



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 2016

8th – 15th October 2022 28th 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: Kings 5:14-17, Tim 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Psalm: **The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Readings: Ex 17:8-13, Tim 3:14-4:2, Luke 18:1-8

Ramblings An endearing feature of Jesus was his ability to find teaching elements in everyday life. In curing the lepers, he noticed that a Samaritan came back to thank him. Jesus not only taught us how to be dignified and holy but he lived it. He also shows us that it is not necessary to be good to receive his blessing or his healing, even an enemy or someone who has turned against him, will still be helped if they have faith and turn to him.

Last month we worked and prayed for creation, seeking ways to allow it to heal itself. It is never too late to stop the downward spiral we now face. Nor is it an exaggeration to see ourselves as the enemy of creation. Unlike lepers, we seem to want to destroy ourselves. Let's be ever more earnest in providing the conditions necessary for creation to heal itself. Jesus told the lepers to show themselves to the priests. Jesus tells us that, if we work harder for creation, he will provide the healing we need which, at the moment, lies beyond our power. Jesus did not let down the lepers. He will not let us down if we have faith and act more positively. Maybe, just maybe, creation is crying out to help us!!

The Journey (David Whyte)

Above the mountains the geese turn into the light again

Painting their black silhouettes on an open sky.


Sometimes everything has to be inscribed across the heavens so you can find the one line already written inside you.

Sometimes it takes a great sky to find that first, bright and indescribable wedge of freedom in your own heart.

Sometimes with the bones of the black sticks left when the fire has gone out someone has written something new in the ashes of your life.

You are not leaving. Even as the light fades quickly now, you are arriving.

Diary Dates

Sun 9 Oct
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of KISS ***** 6.30-7.30pm CTH Theological Society St Mary's Church. The theme is 'The Problem of Evil' with speakers Phil Jackson of Zeo Church and Gary Bentley, the Chair of the Hertfordshire Christian Police Association. There will be the usual opportunity for general conversation on the theme and presentations. All welcome.
Monday 10 Oct
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall
Tuesday 11 Oct St John XXIII Pope
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall ***** 7pm Scouts Scout Hall
Wed 12 Oct
10.30am Praise Group Hall ***** 6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall ***** 7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 13 Oct St Edward the Confessor
1pm Italian Club Hall ***** 6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall
Fri 14 Oct
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 15 Oct St Teresa of Avila
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Frances Chamberlain is happy to announce that next weekend the Traidcraft stall will be



back after both Sunday Masses. She'll have Fairtrade goods as well as Christmas Fairtrade gifts. Please do go have a look.

🙏 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

Many thanks to all who came and supported the recent Coffee Morning in aid of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC). A total of £140.73 was raised.

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CAFOD Family Fast Day – World Food Crisis Appeal Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. As each day goes by, the situation worsens. As people of faith we must act. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table. Please give today or start a monthly gift to CAFOD. Use the envelope in the Porch (put in black box on wall) or go to cafod.org.uk/fastday.

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We pray for David Barr whose funeral is on Thursday 20 October 2022 at 11.30am. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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Third appeal for Saturday Cleaning of church – your help is really needed:

We **really** do need more people to help once a month to clean our church to make it a pleasant place in which to worship. Usually we have three people per team, attending just one week in 5, or 6. You will spend about an hour from either 8:30 - 9:30 or after 11:15. Please contact Alan O'Mahoney at alanom@btinternet.com

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Ministers of the Word If you are an existing reader or if you are interested in becoming one come along to a meeting in the church for readers on 16th October at ~ 11.30am (after 10.30 Mass) 9 new young readers and their parents trained this spring along with new adult readers. They received basic training in aspects of proclaiming the Word and an opportunity to practice. We want to offer our readers both old and new a



chance to meet other readers and feel part of and supported by a larger group.

The focus will be on preparation for reading: sharing what works for each of us; and an introduction to a new resource to help us with puzzling readings.

Ideally we want as many people to come in person but appreciate that this is not always possible so we will livestream this meeting on the [facebook page](#). This will be available afterwards as a video also on the home page of the parish website. It would be helpful if you could let [Trish](#) know that you plan to attend so we can prepare for the numbers involved.

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE 16-



23 October 2022 This year the prayers reflect one theme – ongoing wars and their consequences. Each day focuses on one of the many areas impacted by war. Please keep those countries

and their communities who are now dealing with these consequences in your year-long prayers.

A daily prayer will be sent for your use and there will be a peace themed Eucharistic service on Tuesday 18th October at 7pm and an Inter Faith Peace service in the church on Sunday 23rd October at 4pm. Please do join us in prayer and encourage your young people to come too – this is their world being affected by ongoing wars and their consequences.

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Children's Liturgy Helpers

We would like to start Children's Liturgy at the 10.30 Mass from the First Sunday of Advent (27th November) It is such a joy to be with our children, sharing faith with them and helping them to get to know better, God our Father and his Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We learn a lot from the children. To be able to do this we need help from people who regularly attend the 10.30 Mass or are prepared to help with this important task. If we have enough people (two per group of children) the commitment will be once every 5 weeks or so.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

No special skills are required - just a willingness to talk with children and listen to them.

