hearing to the deaf; enabling the lame to walk, the dumb to speak, forgiveness and healing for the sinner. Evil seeks to overpower, enslave, incarcerate and separate us one from another, creating a loneliness that suffocates life and leads to utter despair. The harmony and balance Jesus offers are both physical and spiritual. We become not just friends but family with Jesus who creates community in which everyone is special and unique, no-one is better than anyone else nor wants to be. A community in which each one complements the others to create ever greater harmony and balance. Benedict XVI on Augustine: "The harmony between faith and reason, means above all that God is not remote; he is not far from our reason and life; he is close to every human being, close to our hearts and to our reason, if we truly set out on the journey." Pope Francis: Happiness can only be discovered as a gift of harmony between the whole and each single component. Even science points to an understanding of reality as a place where every element connects and interacts with everything else.

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There is a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD.

Diary Dates

Sun 12 January			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
Mon 13 January			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
11am Mass at Elmside. All welcome			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
7pm Finance Meeting – LCR			
Wed 15 January			
Rosary		RCIA	7.30pm
11am UCM meet up at Café Elite			
Thurs 16 January			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir	8pm
Fri 17 January St Antony			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
10.30am Mass at Our Lady's School			
Sat 18 January			
9.30am – Sorted Workshop - LCR			
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9.30am – Reconciliation Session 3 (Parents AND Children) – Hall			
Sun 19 January			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			

Chrissy Barnard and Joly Checketts proudly announce the birth of their son Rupert Peter Checketts on 27 December, grandson of the late Peter Checketts. Please keep them in your prayers.



We pray for Brenda Walsh whose funeral is here on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 1.30pm. We also pray for Peggy Brady whose funeral is here on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 11.30am. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to the 25th January with a theme of 'Unusual Kindness' taken from Acts 28:2 which describes how Paul was warmly welcomed after being shipwrecked on the island. It's a special event that Maltese Christians celebrate annually and they now share it with the church worldwide.

A united service in Holy Saviour Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 19th, including a welcome to the Rev Jane Robson of Tilehouse Street Baptist Church as Chair of Churches Together. Jane will be the preacher at this service.

Daily prayer gatherings as follows:

- Saturday 18th 9.30pm - Praying with Street Angels (meet at Walsworth Rd Baptist)
- Monday 20th 7pm - Zeo Church (at Zeo Centre)
- Tuesday 21st 7.15pm - Our Lady's Church
- Wednesday 22nd 9.15am - St Mark's Church
- Thursday 23rd 11am - Tilehouse St Baptist Church
- Friday 24th 12.30pm – Christchurch
- Saturday 25th 12noon - St Faith's
- Sunday 26th 5pm Service of prayer and music in the Taize style at St Mark's Church

Visit to Sr Ann-Marie Frank Benucci and Trish will be visiting Sr Ann-Marie in France from 31/1-1/2. If anyone has written messages for her please leave them in an envelope marked Sr Ann-Marie, in the parish office.

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You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? **Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. To register for the next programme commencing with a residential weekend on ...**28th.29th Feb & 1st March 2020** Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Future Dates

26th January 2020 3pm 24th Annual General Meeting of Helping Herts Homeless (North Herts Sanctuary) in the church hall. All are welcome to attend.

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Monday 27 January 2020 – Holocaust Memorial Service at 11am at Howard Park, Letchworth. Meet at NHDC Reception at 10.45am to convene before walking over to the Park. Light refreshments will be available afterwards at the Council Offices. Please confirm your attendance by email: community@north-herts.gov.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 Gabriel Slater** was novice master in England and then became responsible for our pilgrimage work. He took initiatives such as day pilgrimages to Lisieux by air. For some years he worked at our house in Jerusalem helping the English speaking pilgrims. Fr Gabriel died in Paris in 1974.

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 162

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Lifelong Sharing
Those who witness the celebration of a loving union, however fragile, trust it will pass the test of time. Children not only want their parents to love one another, but also to be faithful and remain together.



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: 4 Monday Team: 3	If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net
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