



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 1876

1-8 Feb - THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 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: Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Psalm: Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Is 58:7-10, Cor 2:1-5, Matt 5:13-16



Ramblings

A star led the Magi to Jesus who was himself the light. Jesus begins his ministry as the light promised by God to lead not only his people but all peoples to salvation. Simeon proclaimed him the light of the nations while holding him. For Simeon to know that this particular baby was Jesus, a light must have shone out of him as he was being offered to God. Jesus' presentation heralded the time when he would offer himself to the Father totally on the Cross. Not only did he prove the prophecies true but also that God fulfils his promises. In doing so he gave them much greater meaning; showing his complete love for the Father and his complete love for us. Not wanting one of us to be lost, it is no wonder that St Paul wrote: *"It was essential that (Jesus) became completely like us so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest, able to atone for our sins. It is because he has been through temptation that he is able to help others who are tempted."* Pope Francis rightly calls this day a day of encounter: *"What does this mean for us?"* He asks, *"We, too, are called to welcome Jesus who comes to meet us. To encounter him - the God of life - means encountering him every day of our lives; not now and then, but every day. To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice. And we do not meet the Lord virtually, but directly, we encounter him in our lives, in the concreteness of life."* And, at each encounter, his light grows stronger within us.

††††††††††

Thank you all for your generosity to the recent One World Group Coffee Morning. A total of £89.75 was raised. The proceeds will go to Pax Christi.

Diary Dates

Sun 2 February			
Coffee Morning – Parents and Toddlers			
††††††††††			
5pm Mass & Confirmation Session 3 in the hall.			
Mon 3 February			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
Tue 4 February			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
2.30pm Mass at Stagenhoe. All are welcome.			
††††††††††			
8pm – UCM – Welcome back and AGM - LCR			
Wed 5 February			
Rosary		RCIA	7.30pm
2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All are welcome.			
††††††††††			
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall			
Thurs 6 February			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir	8pm
10.35am St Pio Meeting after Mass - LCR			
Fri 7 February			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
Sat 8 February			
10am – RE Session - EC			
Sun 9 February			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
††††††††††			
6pm – Confirmation Session 4 - Hall			

7.30 pm 26 Feb - Every three months the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams review and set their local policing priorities. These are the issues that affect local communities at a local level. The Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood team are holding their next meeting at at St John's Community Centre on St John's Road in Hitchin (SG4 9JP) and would very much welcome your input. The event will be a public meeting, which anyone is welcome to attend, so please feel free to mention the meeting to anyone you think may be interested. I would be grateful if you would RSVP to Cynthia.combe@hert.pnn.police.uk

††††††††††

Mon 3 Feb after 10:00 Mass - Come and help dismantle the crib and have a cuppa. Thank you!

††††††††††

Please see the notice board or the Foodbank page on the parish website for a full report about the success of your donations to the 2019 Christmas hamper campaign.

††††††††††

DOUBLE DONATION WEEK is back, so if you're planning on shopping, please use #easyfundraising and do it before 2nd Feb! This is a great opportunity to raise TWICE as much for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin at no extra cost to yourself!

Visit: <http://efraising.org/H32LUluRkv>

††††††††††

 **Live sustainably:**

Leaving electrical appliances on standby is one of the most common ways to waste money and electricity. Turn them off at the socket or unplug them.

.††††††††††

9th Feb is the BMS World Mission Prayer Day this year. Walsworth Road Baptist church will be open from 2.30 on Sun 9 Feb with a display on this missionary theme, and a range of opportunities for information and prayer. There will be videos, info sheets other displays and hopefully a sensory area too, all with a focus on opportunity to pray for the range of actions which BMS undertakes. There are no 'set times' apart from the start, and the display will lead into 'regular' worship at 6.30 that evening. We hope to offer tea/coffee during the afternoon.

††††††††††

Sat 22 Feb 10am - 2pm 'A Journey with Jesus' A Time of Reflection on the Word for Catechists but open to all parishioners. On the threshold of Lent in this Year of the Word, the Diocese is delighted to welcome the Wintershall Education Team to lead this day in which catechists will experience and reflect upon 'Encounters with Jesus' from Wintershall actors, and upon the Stations of the Cross. Trish will be supporting the Wintershall team with scripture drama of the Cana Wedding. Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Rd, W6 7DG. Please let Trish know if you want to attend.



In this year marking the 175th anniversary of the foundation of the Assumptionists each week we look briefly at the life of an assumptionist whose anniversary falls that week. Fr Marie-Louis Deydier was for a time headmaster of St Michael's College here at Hitchin. But he is remembered with gratitude at Brockley (South East London) for his work for the injured, bereaved and homeless during the blitz when he was out every night giving help and support to all.

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 165

If (conjugal) love is to overcome all trials and remain faithful in the face of everything, it needs the gift of grace to strengthen and elevate it.



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: 1 Monday Team: 2



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