



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 1874

18-25 Jan 2020 – 2nd Sunday ordinary time Year A – the gospel according to Matthew

Parish Prayer: Father, stir our desire for peace. Move us to be kind, wherever we are. Give us grace to be people of peace in what we say and do and write. We ask for your wisdom to see situations as you see them, and the courage to act upon it. We make this prayer through your son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next week: Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40



Ramblings Translated, baptism means being plunged or immersed - not only in water but also in Christ. Baptism makes Christ present within us and around us. We carry that life of Christ wherever we go, whether we acknowledge it or not. For centuries the foremost reason for baptism was being freed from sin and receiving a pass into heaven. Realising that Jesus died to save everybody including the unbaptised, much greater emphasis is now placed on **mission**. Our mission is to reflect the Good News of Jesus Christ in our lives and radiate the joy of the Gospel. However, we quickly recognise that we cannot do this without Christ's help because we become aware of our short-comings and failings. Consequently, we believe we are incapable of attempting to fulfil our mission without God's healing and forgiveness. Forgiveness sets us free from all that holds us back, prevents us from doing the good we want to do, from all that eats away at the joy in our lives or leaves us feeling helpless. The Spirit we have received and the light of Christ in baptism awaken within us a passion and desire to share the goodness and love of Christ we have received. In the sharing, goodness, love, passion, and desire grow stronger. As Pope Francis says: *"The mission of the Christian in the world is a mission of service, requiring great generosity and a gaze and heart turned heavenward invoking the Lord's help. There is so much need for Christians who bear witness to the Gospel with joy in everyday life. The disciples, sent by Jesus, 'returned with joy'. When we do this, our heart will also fill with joy."*

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Many thanks to you all for your very kind donations to **CAFOD** last weekend. A total of **£372.99** was raised.

Diary Dates

Sun 19 January			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			
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5pm Mass & Confirmation Session 2 in the hall.			
Mon 20 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			
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6.30pm OWG/Live Simply Meeting - EC			
Tue 21 January St Agnes			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Unity prayer service	7.15pm
Wed 22 January			
Rosary		RCIA	7.30pm
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall			
Thurs 23 January			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir	8pm
Fri 24 January St Francis de Sales			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
Sat 25 January Conversion of St Paul			
10am – RE Session - LCR			
Sun 26 January			
Coffee Morning – Diapalante			
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3pm 24th AGM of Helping Herts Homeless (North Herts Sanctuary) in the hall. All welcome.			
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5pm Mass & Confirmation Session 3 in the hall.			



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. We welcome Jane Robson who will be preaching at the 10.30 Mass this weekend.

A united service in **Holy Saviour Church** at **6.30pm** this Sunday 19th Jan, 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.

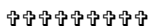
Daily prayer gatherings as follows:


- 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.

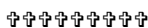
If you would like to follow the theme material for reading, reflection and action can be found on <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>



There will be a second collection this weekend on Peace Sunday in aid of Pax Christi. The work of Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. The vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all.



 We pray for Alan Brookman whose funeral is on Friday 31 January 2020 at 3pm at North Herts Memorial Park and Crematorium only. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



Copies of the Pope's message on the occasion of Peace Sunday can be found in the porch or on the parish website.

KISS Coffee Morning - thanks to all who helped in any way in supporting last Sunday's KISS Coffee Morning which raised £155.00. God bless you for your generosity.



GATEWAY CLUB Many thanks for your support at the recent coffee morning. £103 was raised to support the club's activities.



Baby in church

We have all heard the baby crying in church when the priest was speaking. Not all, however, have read Father Conroy's book, "A Mill Town Pastor," nor his delightful telling of a similar experience. "There are two of us preaching in this church at once," said the pastor, "and I don't know which of us is giving the better sermon. When a baby cries in church he is telling two things: First, that there are babies in the family, and second, that the mother has come to Mass with her baby. On the whole, I think the baby is preaching the better sermon and I'll let him get on with it."



We are delighted to welcome children of all ages to our church and do what we can to support their understanding of the liturgy. If children are noisy they will only learn to be quiet if they are brought regularly. So please do bring them and please sit in the front rows where they can see what is going on!



Children's liturgy is offered at the 10.30 Mass for children of school age from Reception to year 5. Children go out at the start of Mass when called by the Priest. Children are split into two

groups. Reception -Year 2 go to the lower committee room. Years 3-5 go to the upper committee room. The 4th Sunday of the month is a children's Mass and everyone remains in the church for a children focused liturgy. **Liturgy for the 0-4 years** and their parents is offered at the 10.30 Mass and everyone goes out to the hall after the gospel when called by the Priest.

4-5 times per year we have a Sonseeker Sunday when the children have a liturgy in the hall and take part in activities relevant to the liturgy and come into the Mass at communion to receive the Lord or a blessing and to feedback to the parish on their activities. We need more people to join the Sonseeker team and to help run these sessions. The commitment is limited and the satisfaction of helping is immense. Please speak to Trish if you are willing to join the team.



Sacrament of the sick will be offered at the end of all Masses on the weekend of 1 & 2 February for any parishioners who would like the grace from anointing and be reassured of God's great love for you.

