



# 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 1875

25 Jan – 1 Feb 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday ordinary time Year A – 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 8:23-9:3](#), [Cor 1:10-13.17](#), [Mat 4:12-23](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**Psalm:** **The Lord is my light and my help.**

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!

**Next week:** [Mal 3:1-4](#), [Heb 2:14-18](#), [Luke 2:22-40](#)



**Ramblings** Jesus gathered people around him who became his friends and apostles. In praying for Christian Unity, we recognise, like Jesus, that we are stronger together than we are apart. **Pope Francis:** *“As God’s holy people, we constantly find ourselves on the threshold of entering his kingdom. It is easy to forget the fundamental equality that exists among us: once we were all slaves to sin but the Lord saved us in baptism and called us his children. We too easily think that the grace granted to us is our property, something we are owed. The gifts we have received from God can also blind us to the gifts given to other Christians. It is a grave sin to belittle or despise the gifts the Lord has given to our brothers and sisters, and think that God holds them in less esteem. In entertaining such thoughts, we allow the grace we have received to become a source of pride, injustice and division. The worship befitting the kingdom of God, the worship demanded by justice, is a celebration that includes everyone; a feast in which gifts received are available to and shared by all. In taking steps towards the promised land – a land of unity - we must recognize that the blessings we have received are not ours by right, but come to us as a gift and were given to be shared with others. We must acknowledge the value of the grace granted to other Christian communities and want to partake of the gifts of others. A Christian people renewed and enriched by this exchange of gifts will be a people capable of journeying firmly and confidently on the path that leads to unity!”*

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Many thanks to you all for your very kind donations to Pax Christi last weekend (Peace Sunday). A total of £206.07 was raised.

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**Saturday 1 February** - Reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 9.30am in the Hall, moving into the Church (Parents and Children).

### Diary Dates

<b>Sun 26 January</b>		
<b>Coffee Morning – Diapalante</b>		
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<b>2pm Helping Herts Homeless AGM – Hall</b>		
<b>Mon 27 January</b>		
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall 6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall 7.15pm
<b>Tue 28 January St Thomas Aquinas</b>		
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall 7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service 7.15pm
<b>2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All welcome.</b>		
<b>Wed 29 January</b>		
Rosary		RCIA 7.30pm
<b>6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall</b>		
<b>Thurs 30 January</b>		
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp 6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir 8pm
<b>Fri 31 January St John Bosco,</b>		
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina 2pm EC
<b>Sat 1 February</b>		
<b>10.30am First Reconciliation Hall and church</b>		
<b>Sun 2 February</b>		
<b>Coffee Morning – Parents and Toddlers</b>		
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<b>5pm Mass &amp; Confirmation Session 3 in the hall.</b>		

## Other items

**26<sup>th</sup> Jan 5pm.** Taize service at St Mark's where choir and members are leading a service of quiet reflection with prayers, readings and music in the tradition of Taize, the ecumenical community in France. Members of all churches will be welcome.

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**Job Club Every Wednesday 10am-12 noon for the next 7 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.

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**Ash Wednesday Lunch 26 February 2020 St Mark's Church 12 noon** Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day the previous day symbolises the eating up of all food in the house ready for Lent. The Ash Wednesday lunch represents frugality. Therefore the lunch will consist of soup and roll and a piece of fruit, tea and/or coffee. A Traidcraft stall will also be available.

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**CTH Lent Groups 2020 beginning March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5.**

The Study guide for 2020 is **Living Faith** by Krish Kandiah. Travel back in time to stare intently at the cross of Jesus. Take time to explore the meaning that surrounds this most defining

moment in history. Each of the six studies consider the final words of Jesus to discover another level of living faith. We are welcomed: **To Forgiveness; To Service; To Hope; To Adoption; To Empathy; To Trust.**

If you would like to host or lead a group please contact Helen Richardson 07880 682681 [helenwrich@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwrich@btinternet.com) by 16 February. If you are running a year round house group/prayer group and are willing to pause your study and join in this CTH one do let me know. Would existing groups let me know how many people from other churches you could accommodate for the Lent period. The blessing of small discussion groups made up other traditions is that they enrich the understanding and interpretations of our Christian life. Those who have participated in previous years have found them helpful and interesting.

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**An Experience of Christian Meditation** – We invite you to join us for an experience of Christian Meditation on Saturday 21 March 2020 at 10.30am until 2pm here at Our Lady's Church. Martin Zetter, the representative for The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) will be the leader for the day. There will be books for sale and literature to take away. A shared lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Mary Dawson on 01462 713872 or [mdpegs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mdpegs@yahoo.co.uk)



Fr Michael and I (Fr Andrew) were fortunate enough to have Fr Yves Laurant as our tutor for Holy Scripture. Fr Yves lectures were always perfectly prepared and he willingly answered questions during lecture time or in his study. When our study house in Belgium closed Fr Yves was moved to Brussels where he was chaplain to care homes. His quiet way and ability to listen to people was a great asset in this apostolate which he accomplished so well after a life of tutoring our students.

**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 164

Our Daily Love - Conjugal Love - Lifelong Sharing A love that is weak or infirm, incapable of accepting marriage as a challenge to be taken up and fought for, reborn, renewed and reinvented until death, cannot sustain a great commitment.



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 01462 459126</b> 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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<b>Parish Administrator</b> Cheryl Saunders <a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a>	<b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Susanna Hawksley <a href="mailto:susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk">susannahawksley@rcdow.org.uk</a> Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a>
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This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 1**



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)