All materials are provided and there will be a training session for all involved. There is a requirement for a DBS check by the Diocese which is a straight forward process.

If you would like to experience the joy of sharing faith with the children of our parish in this way please let [Trish](#) know as soon as possible.

Certificate of Catholic Practice for children who wish to start at the St John Henry Newman School in September 2023



All admission applications for Catholic children require a Certificate of Catholic Practice and this year we are inviting people to meet with Fr Tom to discuss this with him. **Dates Wed 19th Oct 5-6pm, Thurs 20th Oct & Fri 21st Oct 4-6pm**

You can sign up for your meeting on the sheets in the church porch. You need to bring a photo of your child and their baptism certificate.

Parking at the Ordination As we are approaching the wonderful occasion of the Ordination of Brother Adams on Saturday 12 November 2022 at 12noon, I attach further details - in particular to parking.

We are expecting a full Congregation. In addition, the Hitchin Pantry will be in operation that day - a project that Cardinal Vincent is very keen to see in action!

With this in mind, we are asking **everyone** to avoid using the Church car park and use car parks nearby. Spaces in the Church car park will be reserved for the **Cardinal** and visiting **Bishops and Priests** and visitors / parishioners **with limited mobility only**.

The police have offered their assistance with traffic management on the day (subject to resources and/or any incidents where they will need to prioritise).

The council, however, have pointed out in the past, that vehicles illegally parked or those that cause an obstruction, will be ticketed. This is a part of the email we received in respect of Fr Michael's funeral -

Thank you for your email regarding the parking of attendees... I hope you appreciate the area surrounding the church is exceptionally busy and any obstruction can lead to congestion and health and safety concerns.

I ask that all who are attending to park in the car park in Bancroft or in areas where there are no single yellow and/or double yellow lines, we have to enforce vehicles parked on these lines if they are parked in contravention as per the Traffic Management Act.

In the past, Hitchin Town Football Club offered us car parking spaces but unfortunately there is a home game on the 12th, so their car park will be busy. We have therefore **not** approached them to use their car park on this occasion.

Parking is **strictly prohibited** on the grass verges by the Police station and also **prohibited** in their visitors' car park. It is a working police station and for security reasons they need to know at all times which vehicles are parked on their property.

We ask that you all park safely and enjoy the day!

Other Dates

23rd Oct 3pm Phase Hitchin 20th Celebration Service at





Christchurch, Bedford Road, SG5 1HF. Phase is holding a short Celebration service with guest speaker Lionel Wallace DL and stories from our work. The service will be followed by tea and cake! All are welcome.

Other items of interest


Christians against Poverty (CAP) needs Befrienders CAP's debt work is in demand and there is a need for Befrienders to support Carlton Andrews and Phil Jackson in their visits to clients. Befrienders can offer an exchange of texts or a weekly phone call or a coffee - it's not a regular fixed commitment and it can be any time during the day, Monday to Friday. No financial experience is needed as that does not form part of the role - full training is given. If you are interested, contact Carlton Andrews, Tuesday to Thursday, on 07305 460031.



 Fr d'Alzon gave us the words of the Lord's Prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come' not just as a motto but above all as the object of all our work in our community life and in all of our apotolic work put simply we say 'We work for the Kingdom in and around us.' A challenge open to all followers of Jesus.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 304** *Love made fruitful - An expanding fruitfulness* Each of us, in our families, has a special role in preparing for the coming of God's kingdom in our world. (Meeting with Families in Manila, 16.1.2015).

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 FrTom 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 }
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Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }

Why Not Become a Governor at Our Lady Catholic School?



- Do you want to make a difference to the lives of young children?
- Do you value Catholic child-centred education based on Gospel values?
- Would you like to support a thriving Catholic school in Hertfordshire?

If the answer to these questions is 'YES'...then please read on!

Following its recent highly successful Ofsted inspection in which it was rated as 'Good' in all areas, Our Lady Catholic Primary School in Hitchin is currently looking to recruit new governors to support the school on its journey to excellence.

Our Lady School is based in Hitchin and provides the best possible educational experiences for its pupils within a nurturing Catholic environment in which every child matters.

Highlights from the recent Ofsted report (5th – 6th July 2022) include the following:

- 'This is a friendly and welcoming school. Relationships are positive. Pupils are happy and enjoy learning.'
- '...parents and carers are positive about the school. They feel they are part of a caring school community in which their children flourish.'
- 'Governors are diligent in their work. They ensure that leaders' actions are making a positive difference to improve the quality of education for all pupils.'

If you are interested in becoming part of Our Lady Catholic Primary School community and would like to find out more about our wonderful school, please contact the Head Teacher directly using the following email address: head@ourladys.herts.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the school office on 01462 622555

"Together at Our Lady School we are living, learning and growing through Jesus Christ and his Church."