



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 2017

15th – 22nd October 2022 29th 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: Ex 17:8-13, Tim 3:14-4:2, Luke 18:1-8

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Psalm: **Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!


Next Week Readings: Ecc 35:12-14, 16-19, Tim 4:6-8, 16-18,

Ramblings It is no coincidence that one of the key questions asked at the conference I attended this past week was *who is Jesus Christ for you?* As we listen to the readings this week, it is very clear that it is not just any Jesus Christ but the Christ of the scriptures. Throughout his writing, St Paul emphasises this point again and again. Paul had a clear picture of this Christ, he was his Saviour, the one who turned his life upside down, the one who inspired and motivated him to preach the Gospel, the one who plucked him from death and suffering time after time, the one who gave him the courage to challenge Peter and the other apostles over circumcision.

The obvious follow-up question is *how do we know that we have a correct image of Jesus as portrayed in the scriptures?* Once again the readings have a simple answer: Through Prayer!! We acknowledge that Faith is a gift of God offered to us through Jesus Christ and planted within us by the Holy Spirit. Reflecting on this gift in prayer will lead us to its author. Prayer and faith are inseparable as Moses reminds us in the first reading and St Paul in the second. We can know our image of Christ is correct when it urges us to care for others especially those in need, to reach out to those on the margins: offering places to stay for Ukrainian refugees, providing food for the needy through Feedup Warmup, the Food Bank, My Pantry, offering a warm and welcoming place for people to gather through the coming winter months. In this way we respond to Paul's request to preach the Gospel by being artisans as well as bearers of Good News

Diary Dates

Sun 16 Oct

 **Coffee Morning** Proceeds from the One World/Live Simply group coffee after 8.30 and 10.30 masses will go to Aid to the Church in Need, a Catholic charity which supports persecuted Christians around the world. Do join us in the hall where cakes, preserves, books and Christmas cards will be on sale along with a range of Fairtrade goods. There will also be a raffle with many attractive prizes.

Monday 17 Oct **St Ignatius of Antioch**

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tuesday 18 Oct **St Luke**

10.30am Coffee Morning Hall

7pm FHC Session 2 Hall

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Wed 19 Oct

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 20 Oct

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 21 Oct

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

6-8pm Youth Group session Hall - The session will include the three 'Fs' Fellowship, Faith-The Commandments, Food-pizza

All young people of secondary school age are welcome. For further details, please contact Rob at roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk

Sat 22 Oct

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

10.30 Mass this Sunday 16th Oct we are having a baptism during our Mass. It will be lovely to welcome the family and two new members to our Christian family.

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Ministers of the Word If you are interested in becoming a reader come along to a meeting in the church for readers this Sunday 16th October at ~ 11.30am (after 10.30 Mass)



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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Many thanks to you all for your very generous donations of £533.36 towards CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day Appeal last week.

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A note from the KISS coffee morning - Thank you to those who baked, served, brought gifts for and helped with the raffle and for you all who came to support the KISS Coffee morning last weekend which raised £130.00!! Thank you for your generosity and kindness. God Bless.

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We pray for **Philip Holmes** whose funeral is on Wednesday 2 November 2022 at 1pm. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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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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The **next gardening session** is next Saturday 22nd Oct from 9am. Meet in the church car park. Bring your gardening gloves. Coffee and biscuits provided. All very welcome to help.



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Baptism Preparation Course the next course will be on Saturday 22nd October 2022 10-11.30am in the Church Hall. [Register here](#)

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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 if interested. Many thanks.

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Next Sunday 23rd October at 10.30 is a Children's Mass. The focus will be Baptism as we welcome another child who will be baptised during the Mass. Children may like to bring their Baptism candle to the Mass along with one of the completed colouring sheets which will be attached to the emailed newsletter and also copies will be in the porch this weekend. We hope to see lots of you there.

