



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 2022

19th – 26th November 2022 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE - 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: Sam 5:1-3, Col 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43

Entrance Antiphon: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Psalm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'.

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Is 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Matt 24:37-44

Ramblings In life we can encounter two kinds of people. The first finds faults and errors in others and lives a sad and sour life with little happiness or joy. The second finds the goodness in others that reveal all kinds of riches and possibilities leading both to happiness and joy. The main difference between the two lies in recognising the presence of God. The disgruntled thief, thinking only of himself, secretly hopes Jesus might set him free, trying to make Jesus do what he wants through ridicule. The other thief recognising God's presence in Jesus, defends him. He recognises the wrongfulness of what is happening to Jesus and, despite everything in his past, he asks Jesus to remember him, to grant him mercy and forgiveness and a place with Jesus in heaven. The magnanimity of Jesus is that he died for both of them. Jesus forgives the good thief and promises him eternal life. Amidst this squalid, cruel and terrifying ordeal Jesus reveals his love and care for us all. Jesus even forgives those who condemned and crucified him. There, on the cross, Jesus shows royal dignity at its best, a royal dignity that he shares with us in Baptism and is rooted in our being. We are truly blessed.

The Kingdom

It's a long way off but inside it there are quite different things going on; festivals at which the poor man is king and the consumptive is healed; mirrors in which the blind look at themselves and love looks at them back; and industry is for mending the bent bones and the minds fractured by life. It's a long way off, but to get there takes no time and admission is free, if you will purge yourself of desire, and present yourself with your need only and the simple offering of your faith, green as a leaf. R.S.Thomas 1913 – 2000

Diary Dates

Sun 20 Nov Christ the King
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in support of the The Scouts Group.
Monday 21 Nov Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall
Tuesday 22 Nov St Cecilia
10.30am Coffee Morning Hall *****
7pm Scouts Scout Hall
Wed 23 Nov St Andrew Dũng-Lac
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****
7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 24 Nov
1pm Italian Club Hall *****
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall
Fri 25 Nov
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
6pm Youth Group Hall Fun, Faith & Food
Sat 26 Nov
10am FHC Session 5 Hall *****
2-4pm 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

Congratulations and welcome to our newly ordained Fr Adams.



A beautiful Ordination Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and many other Priests of the Diocese and Fr Benoit, the AA Provincial from France and over 160 people from the parish, the Diocese and local community. This was followed by a wonderful reception co-ordinated by Charmaine Ball and her team of supporters with food provided by a myriad of parishioners. Thanks to them and to all who contributed to make this such a memorable occasion. We also give thanks to:

- Paul Moynihan MC from the Diocese for all his help and support in advance and on the day.
- The Guild of St Stephen for their support of this occasion.
- To all those who paid tribute to Fr Adams with particular thanks to Sarah Snowball and Our Lady School.
- The choir for the hard work they put in along with organist Kevin who also helped them patiently to get the Litany of the saints right!!
- The welcomers who greeted all who arrived.
- Christine Laubin who did all the folding, cutting and stapling of all service sheets.
- Rob for holding it all together in the week prior while Trish was away and sorting the car park
- The cleaning team for getting the place looking so spotless
- The flower team for their displays and thanks to the Brownies for the flowers on the pew ends.
- Cheryl for all the communications with outside agencies

- Liz and Hitchin pantry for being so accommodating and supporting this occasion.
- Jason Ahluwalia for the photography – pictures will be up on the parish website sometime this week.
- Anyone else who contributed in any way and apologies if you are not named.
- The Father, Son and Holy Spirit who directed us all in what needed to be done and ensured it was done on time.

God bless Fr Adams and bless us with his continued ministry in our parish

Fr Adams began his ministry in our parish at the 10.30 Mass the next day.



This Sunday (20th Nov) 10.30 Mass we welcome Children, staff and governors from Our Lady School who will be supporting the liturgy with the readings and offertory procession.

The School is holding a Christmas Raffle on **9th December** during the **Christmas Fair**. Tickets are £1 each. Prizes includes an Apple iPad and gift hampers. Tickets are on sale after Saturday and Sunday Masses until 4th December. Look forward to seeing you there!

The next **Youth Group session** is **Friday 25th November 6-8pm** in the Parish Hall and is open to all school year 9 and above.

It will have the usual 3Fs **F**un, **F**aith & **F**ood There will also be an opportunity to watch the England Vs USA world cup match!



In the porch there are Advent booklets for Infants and Juniors priced 50p and an Adult booklet with prayer for Advent priced £1. There are also Advent calendars for children which are free.



Last Sunday's Coffee Morning in aid of the One World/Live Simply Group raised **£118.70** to help support Casa Aliaza which helps the homeless in Central America. Many thanks for your generous support and continued generosity.

