



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 1879

22-29 February 2020 – 7th 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: Lev 19:1-2, 17-18, Cor 3:16-23, Matt 5:38-48

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next week: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11



Ramblings

“Love your neighbour as yourself; love your enemies and pray for them!” The sayings of Jesus certainly do not help make life easy. But stop! We do not always love ourselves, in fact there are times when we think we are terrible and hate the way we are and act. So, if we take Jesus’ words too literally, we could easily find ourselves in a dilemma. However, if love of self means being the best that we can be for God, we will want to be loving and caring, generous and selfless, aware of other’s needs, gratuitous with our gifts, forgiving, and always seek to create harmony. And, we would want this for those we love and our neighbours and we would also want that for our enemies, so that they would stop doing evil and let their inner goodness and love break forth. Jesus, it would seem, wants to wean us away from just keeping the rules, which the scribes and Pharisees did with aplomb, and enter into the spirit of the Law which is always about creating a harmonious, caring and safe society that everyone can call home! “Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.” Oscar Wilde. “The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.” (G.K. Chesterton) “Wars begin in bitterness, rancour, the desire for revenge, to make someone pay; thus destroying families, friendships, neighbourhoods, and so much more. . . We must pray always for the grace not to hold grudges and for the grace to pray for our enemies, to pray for the people who do not love us, for the grace of peace.” (Pope Francis)

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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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Many thanks to you all for your kind donations to CAFOD. A total of £228.78 was raised.

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Fridays in Lent there will be Stations of the Cross after the 10am Mass.

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7th March 2pm Lent reflection for those who have been bereaved

You are invited to a time of reflection in the church. This includes a simple Stations of the Cross followed by reflective activities and then refreshments. This is another chance for us to remember those we have loved and lost and pray for them and ask the Lord to continue to comfort those who grieve. All are welcome.

Diary Dates

Sun 23 February			
Coffee Morning – Traidcraft			
Mon 24 February			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am EC	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
Tue 25 February			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service church	7.15pm
2.30pm Mass at Milford Lodge. All welcome.			

Wed 26 February

Rosary RCIA 7.30pm

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall



Ash Wednesday. Masses will be at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm. There will also be ashes distributed at 11am at Our Lady's School.

Ash Wednesday lunch We mark the beginning of Lent each year with this simple meal in support of Christian Aid. This year, it is at St Mark's Church 12.30 pm. There will be a Traidcraft stall. All are welcome.

Thurs 27 February

Italian Club 1pm Christian Meditation Grp 6.30pm EC

Brownies 6.30pm Scout Hall Choir 8pm

1pm – Craft Circle - LCR

Fri 28 February

Parent & Toddlers Hall 9.30am Lectio Divina 2pm EC

Sat 29 February

10am RE Session - EC

Sun 1 March

Coffee Morning – OLSSG

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6pm – Confirmation Session – Hall

Sun 1 March continued



2.30pm We are holding our next Service of Healing and Wholeness. Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas. Marriage and Family Life: enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. Youth and Evangelisation: supporting young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table, even though they may be in work. Sadly, poverty is deepening across our Diocese and more people are turning to foodbanks for help. For children who get free meals at school, the holidays can be a time of hunger because the family budget doesn't stretch to cover three meals a day. One initiative the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal supports is school holiday clubs, where children can have fun, and prepare and eat a healthy meal during the school holidays.



Another Assumptionist who had an important role in our history was Fr Henri Halluin, a secular priest at Arras, had started an orphanage. When he joined the Assumptionists the orphanage came with him eventually becoming an important education centre in The Arras region.

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 168

Marriage is not instituted solely for the procreation of children but also that mutual love might be properly expressed, that it should grow and mature. (Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Gaudium et Spes, 50).

If have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487**
a at her know your prayer intentions

Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

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Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk



This week's counting teams:

Sunday Team: 4 Monday Team: 1



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or

Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net