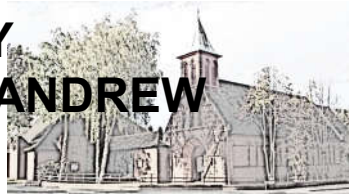




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1880

29 February – 7 March – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT 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: Gen 2:7-9.3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Psalm: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, Hear Us!



Next week: Gen 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-19, Matt 17:1-9

Ramblings Power of Grace Why do we focus on temptation today when St Paul makes it eloquently clear that we have all been saved by Grace through Jesus Christ? Shouldn't we be rejoicing? Let us join Jesus in the desert. He is hungry, thirsty, weak, even slightly delirious. He went into the desert to discern the Father's will for himself and chose a very human way to do this. What the temptations reveal is that Jesus has discovered his Father's will and that his mission demanded total trust, total obedience, courage, determination and loyalty. That he would have great power to be used not for himself but for others. They also showed him that the Father was not going to make decisions for him or tell him what to do. No. The Father placed his complete trust in Jesus and we see him here in the desert making up his mind and responding by placing his complete trust in the Father. In remembering the story of the Fall in Genesis, Jesus realised that the consequences of playing God would affect negatively all succeeding generations. Jesus had spent much of his life repairing and helping build houses for many different families. He was well tuned in the challenges and difficulties as well as the joys and successes of family life. Now, he realised, he had the power to build up, give hope and harmony to family and community life. He chose to work for the common good and stimulate justice and peace as the stable elements of community life. Jesus was proud of his Father's creation and wanted to help us share in that pride. Lent is a time to discover true pride: the pride the Father has in us!!

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THE NEXT BAPTISM COURSE is on

Sun 8 Mar 3pm - 4:30pm and

Sun 15 Mar 3:30pm - 4:30pm

followed by Rite of First Anointing at the 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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We pray for Isobel Early whose funeral is on Wed 11 Mar at 11am here at Our Lady's Church. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

Diary Dates

Sun 1 March			
Coffee Morning – OLSSG			
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2.30pm Healing service - church			
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.			
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6pm Confirmation Session - Hall			
Mon 2 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am DH	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
7.30pm – PPC Meeting - LCR			
Tue 3 March			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service church	7.15pm
8pm UCM – LCR – St. Patrick's memories.			
Wed 4 March			
Rosary Church		RCIA	7.30pm
10.30am – Lent Course – EC			



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2.30pm Mass at Gosmore. All welcome.

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6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 5 March

Italian Club Hall	1pm	Christian Meditation Grp	6.30pm EC
Brownies Scout Hall	6.30pm	Choir Church	8pm

10am St Pio Mass

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1pm – Craft Circle – LCR

Fri 6 March

Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
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9.15am – Mass at Our Lady’s School (and on the 13th as well). Parishioners are welcome to attend these Masses at the school.

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1.30pm - An invitation by Hitchin Council of Churches to help celebrate **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, Hitchin. Planned locally by a CTH group using the materials provided for a thoughtful service about the lives of people in Zimbabwe. Followed by refreshments.

Sat 7 March

09.30am - FHC Session – Hall – for parents and children.

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2pm – Bereavement & Reflection Meeting –

Lower Committee Room or church

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. Please let Trish know if you are planning to come so we have an idea of numbers to cater for.



Sun 8 March

Coffee Morning – KISS

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3pm – Baptism Course – Hall

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6pm – Confirmation Session – Hall

meal with both the body and blood of Christ. We spend time praying for our needs and the needs of others. You will be very welcome to join us.

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Other Dates

Fri 6 Mar - Lent Family Fast Day is the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers and, as it has been for



sixty years, is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Our next CAFOD collection will be on 14/15 Mar. Please give whatever you can to help experts like Sister Consilia (a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe) continue their vital work.

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Sun 15 Mar at 3pm, "Talk & Tea" in Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd. Frances Hodgson Burnett and the Secret Gardens of Victorian Childhood. A talk by Dr Gavin Budge. Tickets on the door £10 For information tel. 01462 646257

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Sat 21 Mar 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 on tel 01462 713872 or mdpegs@yahoo.co.uk

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Fri 27 Mar 7.30pm At the Foot of the Cross: A Meditation in Music for Passiontide with Holy Saviour Church Choir & The Radcliffe Singers, directed by Trevor Hughes at Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd. Admission : £13 : Concessions £9: Students free. For further information call 01462 675496.

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Sat 30 May at 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



During Lent the Eucharistic services on Tuesdays at 7.15pm will have a different focus using a series of reflections provided by the Diocese. We will share a Eucharistic

names, wedding date, full postal address, email address and telephone number by; **Saturday**
28 March 2020

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Other items of interest

Thank You!

A total of £100.43 was raised by the One World Group at a recent coffee morning. The proceeds will go to Herts Welcome Refugees.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

AND... A big thank you to everyone who supported the Traidcraft coffee morning last Sunday in any way especially those who helped to set up, serve and tidy up. The cakes provided were wonderful and £110 was raised. This will be used to purchase Traidcraft Gifts for Life.

Many thanks, Frances

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CTH Lent Groups If you missed signing up for one do contact Helen Richardson on 07880 682681 for details of when and where. It's not too late to join one.

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Lenten acts of service and devotion

- support clergy and congregation: The living-room and dining-room in the parish house needs redecoration. Polyfilla work followed by a coat of paint should do it. However, there's a good deal of furniture to be shifted and protected from drips. In the church - Mike Eltringham did excellent work to improve the airflow through the fan-assist radiators last year. The walls above the radiators are now showing more dusty marks and need cleaning and painting. These jobs will be quicker and easier with many hands. Most of the work will be unskilled - but help and advice from experienced decorators are always very welcome. If you can help please get in touch - and we'll get dates in the diary. John Scott

johnsletchworth@ntlworld.com or 07966 800517.

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Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020

This weekend, please take a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet as you leave Mass. The Appeal contributes to three mission areas of the Church: Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, and Service in Society. With your support, the Cardinal

has launched a new programme to alleviate food poverty, which affects people in every part of the



Diocese. Your gift could help open up schools during the holidays – a time of hunger for many children who depend on the free meals they get at school. At the new school holiday activity clubs, children can have fun, help make a healthy meal to share, and families take home food to help them through this difficult time. You can support the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020 by donating, volunteering and remembering the work in your prayers. Please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/donate/cardinals-appeal/> for more information. There is a box in the wall by the Church Doors marked "Lenten Alms". Thank you for your continued generosity throughout the Lenten period.

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Please see the vacancy for a part time role as a PA in the Fundraising Department at the Diocese. <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/pa-to-director-of-development>

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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, 7.30 to 9.00 pm on Mondays 2nd, 16th and 23rd March. All are welcome

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Pirton Lent Hot Potato Talks The churches in Pirton are arranging a series of talks on challenging issues under the general title of 'Who are my neighbours?' - Wed evenings 7.30 - 9pm at Pirton Methodist Church, beginning on the 4 Mar with 'All of God's creation' by the Rev Malcolm Peacock. All welcome - further information from Gena on 07940 745151.

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CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



Advice regarding coronavirus.

Advice for parishes, schools and Catholic organisations has been issued by the Bishops' Conference of England regarding coronavirus. At this time, risk to individuals is low. The following is information on practical steps which parishes

can take to limit the spread of the virus:

1. Ensure everyone maintains good hygiene especially at Mass and parish gatherings.
2. Ask anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from taking communion from the Chalice and **receive the host on the hand only**. (We should be doing this anyway, every 'flu season.)

If you have to take the host on your tongue please go last up to communion.

3. Ensure good regular cleaning of surfaces which many people touch regularly.
4. Consider asking everyone attending Mass to sanitise their hands as they come into church using sanitized gel dispensers (these are available in the porch).
5. Ensure ministers of the Eucharist sanitise their hands before and after distributing communion (we should be doing this anyway as a matter of course.) This can be done by washing hands discreetly before proceeding to the sanctuary or using good quality hand gel discreetly. Remember to use good hand washing and gel use technique.
6. There is no need, as things stand, for the Chalice to be withdrawn or the sign of peace suspended, such as was advised during the 2009 'flu pandemic. This advice would only come if we had a very serious epidemic in the UK and at the time of writing this is unlikely.
7. When visiting parishioners at home, wash hands before giving the sacraments. No pastoral visits to people who are self-isolating until isolation ends. However, do offer phone support.

Further information and a detailed guide are available on the Bishops' Conference website at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/>

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Current shortages at the foodbank are sponge puddings, long-life fruit juice, and long-life/UHT milk. Please leave donations in the blue tub in the porch.

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New – Chatter Tables at Hitchin Library The Library is inviting anyone to drop in for a chat over tea, biscuits and various activities between 10.30-12pm on the first Friday of each month, beginning on 6th March. This is a new initiative by the Library, an opportunity for enjoying company in a relaxed setting. More information on 0300 123 4049.

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Accommodation request Chris Ducker, a member of the staff at Mission Direct, the international charity based in Burymead Road, is looking for accommodation in Hitchin (bed, no meals) on one Tuesday each month. In his own words he is 'married, male, aged 44, former missionary and Bible college teacher, living in Gloucestershire.' If you can help or would like to know more, contact him on chris.ducker@missiondirect.org

 <p>AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION The Kingdoms Come</p>	<p>Fr Judicael Nicholas spent the first 13 years of his priesthood in our school at Beius, Rumania. In 1943 he was asked to go to help at Odessa. Carrying out normal pastoral work he was accused of anti-soviet activity and spent 7 years in prison. He was a talented artist and skilled with work in enamel. His talents were used by the regime and he always considered that this saved his life. He was eventually released after intervention by the Vatican and French diplomatic services.</p>
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To donate to Our Lady's through text giving on your mobile phone !!
Just text **Parish HITCH** to **70800** to donate £5.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Faith Development Helpline</u></p> <p>If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost ring</p> <p style="text-align: center;">07398821315</p> <p>Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm. Confidential service provided. No need to identify yourself</p>	 <p>AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 168 Marriage is exclusive, faithful and open to new life. It shares everything in constant mutual respect. 'Such a love brings together the human and the divine, leads the partners to a free and mutual self-giving, experienced in tenderness and action, permeating their entire lives.' (Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Gaudium et Spes, 49).</p>
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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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 <p>This week's counting teams: Sunday Team: 5 Monday Team: 2</p>	 <p>Hospital</p>	<p>If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</p>
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