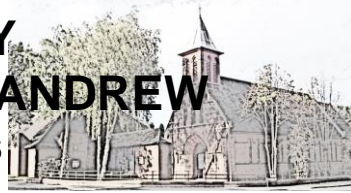




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1984

26th February – 5th March 2022 - 8th 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: [Ecc 27:4-7, 1 Cor 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45](#)

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Psalm: **It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.**

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: **Lord graciously hear us!**

Next Week: [Deut 26: 4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 1-13](#)

Ramblings The parable of the planks and splinters is warning us against telling others what they can and can't do. It is, as Jesus clearly states, a failure to see yourself truthfully – real blindness. Compare a splinter with a plank and you have serious blindness. When Jesus talked about binding and loosing, he was talking about freeing people from all that causes them harm (loosing) and protecting them from the all influences of evil (binding). This is precisely what Jesus did throughout his life both physically and spiritually.

Two traveling angels stopped for the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude, refusing to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead, the angels were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, *"Things aren't always what they seem."*

The next evening the pair stayed at the house of a very poor but hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

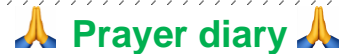
The next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how he could let this happen? *"The first man had everything, yet you helped him, while the second family had little but shared everything, and you let the cow die!!"*

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied.

"When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was obsessed with greed

and unwilling to share, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem!"

Remember this before judging others!!



Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre
7pm Prayer service for peace in the Ukraine. Church

Wednesday 9.30am Rosary Church

Thursday 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre

Friday 10.30am Stations of the Cross Church

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

Diary Dates

Mon 28 Feb

11.30am Funeral Mass Joe Chico

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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs

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7pm You are warmly invited to the next **Parish Pals gathering**. This is open to anyone 18+, we meet in the church, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and then move into social time with food and drink at a local restaurant/ pub.

Tues 1 March St David

10.30am Coffee Morning Hall

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1pm Funeral service Dolores O'Grady

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7pm Prayer service for Peace in Ukraine

Time will be spent with the Blessed Sacrament.

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

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7pm Confirmation Session 5 Hall

Diary Dates cont

Wed 2 March Ash Wednesday
Masses with Ashes 7.30am, 10am, 7.30pm ††††††††††
12.30pm Ash Wednesday Lunch St Mark's to support Christian Aid. A simple meal - soup, bread, cheese, fruit - adults £5, children £2.50. There will also be a Traidcraft stall. ††††††††††
2pm UCM Scout Hall – Please bring a Mug ††††††††††
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall ††††††††††
7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 3 March
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall
Fri 4 March
1.30pm World Day of Prayer service 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. ††††††††††
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 5 March
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Prayer and fasting for peace

Speaking at the end of the General Audience, Pope Francis invited everyone to make 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace in Ukraine. *“I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war,”* he said.

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the UK, has addressed his community and all people of good will as Russia invades Ukraine.

“The day that we have been hoping would never come has arrived. This morning we woke up to hear the news that Russia has unleashed its troops into an invasion of Ukrainian soil as well as firing missiles into Ukrainian territory.

“We have been inviting people of goodwill to join Ukrainian Catholics in the United Kingdom to pray for peace in Ukraine these last several weeks. I want to thank you all for these prayers and for standing with Ukraine. Now more than ever before your prayers and your acts of solidarity with the Ukrainian people are needed.

“We call upon our government leaders and those in positions of power to remain steadfast in support of Ukraine against those who are waging this war upon the innocent citizens of Ukraine.

“We place the people of Ukraine under the protection of the Holy Family, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the holy and righteous St Joseph the Betrothed.” [Click for article](#)



On Tuesday evening at 7pm instead of the usual Eucharistic service we will have a **Service of prayer and Benediction focused on Peace in Ukraine**. In a world where we feel

helpless in the face of such awful happenings we can only turn to God to help us. Please join us for prayer. This will be livestreamed.

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Orpheus Choir 26th March 2022 7.30pm in our church!

You may remember the wonderful Christmas concert we had from the Orpheus choir in 2018. They are returning to us this Lent. Live music in our church once again. **Tickets are £5 each** from the parish office. Seating will be on a first come basis. The music includes

includes

Benedicite Vaughan Williams

Locus Iste Bruckner

Crucifixus Lotti

Ave Maria Verdi

Ave Maris Stella Grieg

Cantique de Jean Racine Fauré

The Continental Magidson/Conrad

Over The Rainbow Arlen/Harburg

The Long Day Closes Arthur Sullivan

Wiegenlied Brahms



Other items of interest



Joel's Bar 2022 tickets! Holiness, Intimacy & Unity.

What - A week full of opportunities for Young Adults aged 16-25 years old to spend time each day in personal prayer, share in the sacraments, come together for faith input and discussions as well as engaging in praise and worship, social activities and workshops all focusing around this year's theme of 'Holiness, Intimacy & Unity'

Where - St. Mary's School, Ascot, Berkshire from 3rd-8th April.

Why - We want to see young people inspired and equipped to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe offering people space to encounter the living God and explore faith within a safe space of a community, and fellowship is a great way to do this!

Book a ticket if you're 16-25 at <https://www.joelsbar.co.uk>

You can either purchase a full residential week ticket which includes full board and lodging or you can buy day tickets. Either way, we can't wait to see you!

Can you help? Rob, our Sacramental co-ordinator is part of the organising team for Joel's Bar. It is a subsidised event and requires a huge amount of fundraising in order to ensure that finance is not a barrier to attendance. If you're able to donate and help Rob out, please visit <https://joelsbar22.churchsuite.com/donate> or pass any donations to Rob or hand it in a labelled envelope in the office. Thank you, and be assured of the prayers of us all at Joel's Bar!

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At the start of Lent please make the **PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITIES PLEDGE** to:

- Work to remove at least three single-use

plastic items from your day to day activities


- Commit to include your stance on single-use plastic in communications.
- Raise awareness and support plastic free initiatives in the community


Together we're tackling avoidable, throwaway plastic from beaches, rivers, and green spaces all the way back to the brands and businesses who create it. Wherever you live, whether you're on shore or inland, urban or rural, high-tide or high-rise, we're uniting communities in the fight against single-use plastics. It's not about removing all plastic from our lives. It's about kicking our addiction to avoidable single-use plastic, and changing the system that produces it. Grab a poster from the porch and display your commitment.




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Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022 We are very conscious that the impact of Covid-19 is still being felt by everyone. We are extremely thankful for your continued generosity. Funds raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between Parishes and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic are making daily life harder for many people. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. The Church is responding, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need, those who feel like they're pushed to the margins of society. Please take a donation envelope from the porch. You can use the QR code to make your donation online using your phone camera to scan. Alternatively, you may donate using the box on the wall by the Church doors marked "Lenten Alms". **Thank you for your generosity.**

 On the same topic as last week. It is hard to imagine that the beautiful new Becket School in Nottingham was started in 1931 by two priests in a couple of small houses.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 272** *Love made fruitful - love and pregnancy* Our Creator fully knows the child; He alone knows his or her deepest identity. Expectant parents need to ask God for the wisdom to fully know their child and accept them as they are.

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/
Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	01462 459126 press 4
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }	
Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