Our **Advent Service** on **Sunday 27th November** at **3pm** is to herald our time of preparation for the birth of Christ and will be led by Ann Milner. With a theme of **Peace and Hope** it will give us some time to think about what we are preparing for this Christmas. Please come along to have some prayer time.





CTH Council meeting is on **Monday 21st November, 7.30pm** at Christchurch. It will include, among

other things, news about church responses to the need for 'Warm Spaces' this winter, and about an initiative on working with young people. We will also have our Annual General Meeting when we will give thanks for the past year and make our appointments and plans for 2023. The meeting will close with a session on 'Journeying Together' led by our Chair, Father Tom. The questions being considered at this sharing are below:

Mission

- What would you wish to celebrate about how your parish/community lives its mission?
- How does your community decide priorities for mission?
- What areas of mission are we neglecting?

Discerning

- What might the Spirit of God be saying to us through our reflection on these experiences of journeying together?
- What 'ways of doing things' may the Spirit of God be calling us to change?

Please do join us for this important meeting in the life of Churches together in Hitchin



The next and last gardening session of the year is **Sat 24th November** with mince pies and mulled wine as a thank you for the efforts of the team throughout the year.

Applications for the Confirmation 2023 programme are open please find more details [here](#).



Sessions will start in January, they are open to anyone who is school year 9 and above. Any questions please do get in touch. NB: as part of the process, you need to upload a copy of your Baptism Certificate if you were not baptised at Our Lady's.



Training for Ministry of the Word a course led by Dana Sample and Bridie Duffy for those, young and adult, who'd like to proclaim the readings at Mass. Two sessions -

4.30-5.30pm on **Tuesday 29th November** and **Tuesday 6th December**. Please contact us on bridie_duffy@yahoo.com to register your interest. Thank you.

Congratulations to Grace Wills and John Scott at the Caritas Volunteers awards



Grace Wills was awarded the runner up award by Cardinal Vincent for Young Volunteer of the Year for her work in Hitchin Pantry.

John Scott was awarded the runner up award by Bishop Paul for Outstanding service to the parish for he work over the many years before and during covid to keep our parish well maintained.



Both were cheered loudly by Fr Tom and other parishioners who attended.

There were many examples of wonderful volunteer work in the Diocese and we were so proud of our two parishioners who made it to the finals this year.

Other Dates

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral are holding the following events to support Westminster Cathedral. Both events are to be held at 7 pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QJ.

22 November 7pm: Katharine Parr: The Sixth Wife. Talk by Alison Weir £10

23 November 7pm: Cathedral Quiz with fish and chip supper. £18

Tickets from friends@rcdow.org.uk

26 November 10.30-2.30 Christians Against Poverty Information and Celebration Event:



If you are thinking about volunteering for or supporting CAP financially this is an ideal opportunity to find out more about what goes on at your local CAP centre which covers an area extending from Hitchin to Shefford, across to Letchworth and Royston. Currently we are looking for people in all these areas to offer encouragement and prayerful support to our clients on a flexible basis. No financial work is involved, no previous experience is required, and full training is given.

There will be short talks and videos to explain more about what we do, a taster of the training and the chance to hear from some of the thousands of clients across the country whose lives CAP seeks to transform every year.

This is a free event and lunch is provided.

To reserve your place please and to advise if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies etc. contact Carlton Andrews on 07305 460031 or carltonandrews@capuk.org or Phil Jackson on 07931 088175 or philjackson@capuk.org

Other items of interest

GCSE Maths and Chemistry tutoring available online and in-person.

Contact lacorteilyssa@gmail.com if interested.

December Matched Funding ££ Campaign Project Hope!

Any donations made to Phase Hitchin throughout December 2022 will once again be doubled in our matched funding campaign.

Donate via Just Giving or by sending a cash/cheque to the office and see your money double as it brings Hope to families in Hitchin.

Our mailing address is:

Phase Hitchin
Silverbirch Centre
Bedford Road
Hitchin, Herts SG5 1HF



Can you join us as a Phase Partner?

By giving a regular donation to support the children and young people of Hitchin.

Any monthly donations from Partner forms received this December will also be added to the Project Hope matched funding campaign! To become a Phase Partner simply contact the office for a form, or set up a regular gift via give.net

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.



November 11th was the 70th anniversary of the execution of the three Assumptionist martyrs in Bulgaria. They had been accused falsely of plotting the downfall of Russia, Bulgaria and the other communist countries of Eastern Europe. They were beatified by pope John Paul II in 2002.

Blessed Kamen, Pavel and Josephat pray for us.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love Love made fruitful - An expanding fruitfulness

Dear families, 'when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. (Luke 14:14)'. You will be blessed! Here is the secret to a happy family.

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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