



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
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am
during Exposition. All Masses are
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

Newsletter No 1982

12th - 19th February 2022 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Prayer: We pray for the healing of creation: God, source of all goodness, we call you Creator; you have made our wonderful world out of nothing and constantly keep it alive. Help us to be full of care and grateful for our home received from you as a gift. May we work to keep this, our common home, filled with peace and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: [Jer 17:5-8](#), [Cor 15:12.16-20](#), [Luke 6:17.20-26](#)

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: Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: [Sam 26:2.7-9, 12-13.22-23](#), [Cor 15:45-49](#), [Luke 6:27-38](#)

Ramblings One of the great characteristics of Jesus was his ability to turn thinking on its head, a kind of reverse psychology. In today's parlance it is called *thinking outside the box*. In recent months we have been dishing that in our synodal conversations which have been extremely fruitful. Some of what was normal in the past no longer fits. We no longer talk about a *new normal* but about an ongoing process. The pandemic brought home the importance of community and we discovered an immense amount of goodwill, support and neighbourly help throughout the country from everyone not just people of faith - the *Image of God* being lived rather than explained. The synodal process has sought to do what Jesus did, turn everything on its head. The top (hierarchy) wants not only to know what the grass-roots thinks but also wants to be inspired and helped so as to create a more open, welcoming and attractive Church, preferring to call itself a *family* rather than an institution. Many have been forced into times of isolation. For some it has been a blessing giving them time to reflect on their lives. Once upon a time we called these times a *Retreat*, even though probably more organised. It would be good to hear how many people thought more deeply about faith as a possibility or as a lived reality in these times. We have discovered the importance of being and meeting together in a social setting to be an essential part of Communion. Prayer is lived as well as time spent with God, alone or with others. The prayer of the Eucharist, of adoration, of the rosary, of prayer services is lived out in all our encounters with others. The synodal gatherings will continue into the future. Let us now think of them as **Ways of discovering how God is present!**

Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer
Everyone is welcome to join

- Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
- Wednesday** 9.30am **Rosary** Church
- Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

Diary Dates

Sun 13 Feb Racial Justice Sunday
6.30 to 7.30 pm CTH Theological Society in St Mary's Church. 'The Common Good' and two speakers - Father Tom O'Brien and Rev Elizabeth Bunker
Mon 14 Feb Sts Cyril & Methodius
No Beavers & Cubs Half Term
Tues 15 Feb
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall +++++
No Eucharistic Service this week due to Fire Marshall training. +++++
No Scouts Half Term
Wed 16 Feb
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall Half Term
Thurs 17 Feb
No Brownies Half term
Fri 18 Feb
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 19 Feb
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Offerings and Envelopes Please place all offerings and envelopes into the black post box on the right of the church doors (as you go out of the church) Until the offertory collection bags are reintroduced this is the most secure way of receiving your offerings. Thank you.





Synodal gatherings update All the information recorded at the Synodal gatherings has been compiled into two documents for you to view which are all the sharings

that parishioners gave and also the comments made in the **Share your thoughts** sheets. You can read these at [Parish Synod](#). The pastoral team looked at these and pulled out the key common themes. Click here for a [Summary of all answers](#) if you wish a shorter version to look at. There are some hard copies in the porch for those who cannot access these online. Please let Trish know if they run out and you want one.

Please read the complete summaries and as part of the prioritising process, tell the pastoral team what really strikes you, resonates with you? What would be your top three to prioritise first? Email Trish with your priorities at [Email Trish](#)

These sharings are being considered by the pastoral team at present and we will set priorities and actions according to what the parish have said. We are exploring the way these sharings can continue as a regular part of parish life in the future.

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One of the findings from the Synodal sharings was how much parishioners missed tea & coffee after Mass. The regular providers who raise money for their charities have not planned to come back yet but coffee is being provided by a small group after 10am Mass on a Tuesday which is increasingly popular. We thought that small groups of parishioners who attend either the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses might like to offer tea & coffee after the Mass they attend. It only requires 3 people to help with the set up, serving and clearing. You need to provide the refreshments but there is no need to make cakes or organise a raffle (unless you want to!) as this is primarily a socialising opportunity, not a fundraiser. If you want to offer to do this even as a one off please contact Cheryl Saunders, the parish Administrator by [Cheryl email](#) or ringing **01462 459126**. A full guide to what is needed will be provided.