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Message from Graham and Pat Bellamy – Thanks to everyone who came to Ida's funeral - particularly from the Bethany Club - and for coming to the Sun afterwards - it was lovely to meet you all and to talk about Ida when she was still up and about. She really enjoyed Bethany Club and was very disappointed when she could not get there.

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On Saturday 1st February after 10am Mass, the children on this year's Holy Communion programme will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Parishioners are also welcome to receive the sacrament but we ask that you wait until the children have all had a chance to go first. I estimate it will take about an hour - we have 36 children this year. This also means that the car park will be busier than usual. Please keep the children in your prayers. Thank you.

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Plastic Bottle Top Recycling - message from Ann Milner

The parish has been collecting plastic bottle tops for several years now and the volume of tops collected has increased significantly which is good. However I am no longer able to deal with these tops and therefore I am asking if anyone would like to volunteer to take it over. As you know we collect a wide range of items for recycling and raise money from them but this is not the case with the bottle tops. We don't get anything from Lush but they are an ethically sound company and they undertake to help clean up the oceans from the money they raise from recycling the tops. If anyone would like to take this over, please email me before 27th January at oliasah-peace@yahoo.co.uk



Future Dates

Saturday 25th January – 10.30AM A New Economy for the Climate Crisis A community workshop on sustainability and climate justice The Welwyn Garden City Quaker Sustainability Group invite all who share our concern at the climate emergency to join us to explore these issues. **Venue:** Quaker Meeting House, 109 Handside Lane, AL8 6SP

Tea and coffee from 10am. Event starts at 10:30am. Workshop ends at 1 pm followed by a Bring & Share Lunch RSVP to wgcquakermeeting@gmail.com .

Saturday 25th January 10am-12.30pm CAFOD information Morning, Lambeth North. CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information morning with a guest speaker, who has first-hand experience of our work in Zimbabwe. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Meeting will take place from 10am – 12.30pm at CAFOD's Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. Bookings required and taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

Sunday 16th February 3 pm Cello Concert for Phase Hitchin Cello Collective is presenting a concert of varied cello music at Christchurch, on. Entry is free and donations will be welcomed for Phase, the Hitchin Churches Schools Worker Project

Other items of interest

MALE 65+?
AAA SCREENING NOW IN HERTFORDSHIRE!

The Hertfordshire AAA Screening Programme started in 2013.

10 Minute ultrasound scan that can save your life!

Scanning in 16 venues across the county

Hertfordshire offer Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening free of charge for men aged 65 and over

The aorta which carries your blood supply from the heart can expand and become weak. This can be fatal!

Over 42,000 men scanned so far

An AAA has no signs or symptoms.

Over 300 men on our surveillance programme

To find out more information about this scan or to book an appointment call 01727 897719

Saturday 27th June 2020 Fair in the Square
June 2020 PHASE are really excited to be hosting this annual event again in Hitchin market square. It's a great fundraising opportunity for Phase as well as helping to raise their profile in Hitchin. They need helpers on the day to run stalls as well as support planning and preparing in advance. There will be a couple of short planning meetings. Contact the office if you are able to volunteer, it's a fun event! office@phase-hitchin.org.

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Physics and Mathematics Teacher Internship Programme: The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School is running a four-week internship programme in June/ July 2020 focusing on Mathematics and Physics. Participants will receive a bursary of £300 per week and will have the opportunity to explore a potential career in teaching. To take part participants will require an A-level in Mathematics and must be completing an undergraduate degree course in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Geography or a related subject. For further

information please contact teachingschool@cvms.co.uk or complete the application form at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P_M_Internship2020

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Job Club Starts from Wed 22nd January 10am-12 noon for 8 weeks. If you or someone you know is looking for work, they can come to Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin and get invaluable support to retrain and/or re-join the job market. For more info contact: mobile 07931833838 or email leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk

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Ecobricks are continuing

Fill **2 litre** bottles with a minimum of **350-400g** of single use plastic only and take them to **Walsworth Road Baptist Church**, Saturdays 10am-12pm or leave them in the plastic boxes outside their church doors.



Please do not leave them in our porch!



This week we remember two Assumptionists who worked in England. Most of us knew Fr Paschal Casserly. It was after retirement in France ,where he had spent most of his priesthood teaching maths and working among the young men seeking their vocation, that Fr Paschal came to Hitchin. He was much appreciated by his former pupils and some made the journey from France to express their appreciation. Fr Martin Carberry died, aged 33, from cancer. He had been a most active young priest at Nottingham. Having had an arm amputated he learned to use a knitting machine to keep himself busy and even tried to play tennis. He was a splendid example of accepting God's will in most difficult circumstances.



Nor can we fail to be genuinely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental effects of any employment of nuclear devices. ... the threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned. For they exist in the service of a mentality of fear ... *Pope Francis*

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 163
 Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Lifelong Sharing
 The lasting union expressed by the marriage vows is more than a formality or a traditional formula...for believers, it is also a covenant before God that calls for fidelity.



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: 5 Monday Team: 4



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