



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 2003

9th – 16th July 2022 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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: Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Psalm: **Seek the Lord, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

Next Week: Readings Gen 18:1-10, Col 1:24-28, Luke 10:38-42


Ramblings Isn't it interesting that Jesus doesn't answer the lawyer's question but turns the question around? Telling the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus asks *Who is the neighbour?* This suggests it is not so much defining who a neighbour is but whether we can recognise neighbourliness in others. We often call neighbourliness caring, compassion, altruism, selflessness, generosity and goodness. Further reflection suggests that all these qualities exist within us whether we use them or not. How so? Both Moses and Paul make it clear that God dwells within us, that we are made in the image of God. Christ is an integral part of our whole being or, as Moses says, *the Word of God lives in our minds and in our hearts.* The greatest of all treasures lives within each of us but we often fail to recognise Christ's presence and, even if we do, we fail to make use of it. The Good News is that failures of the past do not have to be the failures of the future.

A well-founded belief says that the faults we see in others are the faults we have in ourselves only worse. But this belief also works the other way. The goodness we see in others reflects the goodness within ourselves. This is evident in the case of the lawyer in the story. Whether he uses these gifts is a choice he has to make but he recognises the neighbour. The same applies to us and remember that, when we use the gifts within us personified in Christ's presence, they grow stronger not weaker!

Pope Francis: *Our love for God and neighbour is our passport to heaven. Our earthly possessions are dust that scatters, but the love we share – in our families, at work, in the Church, and in the world – will save us, for it will endure forever.*

Diary Dates

Sun 10 July

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses. This Sunday's Coffee Morning will be in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

2pm FHC Thanksgiving Mass

6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society in Church House, next to St Mary's. The theme is *Coming to belief* and three speakers will reflect on how people find faith in this largely secular age. There will as always be an opportunity for comments and questions at the end.

Mon 11 July **St Benedict**

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

7.30pm PPC Meeting Church

Tuesday 12 July

10.30am Coffee Morning Hall

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Wed 13 July

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

10.30am Praise Group Hall

7pm RCIA EC

7.30pm Bereavement Service Church

Thurs 14 July

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

7pm Finance Meeting Lounge

Fri 15 July **St Bonaventure**

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 16 July

12 noon Year 6 Leavers Mass Church, then in Hall until 2.30pm

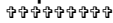
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

🙏 **Prayer diary** 🙏

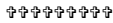
Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday** 7pm Eucharistic Service Church
To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)
 - Wednesday** 9.30am Rosary Church
3pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre
 - Thursday** 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre
- All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm*

This Sunday is Sea Sunday Every year churches around the world celebrate Sea Sunday. It is a day for people to come together to pray for seafarers and fishers, and thank them for the vital role they play in all of our lives. You can show your support by taking an envelope from the Porch if you wish to make a donation. The Assumptionists have had close links in Liverpool with Stella Maris in the past.



A big thank you to everyone who came and bought cakes at the coffee morning last Sunday. £102 was raised for Endometriosis UK.



There is a spare Coffee Morning going on Sunday 31 July after both Masses. Please let Cheryl or Trish know if you are interested in hosting this. Many thanks.



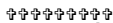
Saturday 9th July 12-4pm Our Lady Catholic Primary School Summer Fair



Games, stalls, food and drink, performances, prize raffles etc. Fun for the whole family. All are welcome. Raffle tickets £1 each with prizes including: an iPad, luxury hampers, a family ticket to Todd In The Hole Festival and more, are also available



We pray for **Tony Burns** whose funeral is on Tuesday 12th July at 11.30am and for **Betty Sturnham** whose funeral is on 25th July at 10am Mass. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families.



Bereavement Service 13th July 7.30pm in the church for those who have lost family and friends particularly over the past two years. There will be an opportunity to write names of your loved one on a flower and place it on the front of the altar. If you cannot attend but would like the name of your loved one on a flower please email [Trish](#) with the name(s) asap. This service will be live streamed and can be accessed at [Livestream Mass](#) Light refreshments will be served in the hall after the service.



Before covid we had a **Parent and Toddler group** which had been running for at least 35 years and ran from 9.30-11.15am on Mondays and Fridays. We have two cupboards full of resources and toys. The children of the Mothers who ran the group have now grown up and so they no longer have children who would attend the group. So we need to start it up again from fresh.

What do we need to do that?

- Parents who are willing to co-ordinate the group
- Parents who are willing to set up the resources at the start of the sessions
- Someone who is willing to be the treasurer for the bank account
- Parents or other parishioners who will help run simple activities (crafts, reading, singing etc) in the sessions
- Other parishioners who will help do tea and coffee for parents and snacks for the children
- Parents who are willing to pack up the resources at the end of the sessions
- Parents or other parishioners who will help clean up at the end of the sessions

The more people who offer to help, the smaller the work load for any one individual.

What do you and your children get in return?

- A chance to socialise with other adults and children and enjoy conversation and structured play.
- Entertaining activities for your children which will stimulate them and hopefully tire them too!
- A sense of community and purpose.
- Hopefully we will be able to do some simple prayer services with the children as one of the activities.

If you are interested in attending such a group with or without children please let [Trish](#) know so we can start making preparations for a September return. We will start with a Monday session and see if the interest is great enough to do a Friday session later.

We look forward to hearing from all our parents with young children and other parishioners who want to help young families in this way.



Hitchin Pantry has generously been offering free membership to the Ukrainian families and they are coming regularly to shop and meet up together. We need to support this generosity financially to ensure they can continue to offer this to new refugee families. Can you make a one off or a regular donation to


Hitchin Pantry to help support those in need? If so go to [Donate to Hitchin Pantry](#)

Hitchin Pantry needs a top-up of fresh, frozen or seasonal food

If you want to top up the Pantry when something is needed, but hasn't been donated, you can. To make a financial donation just select Hitchin Pantry

and choose whether it will be a regular donation or a one-off.