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Anticipating Lent and Easter for children We will have some Lent calendars for children as usual but we can also get **My Lent Day by Day** for infants and juniors priced 55p. If you would like copies of these please [Email Trish](#) with how many you would like of each booklet:



- My Day by Day Lent for Infants
- My Day by Day Lent for Juniors
- My Day by Day Easter for Infants
- My Day by Day Easter for Juniors

There will be Adult Day by Day Lent books available for £1 also.

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Resources provided by the Diocese for children and adults for Lent & Eastertide

There are a number of resources and events, which we like to share with you. Please do explore these links.

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/preparing-for-lent-and-eastertide/>

Fr Michael Hall opens our eyes with Luke and the Open Heaven -

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/bible-basics/scripture-seekers/between-the-testaments/luke-and-the-open-heaven/>

Bishop David Evans launches a new series on The Meaning of Life using the Bible and modern philosophy to help explore some big questions -

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/preparing-for-lent-and-eastertide/the-meaning-of-life-part-1-identity/>

If you haven't seen our commissioned Bible artwork, our new Mosaic Experience gives you a 360°tour of this stunning Little Bits of God artwork - <https://art.godwhospeaks.uk/>

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Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm



The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an

anniversary, please give Cheryl Saunders the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Other items of interest

Accompaniment for the separated and divorced Beginning Experience Weekend - a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. Contact Freda 01322-838415; Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com .

Restored Lives 8-week online course from 24th January <https://www.restoredlives.org/go-on-a-course>

RL provide workshops to support for teenagers & young adults: 13-18 yrs Wednesday 2nd March 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm; 18 – 30 yrs Wednesday 2nd March 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, go to <https://www.restoredlives.org/yourdirection>



Marriage enrichment: are you looking for ways to enrich, nurture and refresh your relationship. Do you need an oasis moment? Worldwide Marriage Encounter <https://wwme.org.uk/> now provide in-person and virtual (Zoom) enrichment weekends. Cana Welcome <https://www.chemin-neuf.org.uk/programmes/cana/cana-welcome/>

Talking Elephants Bereavement Support Group starts again 24th Feb



Talking Elephants is a network of support groups where people who have been bereaved meet to support each other through their grief and loss.

If you find it hard to talk to those close to you about your bereavement, why not come to our free, informal support group at Holy Saviour Church Hall. Held

monthly, it offers a friendly face, support and companionship to those experiencing similar thoughts and emotions.

4th Thursday of each month 1pm-3pm

Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Road, Hitchin, SG5 1QG 24th Feb, 24th March, 28th April, 26th May, 23rd June, 28th July, 25th August, 22nd September, 27th October, 24th November, 22nd December 2022




CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger Lent challenge


There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders. Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To find out more or take part, go to cafod.org.uk/walk.




Following the joy-filled experience of the 'God Who Speaks Scripture Festival' at St Alban's Cathedral, we would like to invite you to join us on a variety of free online follow up events.

These are for individuals, groups of friends & parishes, who would like to come closer to Christ through His Word, whether they were able to join us as St Albans Cathedral or not. To find out more information and book please visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival/follow-up-events/>

 Brother Florentin Bourdy spent 45 years at Bethnal Green. (1904-1949) He was a quiet man who did not draw attention to himself . His main work was doorkeeper but he was noted for making and repairing rosaries. Brother was one of those people who went about his work without fuss or bother and are only really noticed when they are no longer there. May he rest in peace.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 270** *Love made fruitful - Love and pregnancy* For nine months every mother and father dreams about their child. Meeting with Families in Manila (16.1.2015). For Christian couples, baptism appears as a part of that dream.

Safeguarding reminder EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>

 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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