



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 1881

7-14 March – 2nd 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 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-19, Matt 17:1-9

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Psalm: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Intercession: Lord, Hear Us

Response: Lord, Graciously Hear Us!

Next week: Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42



Ramblings God's Presence Do you remember that Old Testament figure whose face shone like the sun and had to cover his face? . . . Yes, it was Moses! It happened after his encounter with God on Mount Sinai. Jesus often slipped away to be alone with God and those encounters must have made him glow with God's presence. It was this glow his apostles experienced on mount Tabor. We were given that presence in baptism when we were made temples of God. Like Moses and Jesus, therefore, it is in our encounters with God in prayer that God's presence begins to glow more strongly within. In the desert last week, Jesus discovered the power of God's presence - a power he would use for others. This week Jesus says that it is how we use our gifts, abilities, and power in the service of others that will show our true fidelity to God. In Lent we chip away at the screen we have built that hides God's presence from us, eager to discover the brightness of that presence. The more aware we are of the divine presence within, the more aware we will be of that presence and brightness of God in others. In reaching out in service to those in any kind of need we will best discover that presence. . . *"They glorified God in me." I SAW thee once and nought discerned for stranger to admire; a serious aspect, but it burned with no unearthly fire. Again, I saw, and I confessed Thy speech was rare and high; and yet it vexed my burdened breast, and scared, I knew not why. I saw once more, and awe-struck gazed on face, and form, and air; God's living glory round thee blazed — a Saint — a Saint was there!"* [Transfiguration (John Henry Newman)]

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There will be a second collection in aid of CAFOD next weekend

Diary Dates

Sun 8 March			
Coffee Morning – KISS			
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3pm – Baptism Course – Hall			
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6pm – Confirmation Session - Hall			
Mon 9 March			
Parents & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Beavers Scout Hall	6pm
Christian Meditation Grp	11.30am DH	Cubs Scout Hall	7.15pm
6.30pm – OWG/LS Meeting – LCR			
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7.30pm – One World/Live simply Group Lenten Meditation Bishop John Arnold has said: "To ignore the well-being of planet earth is to assist the evils of our day; poverty, hunger, economic migration, human trafficking and modern slavery. Our Lenten Meditation this year is about Creation with a special focus on St Francis. It will be followed by a light Lenten Supper. All are welcome.			
Tue 10 March			
Morning Prayer Church	9.40am	Scouts Scout Hall	7pm
Bethany Club Church Hall	10.30 - 2.30pm	Eucharistic Service	7.15pm church
Wed 11 March			
Rosary Church		RCIA EC	7.30pm
NO 10am MASS TODAY Funeral Mass at 11am for Isobel Early			
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10.30am – Lent Course – Doris Harris room			
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10.40 am Praise Group meet in the Lower Committee Room. All who love singing are welcome. We sing with enthusiasm with the help of a guitar, choosing the hymns from the last month's liturgy.			
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2.30pm Mass at Foxholes. All welcome

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6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 12 March

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

10am Eucharistic service no mass as priests are on retreat for the day.

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1pm – Craft Circle – LCR

Fri 13 March

Parent & Toddlers Hall	9.30am	Lectio Divina EC	2pm
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Sat 14 March

10am – RE Session - EC

Sun 15 March

Coffee Morning – One World Group

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3.30pm – Baptism Course – Hall

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6pm – Confirmation Session - Hall

Corona Virus Precautions Update

The pastoral team and parish council have agreed that a proactive stance with regard to the corona virus is the best one to take so with immediate effect the following will happen.

1. The holy water has been removed from the stoop.
2. There is hand gel on the tables in the porch so please get into the habit of using it as you come in to church. We will try to keep up the supply.
3. We have removed the Mass sheets but replaced them with the same sheet which we want you to take home and bring when you come to Mass. Please do not leave them in the church or porch as they will have to be destroyed and we would prefer to minimise the expense. **Please do remember to bring them the next time you come to Mass.** If you take the sheet of the readings please take that home with you. Do not leave it in the church or put it back in the porch. If you have your own missal this is a good time to bring it to Mass. If you wish to buy a missal you can go to Amazon online and look for **CTS New Sunday Missal 2020** (paperback from £6.99) or **The Sunday Missal** (hardcover from £18.99)
4. Children's colouring packs will not be put out. We will supply the colouring sheets and bulletins but please bring your own colouring pencils. Please take all sheets you have touched home with you.

5. We will not use hymn books but will provide sheets with the hymns on for the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses. These will need to be left in the box provided in the porch and will be disposed of after Mass. If this proves too expensive we will have to reconsider our approach to music in the Mass.

