



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 1995

14th – 21st May 2022 – FIFTH 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 14:21-27, Apoc 21:1-5, Jn 13:31-35

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Psalm: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King. Alleluia!

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next Week: Acts 15:1-2,22-29, Apoc 21:10-14,22-23, Jn 14:23-29

Ramblings

We often talk about the glory of God or about giving glory to God but do we pause to think about what this really means? It is easy enough to say the words but glory must be more than that. How do you understand glory?

Ronald Rolheiser links the glory of God with how God reveals himself to us as a God who is abounding in compassion, full of forgiveness, and awash with graciousness. God's glory is expressed in the way he cares for and watches over us and the best way we can give glory to God, as Jesus showed, is to emulate these qualities and allow the glory of God to work through us by showing compassion, by forgiving and by being gracious to all those we encounter. This helps us understand the words of Jesus 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.' God shares everything that he is with us, even his glory. This is what led Jesus to the Cross and was fulfilled in his resurrection. Yet, God's glory is never diminished and finds its best expression in God's love for us. It was the love between the Father and the Son that is the source of God's glory.

True love takes us to higher level – the level of the divine, as the following poem suggests:

*Time is too slow for those who wait.
Time is too fast for those who fear.
Time is too long for those who mourn.
Time is too short for those who rejoice.
But for those who love,
time is eternity. Henry van Dyke?*

Diary Dates

Sun 15 May
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of One World Group All are welcome.
Mon 16 May
12.30pm Funeral Robin Payne RIP +++++
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall
Tuesday 17 May
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall +++++
7pm Scouts Scout Hall +++++
7pm Confirmation Session 10 Hall
Wed 18 May
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall +++++
7pm RCIA EC +++++
7.30pm Liturgy Meeting Hall
Thurs 19 May
1pm Italian Club Hall +++++
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hut
Fri 20 May
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 21 May
9am Gardening group meet in the car park to tend to church grounds. All welcome to help. 
10am FHC Non-Faith Schools Hall +++++
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

A comment about Fr Euloge Thanksgiving Mass and social afterwards. What an amazing lovely evening Fr. Euloge's farewell Mass and party was. So wonderful to be in the company of our Parish Family especially after such a long time because of Covid. Thanks to all concerned for the preparation and clearing. The chosen music during Mass was perfect for Fr. Euloge. He loved every minute of his special evening and will take many happy memories back home and to his new Mission. Thanks also for the generosity of your donations to him both monetary and phones, laptops etc. His flight leaves Sunday evening.

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The Flower Arranging group had a great coffee morning on Sunday. It was so good to see so many people and there was a lovely atmosphere in the hall. With the cake, preserves and plant stall, they raised an amazing £144.88. So the flower fund has been replenished, everyone was so generous.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported them.

Also many thanks to all those who supported the Our Lady's Special Support Group coffee morning. £77 was raised. This weekend proceeds from the One World/Live Simply coffee morning will go to help the local charity, 'Herts Young Homeless'. Cakes, preserves and religious cards will also be on sale.

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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.


PARISH FINANCES The Annual Financial Return for the year ending 31 December 2021 has now been completed, signed-off by Fr Tom and sent to the Diocese. The Return shows an operating deficit of £10,522 for the year, which was due almost entirely to the loss of Offertory and Hall Rental income during the COVID Pandemic. The situation is starting to improve and we hope to be able to return to a more "balanced budget" position fairly soon but the anticipated increase in energy costs later this year will continue to put pressure on the Parish finances and it will be necessary to maintain tight control of expenditure, resume taking Offertory collections and promote Hall rentals. If you would like more information on the state of the Parish finances, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office who will pass on your request to one of the Finance team.


♻️ Recycle with TerraCycle



We have some good recycling news to share with the parish! Coffee refill bags can be recycled via Terracycle again! Having started long ago with Kenco collecting all coffee bands of refill bags, then adding Tassimo, it became very popular. We can collect the coffee refill bags again for recycling - this time sponsored by TAYLORS! Please note this is for coffee only, not teas. We have been approved to collect: all brands of ground coffee pouches, all brands of flexible coffee packaging, and all brands of coffee bean pouches. **No glass jars, no metal tins, no hard plastic lids or containers, and NO pods at all!**

We hope parishioners will support this waste stream collection as before as it will help replace some of the fundraising for Phase that we lost.

 For Fr d'Alzon faith was the virtue that he insisted should mark his followers. From faith flow hope and charity just as love of Mary and of the Church flow from the love of Christ. He saw faith as the main characteristic of the Assumptionist spirit.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 283** *Love made fruitful - The love of a mother and a father* Newborns begin to experience that the beauty of relationship recognises and respects them as a partner in dialogue, touches our soul.... Such is love, containing a spark of God's love!' (Catechesis 15.10.15, p8.)

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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