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Your help needed to clean church on 5th



November at 11.30am in preparation of the ordination of Br Adams and the visit of Cardinal Vincent the following weekend. The more who come the quicker it will be. Please let Alan know if you are able to come.

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Sunday 6th November 3pm is our **In Memoriam** service for those in our parish who have died in the past year. We welcome all parishioners to this service where we read out the names of those who have died since our last service and prayer for all those we have loved and who have died.



PROVIDING SPACES WITH
RESPECT, DIGNITY & WARMTH



Warm Spaces is an initiative to open our church facilities to those who cannot afford to heat their homes or have nowhere warm to be. We plan to offer our church hall for this purpose on Fridays as soon as possible as it is getting colder. **Hitchin Pantry** volunteers will support this from 12pm-4pm and we need more parishioners who will help with setting up from **8am** and welcoming and providing teas and coffees from **9am-12pm**. If you are willing to help for an hour setting up or 2 hours for welcoming in this way please let [Trish](#) know asap. The sooner we can start the sooner we can help people warm up. We have applied for a Caritas grant to help us provide lunches and Liz Wills has secured some computers for people to be able to use. Please watch this space for more news and any other resources we may ask to provide so that our **Warm Space** is welcoming and enriching for those who use it.

Parish Mission Statement **Don't forget to make your comments** The Pastoral Parish Council have been considering a Mission Statement for the parish, to define what we aim to do as a parish and guide us in our decision making. After much discussion we have agreed on the following text and we ask all parishioners to consider this statement. If you have any suggestions for amendments please let [Trish Bonnett](#) know by 30th October.

*Our mission in the Church, is to:
live simply, peacefully and sustainably;
be attentive to the call of the Holy Spirit;
support the poor and marginalised;
be a source of comfort to those in need
and seek out those distanced from the Lord.
We strive to strengthen the bonds of families and
friendship through our ministries, outreach and
liturgies.
We ask the Lord's guidance to make us mindful
of our duty to protect the earth and everything he
has created and make us joyful messengers of
His Kingdom.*

Ukrainian Family - Furniture wanted – Mary & Greg Hewitson write: - 'We are hosting 2 Ukrainian Refugees (mother and 19 yr. old daughter) who will shortly be moving locally to their own unfurnished accommodation. Their flat will need to be furnished, so we are looking for bedroom and living room furniture, TV and electricals; kitchenware and white goods, utensils and cutlery etc which you no longer want or need.

that could be considered as they build their own home.

Please contact Greg on 07850 273234 if you think you can help. Thank you. Mary & Greg.

Other Dates

27 Oct 7pm Talk organised by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral in Westminster Cathedral Hall. Creators of Peace (COP) is a global network of people on each continent making a difference - inspired by their participation in Creators of Peace Circles, conferences, dialogues and other COP initiatives. For peace to be meaningful it must be inclusive, but it often isn't.

<https://iofc.org.uk/initiatives/creators-of-peace/>

Talk by Miranda Shaw and Elizabeth Lasker £10 Tickets from Friends@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7798 9059

29 Oct 3pm via Zoom

PACT's Just People online workshop

Would you like to find out more about how you can support our brothers and sisters who are affected by imprisonment? If so, PACT's JustPeople workshops may be for you.

More

information <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Event/justpeople-online-workshop-october>

10 Nov 11am Coming Home A Service of Commemoration for people who have been homeless who have died in the past year at St Martin In the Fields, Trafalgar Square.

17 Nov- 8 Dec Witness to Hope: The Prayers and Readings for the Sundays of Advent. A short series of talks on Zoom to take you through the prayers and readings of the four Sundays of Advent Year A given by Fr John Deehan. Check [Advent Talks](#) on Adult Faith Formation page on the parish website for details.

Sycamore marriage enrichment: Growing in Faith Together: A four-week course for engaged couples who have completed their marriage preparation course and want to continue exploring their faith together, and for married couples to enrich their friendship and love. <https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/growing-in-faith-together/>

18-20 Nov Marriage Encounter Weekend in Coventry: are you looking for an opportunity to invest in your marriage. This well-crafted resource is designed to deepen, enrich & refresh your relationship.

<https://wwme.org.uk/weekend/me-weekendrugby18th-to-20th-november-2022/>

3-4 Dec 11am-5pm St Ippolyts Church Nativity Crib Festival Last year's Festival was a real extravaganza! There were 240 Nativity crib sets on display with virtually no duplicates. From the very tiny - a wooden one the size of a quail's egg to one made of papier mache a couple of feet high and everything in between. They ranged from traditional sets carved out of Holy Land olive wood to the frankly barmy – the one made from beer bottles springs to mind! Each was special and each had a little card explaining what made it special to its owner. (It is these cards that can make you laugh and cry that are, in many ways, the heart of the festival). In addition the Cribs were looked down on by a vast host of angels all suspended from purple lights in a truly beautiful display.

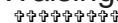
Will this be matched again this year? There will be a wonderful and popular "Living Crib" where you can dress up as the holy family and take a photo. There will be no host of angels but there will be an equally amazing installation!

If you have never been come up and see why it has become the start of the Christmas season to so many people. (Entry is £4, children are free)

Other items of interest

A message from The National Shrine of Walsingham – It is with regret that, after much consideration and consultation, I have taken the decision to cancel the forthcoming Dowry Tour visitation of Our Lady of Walsingham to Westminster Cathedral at the end of October. As you know, COVID interrupted the Tour in 2020, and, all things considered, it has not seemed possible to conclude the Tour in the way we would wish. I regret that this may cause disappointment; but be assured Our Blessed Mother is honoured in this place, and we are glad to welcome pilgrims all the year round. Our Lady

of Walsingham pray for us!
 Mgr. Philip Moger Rector, Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham



Please read this urgent appeal below

Novotel in Stevenage that has been filled with asylum seekers and they are in desperate need of several items.

There are 160 of them including 60 children who have been placed in a Stevenage hotel, with little or no access to the outside world. Information is still coming through on what the county is doing to help them.

In the meantime, there is a desperate need for suitcases, backpacks, coats and other warm winter clothes for adults and children.

Roger Head is happy to receive such items - let him know when you have some and he can arrange for all items to be off your hands and stored in the church building in Heathfield Road in Hitchin. His telephone number is 07873 973689 or 01438 861903


SAINT BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022


"I shall do everything for heaven, my true home." – St Bernadette

St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, STEVENAGE SG1 1NJ

17-18 OCTOBER 2022

MONDAY 17 OCTOBER		TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER	
9pm	Meditation Words of St Bernadette & quiet music	6am	Church opens
1pm	Welcoming Ceremony Relics arrive in Bedwell	6.30	Angelus & Rosary Sorrowful Mysteries
2pm	Rosary Joyful Mysteries led by the Syo-Malbar community	7am	Closing Mass: Fr Norbert Fernandes Dean of Stevenage
3pm	Liturgy of Water & Prayers for Healing	7.45am	Pilgrim blessing
5pm	Mass: Fr Andrew Gallagher Assistant Director for the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes	8.15am	Relics depart from Bedwell
5.45pm	Angelus & Rosary Luminous Mysteries led by the Filipino community		
7pm	Solemn Mass: Bishop Paul McAleenan Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster		
then	Outdoor procession		

 Over the next few weeks we will reflect on thoughts of Fr d'Alzon; "For Christians charity is their resource. Through faith man receives the truth and through the truth freedom; 'The truth will set you free'. Through charity he receives holy energy, the strength to do what is good

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 305** Love made fruitful - An expanding fruitfulness Families should go forth from their homes in a spirit of solidarity with others. In this way a family can become a hub for integrating persons into society and a point of contact between public and private spheres.

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 }	01462 459126 press 4
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk } Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	