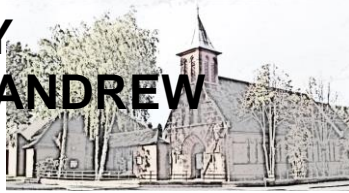




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1997

28th May – 4th June 2022 – SEVENTH 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 7:55-60, Apoc 22:12-14.16.17.20, John 17:20-26

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia
Psalm: **The Lord is king, most high above all the earth**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Readings: Acts 2:1-11, Rom 8:8-17, Jn 14:15-16.23-26

Ramblings We talk and pray and yearn for Christian Unity but do we ever give serious thought to what it means. In any community there are differences of opinion; they may be small differences but they are present. The larger the community, however, the wider are the differences. Yet, all the members want to belong to the community or group or Church recognising that there is a common bond and that they share a common spirit, that they belong. Unity, then, is not about everyone agreeing with absolutely everything but about sharing a common spirit. Of course, the academic will argue that there has to be a shared understanding about the fundamentals of a creed or constitution or *raison d'être* but this common belief exists among the Churches. One of the difficulties around ecumenism among the Christian Churches is that there are many non-Catholic Christians who have greater respect for the Pope and his authority than do certain extreme groups within the Catholic Church???

In order to help us, Jesus prays for us and for all Christian believers, whatever their Christian denomination, that the love with which the Father loved him may be in us all, so that Jesus' love for us will also be in us. Jesus tells us that he continually pours his love into us. Isn't it the love of God, exemplified in the Holy Spirit, that unites us? Isn't it the love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that unites families, parishes, Churches? There is no doubt that locally there is a strong level of Christian Unity. Our work today is to make this unity an ever more effective and clearer sign of the power of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ!

Diary Dates

Sun 29 May
No Coffee this morning – no group offered
Mon 30 May
7pm Young Adults Prayer and Social Church
Tuesday 31 May
10am Funeral Aleksander Rashkov RIP We also pray for Patrick Boyle whose funeral is also today at 3pm at Luton Crematorium only. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families. *****
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall *****
7pm Scouts Half Term
Wed 1 June
1.30pm UCM Leaving Mass followed by meeting in the Hall 2-4pm *****
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****
7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 2 June PLATINUM JUBILEE
1pm Italian Club Hall *****
6.30pm Brownies Half Term
Fri 3 June
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 4 June
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

Offertory Collections taken during Mass will be resumed this weekend 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. Many thanks, as always, for your very generous donations.

What: Parish Pals A young adults social (18-30)
When: Monday 30th May at 7pm
Where: Our Lady's Church Hitchin
Why: Meet like minded people and have a moment to connect with God



Foodbank Urgent Needs

The items listed are the most urgently needed due to recent strong demand.

- Tinned Potatoes
- Tea [Foil packed]
- Tinned Fish [Tuna preferred]
- Coffee [Small Jars please]
- Milk UHT Longlife [Not Skimmed]
- Juice Longlife
- Sponge Puddings
- Deodorant / Shower Gel / Shampoo / Toothpaste

All items can be left in the blue tub in the porch. Thank you for your continued support.

Other Dates

Tuesday, 31 May 2022, at 5pm UK time Pope Francis will be reciting the Rosary in front of the statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. In doing so, 'he wishes to offer a sign of hope to the world, suffering through the conflict in Ukraine, and profoundly wounded through the violence of so many other theatres of war.'

The Cardinal suggests that parishioners may wish to join with the Pope's prayer next Tuesday, the end of the Marian month of May. This could be through a recitation of the Rosary, or through praying for peace in Ukraine. We will continue to pray at each Mass for peace in Ukraine.

Other items of interest





CTH Council meetings are on the following dates:
 Tuesday 19th July
 Thursday 29th September

Monday 21st November (AGM)
 All at 7.30 pm - the September one preceded at 7pm by the Annual Phase Update - venues to be confirmed.

ALL ARE WELCOME refresh@christchurch 10am – 1pm every Tuesday is a drop in for **everyone** at Christchurch, Bedford Road, Hitchin. It was set up at the start of this year as a welcome/meeting point, offering drinks and biscuits for those who would like a chance to connect with others in an informal way. Over the past few weeks, we have been welcoming a number of Ukrainian families and their host/sponsors. This has proved very popular. It is a joy to see **Ukrainian people (including young children and a few teenagers)** arrive looking tense and worried, but to then see them relax as they start to connect with each other and with us. Young children are free to play together and have enjoyed painting and playing outside in the small play area. It is proving invaluable as a place for the host families too to share their experiences and support each other.

There is potential to open more often if there are more volunteers. If you would like to help please e-mail jumillsju@virginmedia.com with your telephone number.

 Joy, Fr d'Alzon tells us, is the first condition required for serving God. 'Away with sadness and discouragement, fear and regrets'. The second condition is perseverance. 'It is not enough to begin well. The quality of any good work lies in its perseverance' (meditation 5).

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 285** Love made fruitful - The love of a mother and a father Husband and wife, father and mother, both 'cooperate with the love of God the Creator, and are, in a certain sense, his interpreters as they show their children the maternal and paternal face of God. (2nd Vatican Council, Gaudium et Spes, 50.)

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	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Parish	01462 459126	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk } 01462 459126 press 4 trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }