



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 2011

3rd – 10th September 2022 – 23rd 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: Wis 9:13-18, Phil 9-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!



Next Week: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14, Tim 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32

Ramblings The word of the wise says that putting God first, as Jesus asks of us, does not mean others do not matter. God as we know loves us all equally and without exception. In loving God, we will love what God loves and that includes everyone else. This implies that we do not possess or own our family but it does speak of a very special relationship with them unlike any other. Once again God sets the example. God gives us life, our abilities and talents, our virtues and qualities and above all freedom of choice. We come into the world able to love, to have faith and trust, and with the gift of hope; all of which we are able to strengthen or weaken according to the choices we make. But God does not interfere; God does not possess us. We choose God freely and lovingly. Scholars tell us that the word translated as **hate** in our gospel comes from a word meaning **prefer**. This suggests that making God our preferred choice, putting God first, actually strengthens the relationship we have with our families and friends even if or when they do not see it that way.

The letter to Philemon helps bring out the importance of all these points. Onesimus has run away and by the law should be put to death. But, in Christ, Philemon and Onesimus are brothers, both loved unconditionally by Christ which implies that they should also love each other unconditionally. Paul shows his trust in Philemon by sending Onesimus back to him, trusting him to do the right thing. History suggests Philemon did.

Thursday 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre
All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm

Diary Dates

Sun 4 Sept	
	Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses will be provided by willing parishioners and all money will go to the Hitchin Pantry. *****
	3pm Healing and Wholeness service Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.
Monday 5 Sept	
2pm OWLS Meeting Scout Hall *****	
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall	
Tuesday 6 Sept	
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall *****	
7pm Scouts Scout Hall	
Wed 7 Sept	
11.30am CTH Exec Meeting Hall *****	
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****	
7pm RCIA EC	
Thurs 8 Sept Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary	
1pm Italian Club Hall *****	
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall	
Fri 9 Sept	
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall	
Sat 10 Sept	
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

Many thanks to you all for supporting the recent Coffee Morning in aid of The Gardening Group. A total of **£80** was raised to be used for new plants in the gardens.



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Saturday 17th September 10.30am for 11am start in the church hall - experience a day of **Christian Meditation**

Martin Zetter from the World Community for Christian Meditation will be our leader for the day. There will be books (cash only) for sale and literature to take away. Food will be provided. If you would like to come please contact Dave at david.whitt15@ntlworld.com. See poster on notice board.

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 A parishioner needs flexible part-time work preferably in the afternoons. Anything considered. Please contact Bessie on 07597 702719

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GIFT AID TAX REBATE A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has signed up to Gift Aid their Mass Offerings and other donations to the Parish. We have now received the Gift Aid tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year (2021/2022) and this came to an amazing total of **£23186.54**. The return reflects really really well on the fact that so many of you have signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations and choose to Gift Aid your other donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which make a valuable 25p in the £1.00 addition to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to commit to making an offering ...**AND IT WON'T COST YOU**

A PENNY MORE !!

To sign-up or to check whether or not you have already signed up or to get more information, please contact David on 01462-627784 or Cheryl in the Parish Office. **THANKS AGAIN!**


Quarterly offertory figures May– July 2022


Envelopes		£ 3237.71	
Standing Orders		£18452.25	
Offertory Online		£ 1085.00	
Offertory Loose Plate & Contactless		£ 4525.03	
TOTAL		£27299.99	

Other items of interest


Registration is now open for a new leadership training course called "**Laudato Si' Animators Program**" which seeks to train Catholics who want to serve their communities according to the teachings of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*. The *Laudato Si'* Animators Program will feature an online training course to train Catholic leaders from all over the world on various aspects of integral ecology. The course is free of charge and will be offered in English from August 24 to October 12, Italian from August to October 4, Portuguese from August 23 to October 22, and Spanish from October 4 to November 26. ([Registration here](#)) This course has started but is available on catch up videos.

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Tackling the Global Food Crisis – Saturday 10th Sept 10.30am online meeting
 Join Catherine Ogolla, CAFOD's Country Representative for Kenya, Uganda & Eritrea, who will give a first-hand account of our work tackling the Food Crisis which is affecting over 20 million people. Book a place at [Online talks](#)

 Every year at this time every Assumptionist community holds a local chapter. This is a meeting to review to review our community life, our mission and to plan for the future. This year we are also asked to prepare our provincial chapter. and forward our suggestions, ideas ,and concerns. These are important times and we ask for prayers that these assemblies are truly fruitful for us and all those areas where Assumptionists have their mission.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 299** *Love made fruitful - An expanding fruitfulness* Adoption is a very generous way to become parents. I (Pope Francis) encourage those who cannot have children to expand their marital love to embrace those who lack a proper family situation.

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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