



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 1983

19th - 26th February 2022 - 7th 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: [Sam 26:2-7-9,12-13,22-23](#), [Cor 15:45-49](#), [Luke 6:27-38](#)

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: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next Week: [Ecc 27:4-7](#), [1 Cor 15:54-58](#), [Luke 6:39-45](#)

Ramblings The Gospel calls us to treat others, even our enemies and those who dislike and treat us badly, as best we can. It also tells us that we will receive great reward for living in this way. Yet, many certainly do not do this for the reward. What is more, many of those who help and reach out to others, including their enemies, make great sacrifices for those they help and give them far, far better treatment than they do to themselves. Our founder, Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon, ran himself into the ground and utter exhaustion in reaching out to help others and had to convalesce for months. Even then, during this time of recuperation, he used the time to write his best spiritual works for his fellow Assumptionists. Like all followers of Jesus, *Assumptionists* work for the *Coming of the kingdom* out of **love for Jesus Christ**. Love is the driving force not the reward; love of God and love of neighbour in the most altruistic of ways.

David gives a perfect example of someone showing true love, honour and dignity to an enemy who wishes to kill him, King Saul. An example we are invited to follow by Jesus. Show everyone love, honour and dignity!

Reflection Dorothea S, Kopplin

The rewards of love are as great as the efforts contributed to gain it.

If love is built on a strong foundation of respect and admiration growing little by little with tiny deeds of kindness cementing it firmly, with consideration for the welfare of both individuals,

then, love will live forever, faithful and undying. There is no place in true love for disrespect, criticism, selfishness or neglect.

It is wise to ask,

"Am I kind? Am I considerate? Am I selfish?"

Am I thinking of my own personal desires or am I thinking of the true welfare of all concerned? Do I respect the individuality of my loved ones' interests, desires and opinions, or do I expect them to coincide with my own?"



Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre
7pm Eucharistic Service Church

To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)

Wednesday 9.30am Rosary Church

Thursday 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm

Diary dates

Mon 21 Feb
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs
Tues 22 Feb
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall +++++
12pm Funeral for a Gentleman from Whitwell. In accordance with the family's tradition, the body will rest in Church overnight on Monday. This means that the casket will be in the Church during the 10am Mass that day. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort his family. +++++
7pm Scouts Scout Hall +++++
7pm FHC Session 6 Hall
Wed 23 Feb
2-4pm UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers) Hall Please bring your own mug with you. +++++
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall +++++
7pm RCIA EC

Diary dates cont

Thurs 24 Feb
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall ††††††††††
7.50pm Choir practice in church
Fri 25 Feb
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 26 Feb
10am FHC Non-Catholic Schools Hall ††††††††††
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sun 27 Feb
8.30am Coffee morning after Mass provided by the Bereavement Group. All welcome.



We pray for **Joe Chico** whose funeral is on **Monday 28 February 2022 at 11.30am** and for **Delores O'Grady** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 1pm**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families.

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Offertory procession at 10.30 Mass We would



like to reintroduce the offertory procession.

In the very early church the eucharist was celebrated in people's homes and they provided the bread and wine as well as other gifts for the poor. Over the years the custom gradually ended as fewer people received Holy Communion. Revived by Vatican II the offertory procession is often just bread and wine but in some countries other gifts such as flowers, fruit, food are offered and later distributed to those in need.

In his document *Sacramentum Caritatis* Benedict XVI says "This humble and simple gesture is actually very significant; in the bread and wine that we bring to the altar all creation is taken up by Christ the Redeemer to be transformed and presented to the Father," (47)

If your family attends the 10.30 Mass and would be willing to take the gifts up to the Celebrant, please email [Trish](#)

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Many thanks for all the goods you have donated to the pantry in recent weeks. There is a crate in the porch for tins, packets, jars etc. Perishable items should be brought to the Scout Hall on

Friday or Saturday afternoons so they can be put in the refrigerator at once. Alternatively ring Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) and I will come and collect your goods. We still need: * **Cheese** * **Butter** * **Pizzas** * **Washing powder and detergent**. Thank you for your generosity.

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From the beginning of March Lent Groups at



different times in churches and homes, using the study guide *The Prayers of Jesus* by Amy Bouchart Smith. It covers a range of prayers offered by Jesus - regular, emotional, public ministry, anguish, submission and desperate times.

Sign up sheets for the groups are in the porch for the next two weeks. People who have participated in previous years have enjoyed them as well as discovered new things.

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March 6th 3pm 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.



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Readers Training If you are interested in serving the parish by being a reader at Mass we are offering a training course.

