



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 2008

13th – 20th August 2022 – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 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: Apoc 11:19,12:1-6,10, 1 Cor 44:10-12,16, Lk 1:39-56

Entrance Antiphon Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, who today were exalted above the choirs of Angels into eternal triumph with Christ.

Psalm: On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord graciously hear us!

Next Week: Is 66:18-21, Heb 12:5-7,11-13, Luke 13:22-30

Ramblings The Assumption (Pope Francis)

In Mary's Assumption into Heaven, we celebrate an infinitely greater conquest than the "giant step for mankind" when man first set foot on the moon. When the lowly Virgin of Nazareth set foot in paradise, body and spirit, it was "the huge leap forward for humanity". We are precious, destined to rise again because God does not allow our bodies to vanish into nothing. With God, nothing is lost!

Mary's advice to us lies in her song, the "Magnificat" – "My soul magnifies the Lord". Mary 'glorifies' the Lord: not the problems, which she did not lack at the time. She does not allow herself to be overwhelmed by difficulties and absorbed by fears. Rather, she puts God as the first importance of life, which becomes the source of her Magnificat. Her joy is born not from the absence of problems, which come sooner or later, but from God's presence, because He is great and he looks on the lowly ones. We are the weakness of His love.


Mary acknowledges that she is small and exalts the "great things" that the Lord has done for her. She is grateful for the gift of life, she is a virgin yet she becomes pregnant, and Elizabeth, too, who was elderly, is expecting a child. The Lord works wonders with those who are lowly ..., who give ample space to God in their life, for which Mary praises God.

Pope Francis invites us to ask ourselves, whether we, like Mary, praise and thank God for the good things God does for us, for God's love, forgiveness, tenderness and for giving us Mary as our Mother and our brothers and sisters.

If we forget the good, the heart shrinks. But if, like Mary, we remember the great things that the Lord does, if at least once a day we were to "magnify" God, then our hearts will expand and our joy will increase.

Diary Dates

Sun 14 Aug Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses. This week's coffee morning will be in aid of One World Group. Proceeds from this coffee morning will go to provide goods for the Hitchin Pantry. Cakes, preserves, books and religious cards and artefacts will also be on sale. All are welcome.

Tuesday 16 Aug

10.30am Coffee Morning Hall

Wed 17 Aug

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 18 Aug

1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 19 Aug

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 20 Aug St Bernard

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

2pm Charismatic Prayer 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



We pray for **Margaret Connolly** whose funeral is on **Wednesday 24 August 2022 at 1pm** and for **John McDonald** whose funeral is on **Wednesday 31 August 2022 at 12 noon**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families.

Our Lady's Special Support Group would like to thank all those who helped at their coffee morning. A total of £70 was raised for their funds.



Counters urgently needed We have a group of counting teams who count the offertory collections on a Tuesday morning. The teams are in need of helpers for this really important job to count the parish income. The commitment is once every 4-6 weeks so not too onerous. If you can help, please let David Wilson or Cheryl know asap. Many thanks.

We have two elderly parishioners who need help with their garden and are willing to pay for the help. If you are able to help or know someone who can please contact [Trish Bonnett](#)

Can you help by reading to a parishioner who can no longer see to read? The parishioner lives in Ickleford and would love to have someone read to her occasionally. If you are able to help please let [Trish Bonnett](#) know asap.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation Course the next course will be on Saturday 22nd October 2022 10-11.30am in the

Church Hall. [Register here](#)

First Reconciliation and Holy Communion programme 2023 Application forms for next year's FHC programme is now available. Please note: if your child was baptised outside of the parish then you will need to upload a copy of their certificate.

The first parents meeting details:

Tuesday 27th September 7-8.30pm

Please arrive from 6.45 to allow a prompt start (tea and coffee will be served). If you have child

care issues, then children are welcome to join. Applications and more details can be found on the following:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/sacramental-prep/firsteucharist/>

Confirmation 2023 for those in Year 9 and above will commence in January 2023. More details to follow.

Adults for confirmation or exploring the Catholic faith (even if you are already baptised in the faith) can find out more at our **RICIA sessions** which run all year round on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9pm in the Emmanuel centre meeting room. Contact Rob **07862 764884**.

The next **Marriage Preparation Course** will take place in the church hall on **Saturday 29 October 2022, 9am to 5pm**. Anyone considering marriage in the church in 2023 should book onto this course. To book a place please email catholicmarriageprep@outlook.com with your full names (both parties). **The fee is £60 per couple.**

A parishioner has a single bed available free of charge to be collected in Hitchin. Please contact [Cheryl](#) if you know anyone who may be interested. Many thanks.

Youth event report Congratulations to Rob on his first event in the parish. Small numbers attended but they had a chat from Br Adams on *Creation as a gift and how we were created with gifts to use in the world*. This was followed with pizza and football. Faith, food and fun, what more could you ask for?? Watch out for emails and notes in newsletter for next event in September.

Love in Action volunteering awards – for details please go to [Love in Action](#)



This Sunday we celebrate the Assumption of Our Lady. Fr d'Alzon kept this title of Our Lady for his Congregation as it was founded in the College of the Assumption in Nimes. We tend to worry about the lack of vocations in Europe but need to thank God for the growth of vocations in Asia and Africa. Our latest newsletter shows that 15 young men start their novitiate in August. Thirteen will make their first vows and fifty three will renew their vows. We thank God for these young men joining us and pray for their perseverance.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 296 *Love made fruitful - The love of a mother and a father* God sets the father in the family, so he may be close to his children when they stray and when they get back on the right path

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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