6. There will not be an offertory procession at the 10.30 Mass.

7. We will not have the handshake of peace.

8. We will not be using chalices for the precious Blood and will only have the Body of Christ at communion. **Please receive this on your hand not on your tongue.**

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Many of you will have met Rob Hitchcock who has taken over from Susanna Hawksley who is still here to support him over the coming weeks. Any queries regarding any sacramental preparation should now be addressed to Rob who you can reach at

roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk

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The next Marriage Preparation Course

in this parish is on Saturday April 4th.

It is not too late to sign up.

Register at catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com and get all the information you need. There are also details on the parish website.

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The **Foodbank no longer needs egg boxes.** Thanks for your generosity in the past but put them back in your recycling bin now.

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There will be an event in the Hall next **Saturday 14 March** from 12 noon – 7pm. Please bear that in mind when coming to Church that day as the car park may be busy.

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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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Lenten acts of service and devotion - support clergy and congregation: The big 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 07966 800517

Other Dates

12th March 7:30pm Peter's Way of the Cross' performance at Westminster Cathedral will be on 2020 (FREE event, donations to Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage are most welcome on the night)

Hitchin 24/7 Prayer Will you join us for 24/7 prayer on 19th - 26th March 2020 at the New Testament Church of God, corner of William Rd and Hampden Rd, Hitchin SG4 0LD. Please check which slots are available and signup by using on the following link <https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/2a6dad>

21st March St Patrick's day themed Ceilidh at St John's Community Centre. Pippa Lally and Mark Drury (from St Mark's church) are running the London Marathon in aid of Amnesty International and Children with cancer, respectively. Tickets (£20) include loaded pulled pork baps and mouthwatering Irish desserts (veggie, vegan and gluten free options available). For more information or to book tickets please email drurys26.2@outlook.com

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26th March Soul Food - nourishing the spiritual life of the frail older person. Many older people are well able to care for their own spiritual lives and help others! But how do we nourish those who are becoming too frail physically or mentally to nourish themselves? On Thursday 26th March there will be a meeting in the Focolare centre, WGC to consider this. Contact anne.horsman@btinternet.com/07771931063

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27th March 7.30pm Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd. **At the Foot of the Cross: A Meditation in Music for Passiontide.** Holy Saviour Church Choir & The Radcliffe Singers, directed by Trevor Hughes.

Admission : £13 : Concessions £9: Students free.

5th April 3.30-5.30pm Felici Opera presents Time for Tea! A short concert of light music including popular items from opera, operetta and musical theatre followed by tea & cake and chat. Pirton Village Hall. £10 In support of the Lister Hospital's appeal for funds to purchase the Da Vinci Single Port to assist surgeons carry out complicated prostate and urology operations. Tickets from 01462 711339 and www.feliciopera.com

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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

Ash Wednesday lunch Many thanks to those of you who came to the lunch at St Mark's last week. £233 was raised for Christian Aid and £98 was taken at the Traidcraft stalls. A good do all round!

Job Club begins again on Wed 26th March 10am-12 noon for another 8 weeks

If you or someone you know is looking for work, they can come to Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin and get invaluable support to retrain and/or re-join the job market. For more info contact: leigh.smith123@yahoo.co.uk tel 07931833838

There is an update from **Stella Maris** regarding a story of their support of a family that we spoke about on Sea Sunday. See the news page on the parish website.

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All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its **Settlement Scheme** to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme The Catholic Church in England and Wales

stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, why not find out more at wwme.org.uk

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Westminster Diocese 30th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes is from Saturday 25th to Friday 31st July 2020


Westminster Diocese Day-Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on Saturday 12th September 2020


Westminster's 10th Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: 23rd November to 1st December 2020

Please consider fundraising and sponsoring to raise £1,000 for a less able pilgrim or a volunteer in your parish to go to Lourdes. Contact the Pilgrimage Office or follow this link and apply online to be a Lourdes Volunteer with the Diocese of Westminster.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1014315>


This is a confidential service and follows Parish Safeguarding Policies


 Living simply & sustainably: There are products on the market that will slow cook food without using power. Heat the food to boiling and place in a highly insulated bag. Search 'wonderbag' on the internet.

 A brief look at two anniversaries this week. Fr Emile Gabel who was editor of our French daily news paper, La Croix. Fr Emile died in a plane crash. Mgr Henri Pierard who was leader of our apostolate in the Congo and became bishop of Beni Butembo.

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 170**
In marriage, the joy of love needs to be cultivated. When the search for pleasure becomes obsessive, it holds us in thrall and keeps us from experiencing other satisfactions.

 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 Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk
Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk

 This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: 6 Monday Team: 3

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