The next page takes you to your payment details and you can also Gift Aid any donations you make and give **Hitchin Pantry** even more!

Thank for helping  continue to be generous.

You can still donate fresh food when the pantry is open on Fridays and Saturdays and other food can be left in the collection box in the church porch.

Contactless Donations - You will find our **DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE**, contactless terminal in the porch. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/device to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received. Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.





Recycling news Terracycle recycling funds raised for charities 1st Nov 2021-30th Apr 2022: **Total = £ 2781.00**
- Biscuit & Cakes/Bread: **£ 51.00**

(Parish hardship Fund)

- Tassimo/Kenco/L'Or : **£ 2550.00**

(PHASE) - the last few collections and includes a large apologetic compensation from Tassimo, for closing the recycling scheme.

- Pens /Colgate: **£51.00**

(Herts. Homeless Help / Sanctuary)

- Pringles /Crisps /KP: **£129.00**

(Marine Conservation Society)

A BIG Thank You to everyone that have come on the recycling journey with us, and contribute their "waste" to be recycled, to be re-purposed, and kept out of landfill sites or an incineration fate.

Despite the changes in what we can collect for recycling, we look forward to see the support

from the community for the remaining schemes and the new waste streams now on offer.

Since we started collecting in Dec 2012 - we have collected and sent for recycling **22,270.214Kg** (ie: over 22 tons) of waste.

We have raised funds for these charities in total so far:

- Fr. Jean-Marie's Congo village project (paid to the parish) = **£ 811.00 (2014-2015)**
- Helping Herts Homeless: **£ 938.37**
- Our Lady's Hardship Fund: **£ 709.95**
- PHASE: **£ 10 073.60**
- Marine Conservation Society: **£ 1 389.40**

Future Dates

Saturday 10th July, 10am to 1pm Triangle Community Garden Party on Ransoms Rec. Plant sales, children's activities, crafts, music, cream teas and much more (including Garden tours which need to be booked on www.trianglegarden.org/events)

They ask us to come with cash/coins, also to `bring our cups, not our cars!

Tuesday 19th July, 7.30 to 9pm Churches Together in Hitchin Council meeting is on at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. Its agenda will include an update on support for Ukrainian refugees in Hitchin, a proposal for a new group for young people with additional needs, and a sharing session on `Sharing Together. All welcome.

Other items of interest

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – LOOKING TO LISBON World Youth Day 2023 will take place in Lisbon in the beginning of August 2023. Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry with support from Cardinal's Appeal is offering a limited number of places on this pilgrimage with a 50% discount to young people between the ages of 16-25. Any 16 year olds who apply will need to be finishing year 12 by the start of World Youth Day pilgrimage. These young people will commit to a series of preparatory sessions from September 2022, to prepare them to assist in support roles during the pilgrimage, such as by acting as small group leaders, and also offer formation to them which will be helpful in living their faith post-World Youth Day. More details can be found at <https://dowym.com/programmes/world-youth-day-leadership-training/> or by contacting Westminster Youth Ministry at youth@rcdow.org.uk . Please apply by 31 July 2022.

The Archdiocese of Southwark is looking for a **Diocesan Financial Controller**. This is a full time position based in Bowen House in London SE1, but we could also offer some flexibility to work from home. Starting salary £60,000 - £65,000 depending on skills and experience. If you would like to apply please email your CV to HR@rcaos.org.uk by 18 July 2022. For full details go to [Job Vacancies](#)



Catholic Listeners Telephone Helpline

The new confidential listening helpline was launched in April. **Catholic Listeners**, Diocese of Westminster, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the **Landings** ethos of compassionate listening. Although we are not a counselling service, we have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies.

Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk.

To date there have been 28 calls received with typical queries being:

- Just to enquire what the service is about.
- To voice their frustrations about the Church during lockdown, not being able to attend Mass.
- To talk about the complexities that came with lockdown within their relationships and households and having no one to talk to. Two referrals have been made to counselling.
- There have been those wanting to know more

about how they can increase and strengthen their faith and those individuals have signposted to **Landings**.

- They also have a caller who is now a regular, and has informed them that they are lonely and look forward to having someone to talk to.

Congratulations to the CL team they seem to really be hitting the mark.

They are here to listen - call 0800 448 0704

Catholic listeners
compassionate confidential telephone faith helpline

FINDING A SAFE WAY HOME

Catholic Listeners is a new telephone helpline, based at Farm Street Church, specifically created to listen to the troubled or concerned – especially those wishing to reconnect with their faith.

Operating three days a week from 4pm to 7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, you'll find compassionate, confidential, experienced, dedicated, non-judgemental listeners.

And calls are free to the helpline.

0800 448 0704
or email Aife on catholiclisteners@gmail.com

A DIocese of Westminster initiative & part of Landings offering a way back to the Catholic faith

One of the early apostolates of the Assumptionists was pilgrimages. As a young priest Fr d'Alzon walked with pupils from the school at Nimes to local shrines; It was not until later in the nineteenth century that pilgrimages were possible due to an improved political situation in Israel. For the first one a boat was bought sailing from France to Israel. There were few hotels and people had to sleep under canvas. Eventually the Fathers built a hostelry in Jerusalem as well as purchasing land for research at a site where the high priest had lived. This is where our centre in Jerusalem is today under the name of St Peter at cockcrow.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 291 *Love made fruitful - The love of a mother and a father* A father helps the child to perceive the limits of life, to be open to the challenges of the wider world, and to see the need for hard work and strenuous effort."

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 Tel no	01462 459126	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }
	Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }