



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 1877

8-15 February 2020 – 5th Sunday in 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 58:7-10, Cor 2:1-5, Matt 5:13-16

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

Psalm: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, Hear Us!

Next week: Ecc 15:15-20, Cor 2:6-10, Matt 5:17-37



Ramblings *You are the light of the world, O people, light for the kingdom of God – we sing, echoing the words of Jesus. The fact that we are lights is indisputable. The question for us, however, is what kind of lights are we or what kind of lights do we want to be? We are not the source of our light. Our light is given to us by Christ as a gift. The energy for that light is the Holy Spirit. Yet, we can distort and subvert our light and lead people away from God, or, just hide it away as Jesus suggests. Too easily we complicate what Jesus asks of us in an effort to prove to ourselves we are not up to the task or that it is beyond our capabilities. Yet what Jesus asks of us is simple: to let his light shine through wherever we are, in whatever we do and in whatever situation we find ourselves. Simple, however, does not necessarily mean trouble-free. Letting Jesus light shine in situations of injustice, in school, at work, in conversations that are racist, anti-LGBTQ+, faith-hate, etc. etc. is not always easy and demands courage. But we have the Spirit to help, guide and encourage us if we but trust – after all, Jesus has entrusted his light to us because he believes, without a doubt, that we are capable of letting it shine in all situations, however difficult. “It is now time to wake from sleep. Our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone, the day is at hand. So, cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light. Behave becomingly as in the day.” Rm 13:11-13*

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Two bedroom house in Hitchin available for one month from 22 February in return for cat sitting. Please contact Pippa at pippa@streettalkuk.org

Diary Dates

Sun 9 February			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
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5pm Mass & Confirmation Session 4 in the hall.			
Mon 10 February St Scholastica			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
6.30pm - 7.30pm Praying For Young Lives. Phase are keen to grow the prayer for young lives and as part of this we are trying a one hour prayer meeting before the next CTH meeting at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church (see below). Join us or an hour of prayer for young lives. Whatever your experience of prayer we will make sure you feel comfortable & welcomed.			
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8 pm CTH Council at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church - tea/coffee from 7.30. This is the first meeting to be chaired by the Rev Jane Robson and, after a few items for report and discussion, she will start a conversation on environmental issues, her focus for the year, with the title (quoting Greta Thunberg) ‘The world, in case you hadn't noticed is currently on fire....’			
Tue 11 February			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm
7.30pm – FHC Session 1 – Hall (Parents only)			
Wed 12 February			
Rosary		RCIA	7.30pm
2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All welcome			
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6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall			

Thurs 13 February			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir	8pm
Fri 14 February Sts Cyril & Methodius			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
Sun 16 February			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			



Visit to Sr Anne-Marie Trish and Frank Benucci visited last weekend and stayed at the mother house of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in St Jacut les Pins in Brittany. We were delighted on arrival to find her standing at the window waiting for us and she has barely changed. She is very happy being looked after by the nuns and carers in the medical wing but she is mobile and chatty. She gets tired quite easily so we met her mainly at mealtimes. She remembers the parish and its parishioners in detail and asked after many people and was delighted with her cards from parishioners. She sleeps well, is woken up by carers for her medication and enjoys her favourite breakfast in bed every day of bread, jam and coffee. We had lunch and dinner with her and were joined by the English speaking nuns who had been at Hitchin, Luton and Whetstone. They all shared memories of our parish from years ago when their convent was still in Convent Close. Sr AM will be 80 on 30th May this year (I will arrange for us to sign cards for her) and also will be celebrating 60 years of religious life on 11th August. So 2020 is a very important year for her. We were made so welcome by everyone who seemed delighted to meet us and eager to chat and practice their English. The food was wonderful – lunch had 5 courses! Soup, Salad, Main, Cheese and Pudding and wine at lunchtime. How they all stay so slim goodness knows! We went to Vespres on Saturday evening and joined in the procession of the candles for the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord on

Sunday. Sr AM goes to Mass in an upstairs room on the same level as her bedroom where the Mass from the chapel is televised and then communion is taken up to them. There is clearly so much love for her from all the community and the younger nuns look after her and the other elderly or ailing retirees so wonderfully – it is a wonderful place for her to live. Her brother is still alive and living close by but we were not able to visit as his care home had a sickness bug so no visitors allowed. For the newer parishioners who are reading this Sr AM was pastoral assistant in our parish about 18 years ago. At that time the role was not split so she was very busy in our parish and helped to make it the wonderful community we now continue to share. May God bless her always.

Other Dates

Sunday 9th February Baptist World Mission Prayer Day, Walsworth Road Baptist Church will be open from 2.30 with a display on missionary themes 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 the Baptist Missionary Society undertakes. There are no 'set times' apart from the start, and the display will lead into 'regular' worship at 6.30 that evening All are welcome..

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Scripture events for the Year of the Word February

To book for events go to

<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith> or

<https://www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/events/scripture-from-scratch/>

11th Feb **Journeying with the Bible** - Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz & Sr Monica Cardona STL

Where does the bible come from and when did it take place?

7-8.30pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

13th Feb **2020 The Year of Saint Matthew – Scripture from Scratch** – with Sr Anne Walsh OP **Miracles**

7.30-9pm at Niland Conference Centre, Bushey WD23 4EE

25th Feb **Journeying with the Bible** - Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz & Sr Monica Cardona STL

How do we know it really happened?

7-8.30pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

27th Feb 2020 **The Year of Saint Matthew – Scripture from Scratch** – with Sr Anne Walsh OP
Parables
7.30-9pm at Niland Conference Centre, Bushey
WD23 4EE

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Wednesday 12th February 2.30-4pm. CAFOD information afternoon - CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information afternoon with a guest speaker, Christine Allen, Director, who has first-hand experience of our work overseas.

Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support.

Meeting will take place from 2.30 – 4pm at CAFOD's Volunteer Centre, 1st Floor, Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, N14 4HE. Bookings required and taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

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Valentines Dinner For Lone Parents Friday 14th February 6pm – 9.30pm Are you widowed, divorced, separated or mature single? You are cordially invited to our Valentine's Dinner at Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin SG5 2PG. Special treats await you. Interactive games and great support networking opportunities and much more. Dinner is free but donations welcome. **RSVP by Monday 10th February. Email: admin@hopepointintl.org. www.hopepointintl.org**

26th February, 12 noon Ash Wednesday Lunch for Christian Aid will be held at **St Mark's Church**. 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. Donations of £5 are invited for the work of Christian Aid. A Traidcraft stall will also be available.

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Week beginning 1st March CTH Lent Groups
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 helenwrigh@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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28th.29th Feb & 1st March 2020 residential weekend Rediscover Your Marriage – Retrouvaille simply means 'rediscovery'. The programme offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the programme call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 –or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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Saturday 21st March at 10.30 for 11 until 2pm Meditation Day at Our Lady's People of all faiths and none are invited to an experience of Christian Meditation. Martin Zetter of The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) will be our leader for the day. There will be books for sale and literature to take away and a shared lunch will be provided. If you would like to come or need more for information, please contact Mary Dawson: 01462 713872 or mdpegs@yahoo.co.uk

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3rd to 5th April 2020 Beginning Experience Weekend A healing weekend for men and women who are separated, divorced or widowed will be held at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

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Saturday 30 May 2020 3pm - Thanksgiving for Matrimony - Mass for couples celebrating 5, 10, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries at Westminster Cathedral. Cardinal Vincent will be inviting married couples in the Diocese who are celebrating particular wedding anniversaries during 2020 to join him in the Cathedral for a thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony. If you are interested in attending this event, please supply Cheryl in the office with your names, wedding date, full postal address, email address and telephone number by **Saturday 28 March 2020**





17-19 July 2020 National Justice & Peace Network Conference

Initial details and booking form are now on the parish website under Events. **Action for 2020 – Life on**

Earth - a family friendly event for all who want to help save the earth that God made for us to live on. Early booking discounts.

Other items of interest

Right to Life has three job vacancies. Go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/job-vacancies/> for details

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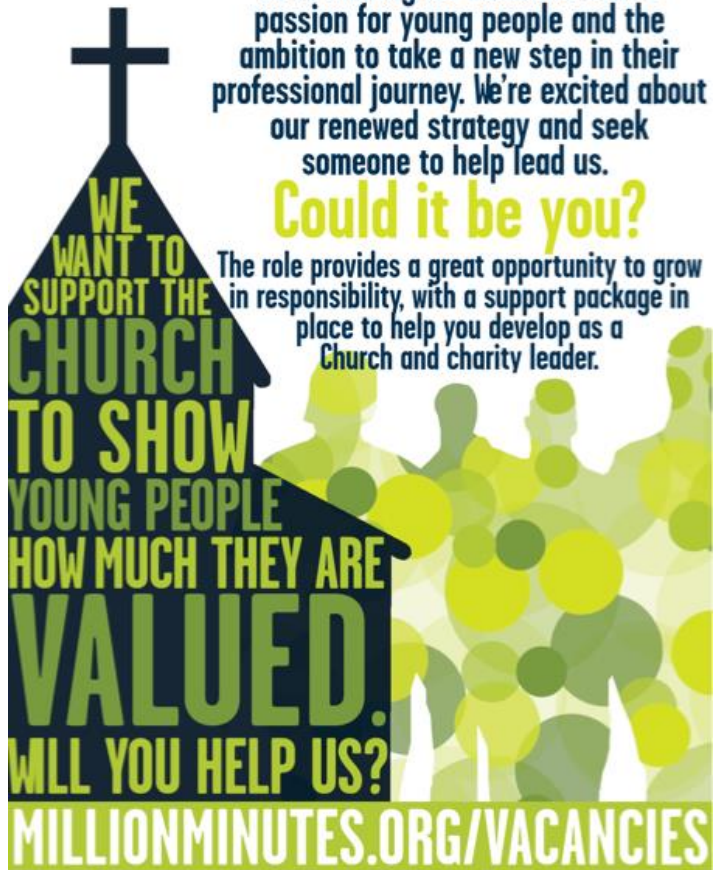
The SVP are distributing 11,500 **Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, Pavement magazine, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW DIRECTOR?

We're looking for someone with a passion for young people and the ambition to take a new step in their professional journey. We're excited about our renewed strategy and seek someone to help lead us.

Could it be you?

The role provides a great opportunity to grow in responsibility, with a support package in place to help you develop as a Church and charity leader.



This week a few words on our with friends who went off serve first English Assumptionist. The future Fr Wilfrid Manser as a boy was playing with friends who went off to serve Benediction. He tagged along and the priest let him wear a cassock and cotta. This was the start of the move which resulted in he and his father being received into the Church together. Ordained in 1909 Fr Wilfrid's final apostolate was as parish priest here from 1932 -1949. Two for the windows in the present parish hall are dedicated to his memory.

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 166

The fact that one man unites with one woman in an indissoluble bond, and that they remain inseparable despite every kind of difficulty, even when there is no longer hope for children, can only be a sign of a great mystery. (St. Robert Ballarmino, De sacramento matrimonii, I, 2).

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: 2 Monday Team: 3



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