



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 1878

15-22 February 2020 – 6th 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: [Ecc 15:15-20](#), [Cor 2:6-10](#), [Matt 5:17-37](#)

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Psalm: They are happy who follow God's law

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next week: [Lev 19:1-2.17-18](#), [Cor 3:16-23](#), [Matt 5:38-48](#)



Ramblings- teaching Jesus said: "Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them." Matt 5:17. Ecclesiasticus speaks about Commandments. Paul writes about wisdom and the Spirit who reveals the depths of God to us. Our lives are governed by financial laws, health and safety laws, GDPR laws, Charity Laws, and many others. Laws which, if you break, you are penalised. Yet the true purpose of law concerns justice in order to maintain and sustain a healthy society; thus creating a harmony in which everyone feels welcomed and at home. Both the Law, the Commandments and the Prophets all seek to help us live fruitful and fulfilling lives that express thanks, praise and glory to God. It would be better to think of Church Law in this way: as a set of guidelines to help us make, what Paul would call, wise decisions. A wisdom that helps us make decisions that benefit not only us but also our families and those around us; decisions made out of respect, out of honour and dignity for oneself and for others. For some this means living by the phrase WWJD (*What would Jesus do?*). Jesus is telling us how to live the law of God out of love, compassion, mercy, generosity and gratuitousness. Jesus wants to show us that living in God's way brings us closer to God. In being closer to God, the gift of wisdom given by the Spirit reveals ever more clearly the wisdom, love and mercy (the depths) of God. *The Commandments of God are higher than all the treasures of the earth. Whoever has acquired them has received God within himself.* Isaac of Nineveh 7C.

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

Diary Dates

Sun 16 February			
Coffee Morning – One World Group			
Mon 17 February			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	Half Term	Beavers Scout Hall	Half Term
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	Half Term
11am Mass at Elmside all welcome			
Tue 18 February			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	Half Term
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	No Eucharistic Service	
8pm – UCM – Pancake Making - Hall			
Wed 19 February			
Rosary		No RCIA	
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall			
Thurs 20 February			
Italian Club	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	Half Term	Choir	
Fri 21 February Chair of St Peter			
Parent & Toddlers Hall	Half Term	Lectio Divina	2pm EC
Sun 23 February			
Coffee Morning – Traidcraft featuring the Fairtrade stall. This is the beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight. Money raised on teas / coffees will be used to buy Traidcraft Gifts for Life. If you can help by bringing in cake or helping to serve please let Trish know. The stall will also be open at the Ash Wednesday lunch at St Mark's on 26th Feb.			
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6pm Benediction for love & unity in the family			

Sacramental Co-ordinator role We are extremely happy to welcome Robert Hitchcock into the parish team as the new Sacramental Coordinator who is replacing Susanna Hawksley. Robert comes to us with a great deal of experience of working with young people of all ages, leading days of reflection and retreats as well as offering sacramental preparation input. He is currently completing a Master Degree at St Mary's Twickenham.

I am sure you will all offer him a true parish welcome when he arrives in the coming week. He will be living in the upstairs flat of Christopher House. Because of his experience of working with young people we hope he will be able to continue to promote our Son Seekers, children's liturgies and other work with the young people of the parish. He will be a great blessing to the parish.

Rob will be working alongside Susanna for the next few weeks, giving him a chance to have a good handover period and to get to know those involved in this year's sacramental programmes. We will have a formal goodbye to Susanna when she has fixed the date for her departure and we wish her and husband Jeremy all the best in their new life in the north.

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KISS Coffee Morning – Thank you to all who supported in any way last weekend's coffee morning which raised £121 to support its work in Uganda. During this last week, students and Staff at The John Henry Newman School have been playing their part by holding their annual KSS Week of fundraising activities and events ahead of the half-term break.

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THE NEXT BAPTISM COURSE is on Sunday 8th March from 3pm - 4:30pm and Sunday 15th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm followed by Rite of First Anointing at 5pm Mass. Both sessions are necessary to complete the course. Please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard by the hall door. Babies are welcome!

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Churches Together in Hitchin Lent groups



A list of the groups, starting end of February/beginning of March and all using the study guide **Living Faith** by Krish Kandiah, is now in the porch. Do sign up and use this opportunity to deepen your faith and meet informally with people from other churches.

There is a group in our church on **Wednesday mornings 10.30am-12** in the Emmanuel Centre meeting room led by Trish.

Crafting Together



You are invited to join our free Club commencing with our first meeting on 20 February 2020.

Open to all, as a 'pop-in' between 1 and 4pm in the

Lower Committee Room.

The aim of the Crafting Together Club is to do just that. We get together to enjoy our craft and maybe help others do the same. Covering Knitting, Crocheting, Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Tapestry, Card and Jewellery Making, Spinning and Weaving. Perhaps you have a current project with a problem and are tearing your hair out – bring it along and we may be able to help - the problem not your hair.

It is good to learn a new craft, but most of all we will enjoy ourselves and have a natter.

Any queries please call Carol on 01462 643533 or Liz on 01462 616289, but please come along. If answer phone is on please leave a message and we'll get back to you.



LENT is approaching and with that comes our preparations for Holy Week and the Triduum. There are a number of occasions when we will need help from a variety of ministries and generally. This is to forewarn you so you can plan to volunteer eagerly when the requests for help are sent out!

For **Ash Wednesday** there will be a call to **ministers of the Word** and **Eucharistic ministers** to serve at the Masses at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm. When the call comes would ministers please kindly respond as it is helpful to the co-ordinators to know they have all the Masses covered. Even if you do it every year please do not let this put you off volunteering this year. A reminder to all commissioned ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist – we promised to serve our parish by carrying out our ministry – so let's please answer the call when it comes.

Each Friday we will have **Stations of the Cross** after the 10am Mass. We will need people to lead these, so if you regularly come to the Friday Mass please let Trish know. All the materials are provided.

For the **Triduum services** we need a lot of help. **Maundy Thursday** in the enactment of the Gospel we need people willing to have their feet washed as apostles and in the congregation, and

people to take up the sacramental oils and offertory.

For this service and **Good Friday and the Easter Vigil** we will need ministers of the Word and Eucharist in abundance. Again if you planning to attend these services then please respond to the call.

All our services over the Holy Week are wonderful and prayerful because of the help our congregation and commissioned ministers give us. Thank you in anticipation for your offers of help with this year's service.

Other Dates

23rd February 4.15pm Full afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, cream scones, cake and tea or coffee. It is to be held at **Wakelin and Son coffee shop** after the shop closes. Fundraising was stimulated by Lily-May Betts who has a tumour on her optic nerve. She started chemo when she was 1 and that continues on a regular basis - she is now 3. Her sight is poor and she is fed through a tube because she cannot eat normally. She has been attending GOSH sensory unit at least once a week. Please support this if you are able.



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26th February, 12.30 pm Ash Wednesday Lunch for Christian Aid will be held on at St Mark's Church. To mark the beginning of Lent, this will be a frugal meal - soup and roll, fruit, tea and/or coffee - and donations of £5 are invited for the work of Christian Aid. A Traidcraft stall will also be available. Please let's support this worthy event. **The meal meets our need for fasting on the day.**

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Friday 28 February at 7pm. St David's Day concert in aid of The Passage at Methodist Central Hal. The Passage is a Christian Charity working with homeless people. The concert features the London Welsh Male Voice Choir with guest soloists Claire Jones (harp) and Aled Wyn Davies (tenor) and Guto Harri (Compère). Please book online through Eventbrite stdavidsday.eventbrite.co.uk Full details to book are on the website www.passage.org.uk or telephone 020 75921856 or email info@passage.org.uk

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Mondays 2nd, 16th and 23rd March 7.30-9pm **Lent with a view** at St Mary's Art historian, Zoe Davis, and the Rev Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale, are leading three sessions on what

they describe as 'amazing Art and Lent themes' These will be held in St Andrew's Chapel, St Mary's, on. All are welcome.

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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**

Other items of interest

Re-dedication of England as Mary's Dowry.



In 1381, in a world of political turmoil, King Richard II, having sought the assistance of Mary, Mother of God, dedicated England to Mary as a gift or 'dowry'. This year, the Christians of England are invited to offer themselves as a personal gift to her, in one great Re-dedication of

England as Mary's Dowry.

The Re-dedication, agreed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference in November 2017, is the culmination of a National Dowry Tour undertaken by the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. The Tour will have taken the Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham to every Catholic English Cathedral promoting prayer through Mary, the message of Walsingham and an understanding of the ancient title of Mary's Dowry. The final stop of the Dowry Tour will be at Westminster Cathedral from **19th to 22nd March**, with a further visit to the Cathedral from **26th to 28th March** in preparation for the **National Day of Re-dedication on the 29th March 2020.**

We are invited personally and communally as a parish to take part in The Re-dedication, through: The Angelus Promise – by which, in prayer, we say "yes" in union with Our Lady through the words of the Annunciation.

Communal Entrustment - by which, as a community we renew the vows of dedication made to Mary by King Richard II, praying together the Act of Entrustment. **More details on what we will do in the parish soon.**

Job vacancies for Invigilators

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/job-vacancies/>

① **Invigilators with the role of scribe and reader** required from February 2020 £8.21 per hour – rising to £8.71 per hour in April 2020 An opportunity has arisen for invigilators to join the team at John Henry Newman School.

② **The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School** is looking to recruit efficient and industrious Examination Invigilators to ensure the smooth-running of their Public and School Exams for the Summer 2020.

See parish website for details of both schools and application process.

Please see the parish news page on the website for advice from the Bishops on the coronavirus.

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If you have a key safe you can register the details with the Community police team so that in case of emergency the emergency services could enter without breaking in. You can contact

Heather Burrows at heather.burrows@ppn.police.uk and she will give you details on how to register and the information required.





Chocolate sponsors needed!!

Phase is preparing for forthcoming Easter workshops. These take the real message of Easter to year 6 students, explore the Easter story in more detail and gives them a chance to ask their own questions about Easter. We give each child that takes part an Easter egg from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, which comes with a short leaflet explaining the Easter story. If you would like to sponsor a box of eggs we would be really grateful. The children love them (obviously!) and it's a great way to share what we believe about Easter. The eggs cost £1 each and we give a box of 30 to each class - £30. If this is something you would like to support please pop into the Phase office in Christchurch, phone 01462 422940 or email.office@phase-hitchin.org.

Phase cake sale - 7th March. This takes place at Christchurch where refreshments will be served between 10am and 12 noon. The cakes sold will raise funds for Phase. If you would like to donate a cake or biscuits we would be very grateful.


Plant sale - we are planning to include a plant sale at the Phase Fair in the Square on Saturday 27th June. If you enjoy growing seedlings (of anything, fruits, veg, flowers) could you plant a few extra to donate to us to sell?


 In peace children bury their parents. War violates the order of nature and causes parents to bury their children. *Herodotus, c.484 BC, Greek historian*

 This week I mention an Assumptionist who had an important role in our history. Fr Victorin Galabert, who held doctorates in medicine and theology, founded our first houses in Eastern Europe. Seeing the urgent need for health care and education he persuaded Fr d'Alzon to found the Oblates of the Assumption (1865) for this important apostolate

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 167**
Marriage is likewise a friendship marked by passion, but a passion always directed to an ever more stable and intense union.

 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: 3 Monday Team: 4

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