



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 1994

7th May – 14th May 2022 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year C

Prayer for Ukraine: God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine; for peace and the laying down of weapons. Give comfort to those who fear for tomorrow. Grant wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide those who have power over war and peace. Hold and protect your precious children, at risk and in fear. We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Readings: Acts 13:14.43-52, Apoc 7:9.14-17, Jn 10:27-30

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Alleluia!**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Readings Acts 14:21-27, Apoc 21:1-5, Jn 13:31-35

Ramblings Only a small reference about Jesus being the Good Shepherd but that is all we need. In Jesus' Day the shepherd spent much of his time with his sheep so much so he could recognise them even if mixed up with other sheep. He protected them from wolves or any kind of aggressor, he cared for them and loved them. Similarly, it is no wonder that the sheep recognised his voice since this was the voice they heard most of the time.

One of the biggest challenges in our faith life is recognising the voice of Jesus among all the other voices we hear - which are many. We can hear Jesus' voice in scripture, we can hear it in the homily, it could come to us through the singing or in the conversation with have with others over coffee or as we leave the Church. What is significant is the homily like scripture or singing are only some of the mediums that God uses and it is often not so much what is said but what is heard!


Being told of the refusal by the Jewish community in Antioch to accept the invitation of Faith in Jesus, we learn how God turns apparent failure into success and the Gospel is more readily and more joyfully brought to the Gentiles.

Ultimately, however, it is the Holy Spirit that helps us recognise the voice of God and the Holy Spirit never gives up on us even if we turn around and walk away. This continual invitation to follow Jesus is the sign of true love. Listen and hear God singing to you throughout the whole of your life. His song is truly uplifting and captivating; it reaches to the very depth of your soul.

We love you Jesus above all things; don't ever stop singing your song of love to us!

Diary Dates

Sun 8 May

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of Our Lady's Flower arranging team. All are welcome. Cakes, marmalade and sundries available. This is the first fund raising event for over 2 years and we would appreciate your support. If you are interested in joining the team please contact either Susan on 432820 or Ann on 453893.

7.30pm: **CTH Theological Society**, St Mary's 'Doubt' Speakers Chris Bunce & Kate Middleton

Mon 9 May

4pm Fr Euloge's FHC Group UCR

7.30pm PPC Meeting

Tuesday 10 May

10.30am Coffee Morning Hall

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Wed 11 May

10.30am Praise Group Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

7.30pm **CTH Hall Sharing Together** – a continuation of our Synodal Journey sharing with our friends from other churches. Please do come. See back page for details of what we will share.

Thurs 12 May

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hut

Fri 13 May St Matthias

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 14 May

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

🙏 Prayer diary 🙏

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

THE CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

If you enjoy singing the hymns at mass and would like to be able to join in more, then please consider joining the choir. We practice for one hour a week in the church on a Tuesday evening from 7:50pm until 8:50pm. We lead the music on the 1st, 2nd & 5th Sundays of the month at the 10:30am mass. Because we enjoy what we do, we are a committed group. We are very friendly and always on the lookout for new members! Don't hide your light under a bushel!



Would you like to give it a try? You would be very welcome to come along and swell the throng!

Speak to Trish or Catherine Muncaster or email [Trish](#)

A parent whose child is starting at Our Lady's School in September would very much like to get in touch with other parents whose children are also starting there. She thinks it would be a great idea to meet up before the start of school for the children to get to know each other. If you are interested in being a part of this please contact Kathryn Parry at kathrynparry@hotmail.co.uk

News about Fr Euloge



It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that Fr Euloge is leaving the parish on 15th May. He has been recalled by his Provincial to an appointment in Africa for another mission. He has mixed feelings. He will miss us but he is excited about seeing his family again who he has not seen in over three years.

Fr Euloge has been with us since September 2015 and over the years has developed a strong bond with many parishioners, visiting the sick, saying Mass in the Care homes, particularly Gosmore for years until it closed. Fr Euloge has delivered powerful sermons, and has a unique style with the children in their Masses. His laughter has resounded across the church, the hall and every room he has graced. He has been the Chaplain to the Union of Catholic Mothers, helped with catechism with the confirmation and

First communion children, who love him and his enthusiasm. He has baptised babies, given children their first communion, anointed the sick and said goodbye as he celebrated funerals. He has been a foundation member of the Hitchin Pantry and is very popular with the clients. He has been an asset to our parish and we will miss him enormously and be forever grateful for his ministry.

There will be a Thanksgiving Mass this **Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm** celebrated by all three Priests. This will be followed by a **Bring and Share Buffet** in the hall. Just bring a plate of nibbles and leave it in the hall before the Mass. We are sorry that this is such short notice but we very much hope that many parishioners will be able to join us for this Mass.

Fr Euloge has asked that if you have any old phones, laptops or tablets (with chargers) that you no longer need he would like to take them back to students he will have there. He will take as many as he can in his luggage but I am sure we can post things to him also. Just bring anything you have and leave it in the parish office by 13th May. Thank you for your generosity.