Sunday right after the 10.30am Mass

11.30-12.30pm 13th / 27th March

Monday after school

4.30-5.30pm 14th / 28th March

If you would like to attend these sessions, please let [Trish](#) know as soon as possible.

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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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Good news for both big and little kids - we've launched The Mattel® PlayBack Programme, meaning you can recycle your Barbie®, Matchbox™ and MEGA™ toys for free! Go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/recycling-in-the-parish/>

Other Dates

24th Feb 1pm-3pm Talking Elephants Bereavement Support Group starts again. 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.

2nd March Ash Wednesday Lunch to support Christian Aid, 12.30 pm at St Mark's. A simple meal - soup, bread, cheese, fruit - adults £5.00, children £2.50. There will also be a Traidcraft stall.

4th March World Day of Prayer service, 1.30 pm at **Christchurch**. An international ecumenical service held on this day every year and prepared this year by women from our own country on the theme *I know the plans I have for you*. Prayers reflections, music for all to share.

Other items of interest



Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their

marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year. There is no group therapy or group work

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the programme commencing with a 'Virtual weekend on **3rd-6th March 2022**

Call or text+44 788 7296983 - or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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Diocese of Westminster Network meeting for all who welcome and support asylum seekers, migrants and refugees.

Thursday 10th March 2022, 2pm- 3:30pm - online

Join a community of support, hosted by Caritas Westminster, Join a community of support, hosted by Caritas Westminster, to share ideas and skills to help your parish and school become even more of a place of welcome and inclusion for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

At this session we will be hearing from Megan from Schools of Sanctuary, Anjali from Newman Catholic College, as well as Ines from the Notre Dame Refugee Centre and Ed from ESOL provider, Twin. Please sign up on this website:

[Network Meeting](#)

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To ensure the Synodal Submissions include all voices including that of the LGBT+ community, there is a series of Lenten

conversations that seek to enable us to get a better insight and understanding of the issues and to explore ways of acting in solidarity. Please find the full list at [Lenten conversations](#).

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Message from Revd Chris Bunce, Vicar of St Mary's Church. We are beginning a process to establish and new vision for the church, but we cannot do this in isolation. We are keen to hear what is important to you and to the wider Hitchin community. We have developed a short survey for groups and organisations which we would invite you to complete please. It should only take about 15 minutes to complete but your comments and opinions will be invaluable to us.

<https://forms.office.com/r/PTaTfNW1v8>

THE SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL Invigilators required ASAP £8.91 per hour rising to £9.50 per hour from April 2022

An opportunity has arisen for invigilators to join our existing team. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organisational skills and possibly the ability to act as a scribe and reader. No experience is necessary, as training will be given. Applicants will need to be available for work in the main examination period during May and June. Please contact Heidi Foyle (foyleh@jhn.herts.sch.uk) for further information and an application pack.

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The Passage a Catholic Charity, working with people who are homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3 March at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. Please support the work of this excellent charity. Tickets at passage.org.uk/st-davids-day-concert or telephone 020 75921856

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Job Opportunity – Warden & Clerk – St Scholastica's Retreat

Competitive Salary, pension, and accommodation onsite in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. The Trustees are seeking to appoint a Warden & Clerk to the Trustees for this almshouse charity that provides sheltered housing for Catholics in financial need aged 60 or over. For details of the role and how to apply, see: www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy



The Pilgrimage will be led by **Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Fr John Farrell OP**

Price: £1,825 per person (based on two people sharing a room)
Single room supplement **£529** per person.

- Walking in the footsteps of Christ
- Offering hope to Christian communities
- Returning ready for mission



Galilee • Jerusalem • Bethlehem

- Travelling on BA from Heathrow
- Includes full board, scheduled expenses, tips and gratuities
- Travel insurance is essential and is not included in the price

For booking forms and further information, please contact: Gill Didino at Tangney Tours Tel: 01732 886666




Diocese of Westminster


Tangney Tours
Pilgrim House, Station Court, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AF Tel: 01732 886666 www.tangney-tours.com




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.

 Fr d'Alzon foresaw that works we had started could well pass on to others. This is particularly true of Emmanuel House at Nottingham. Founded in 1976 the aim was to provide somewhere warm on Sundays and Bank Holidays when no other place was available for the homeless. Today 46 years on it is Emmanuel House Support Centre an independent charity that supports homeless, vulnerable and isolated adults in Nottingham.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 271** *Love made fruitful - Love and pregnancy* With their prayers, parents prepare for baptism, entrusting their baby to Jesus even before he or she is born.

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

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