We pray for Mary Skeet whose funeral is on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 12 noon. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

We will shortly be submitting the tax rebate claim for money donated to the Church under the Gift Aid Scheme in the tax year ending April 2021/2022. If you have signed up for Gift Aid but no longer pay tax, please inform either David, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organiser, or Cheryl, our Parish Administrator, through the Parish Office so that we do not submit an inappropriate claim.

If you are not sure whether or not you have signed up for Gift Aid or whether you have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim, David or Cheryl will be able to let you know. Similarly, if you have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, but would like to do so, it is not too late and you should contact David or Cheryl who will make the necessary arrangements for you. Also, can we take this opportunity to remind you that a Gift Aid donation must be made in the name of the person who pays the tax on the money that is donated; if that is not the case, please let us know and alternative arrangements can be made. Last but not least, can we again say a big "thank you" to all of you who have signed Gift Aid Declarations as the tax rebate plays such an important part in financing the running of the Church particularly in these difficult times.

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Offertory Collections taken during Mass will be resumed but given that the pandemic is very much still a risk, "passing the plate" during Mass will be delayed. For the time being, a "retiring" collection using baskets will be re-introduced as Parishioners exit the Church.

Other Dates

Saturday 14th May Hitchin Eco Day from 10am to 2pm, Hitchin Market Place will be full of stalls - 22 at the moment - with products, activities, initiatives etc. that help our town be more environmentally friendly and sustainable. All are welcome to come along and browse, buy, learn or get involved.



15-21 May Christian Aid Week Click on the Giving Page for those who wish to make donations. [CTH Christian Aid Week](#)



There are a few events that have been arranged:

Sunday 8 May 3 pm Christchurch - The Organist Entertains! by Clifton Hughes followed by tea and cake. Donations not tickets.

Saturday 14 May 7.30pm Quiz Night at Christchurch followed by fish/sausage supper with vegetarian option £14, or no food £5.

For both events contact Sue Covington suecov63@hotmail.co.uk 452985

Sunday 15 May 2 till 4pm Tea and Cake at the home of Barbara Thomas, 1 Ash Drive, St Ippolytts SG4 7SJ - not up in the village. Donations.

Sunday May 15th at 3.40pm. The Motte and Bailey in Pirton is hosting a Prosecco and Afternoon Tea on Music by Mimram Big Band. Tickets £15 in advance from Jo Homer at The Motte and Bailey Pub lotteandbaileypirton@gmail.com.

Sunday 15th May 2022 Big Green Hike

For the first time ever, many of the UK's nature and environmental charities are joining together to encourage us all to walk to raise money for the green stuff. This event is being promoted by these charities:

You can pick the environmental cause you want to fundraise for. Each of The Big Green Hike partner organisations have unique charitable objectives, but they share the same overall goal: to protect and restore our natural environment. You choose the route. You choose the distance. You choose the cause that's closest to your heart. See: [Big Green Hike](#)

Other items of interest

Beyond Coincidence Following his talk at last year's Hitchin Theological Study, Paul Meacham, is running a 6 week course which explores the relationship between God and science. The course will look at the various ways that God and science interact, and discover how these two entities are not the polar opposites they might appear to be! Each week there'll be a 20-30 minute presentation giving the Christian perspective and then have plenty of time to discuss that week's thought-provoking questions. If you have interest in God, science or both, you won't want to miss it! Dates: 11th May, 18th May, 25th May, 8th June, 15th June and 22nd June at Zeo Centre at 7:30pm. To register your free place go to [Beyond Coincidence](#)

The Assumptionists and Ukraine. Fr Auguste Maniglier was pastor at Odessa. The church of St Peter was built during his time there, which ended with the communist takeover in 1920. It was one of three foundations. The others were at Kiev and Makievka (in the Dombas region). The church of St Peter was the only Catholic establishment in southern Ukraine during the Soviet period. Today it is a basilica in the care of the Salesian Fathers.

Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 283 *Love made fruitful - The love of a mother and a father* Love is shown to the newborn through the gift of their personal name, the sharing of language, looks of love and the brightness of a smile.

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



Sharing Session 11th May 7.30pm

We plan on three gatherings to share with our friends from other churches. The questions below will be familiar and we hope to find them worth a revisit. For the session on 11th May we will focus on **Reflecting on our experience of the pandemic**. As we are two years into the pandemic we can consider them from a viewpoint of where we are now. **Please do come and join us**

Reflecting on the experience of the pandemic

What has been your experience of 'journeying together' these last 2 years – as parish/community?

What strengths did I find in my faith and faith community?

How was I disappointed or sorrowful?

In what ways did the grace of God most clearly touch and uplift me?

Communion

Thinking about the pandemic, and perhaps more broadly, when does journeying together in the Church bring joy?

When might it bring pain or sadness?

What has the experience of 'journeying together' taught us about what it means to be Church?

Participation

When we say 'our Church', who is part of it?

Who is missing on this journey?

Whom do we need to listen to?

Mission

What would you wish to celebrate about how your parish/community lives its mission?

How does your community decide priorities for mission?

What areas of mission are we neglecting?

Discerning

What might the Spirit of God be saying to us through our reflection on these experiences of journeying together?

What 'ways of doing things' may the Spirit of God be calling us to change?