



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 2030

14th – 21st January 2023 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

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: [Is 49:3.5-6](#), [Cor 1:1-3](#), [John 1:29-34](#)
Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!
Psalm: **Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.**
Intercession: We pray to the Lord
Response: **Lord hear us!**
Next Week: [Is 8:23-9:3](#), [Cor 1:10-13.17](#), [Mat 4:12-23](#)

Ramblings Paul speaks about racing to heaven mostly in terms of the eagerness and energy we put into it. He also talks about handing on the baton. John is clearly handing on the baton to Jesus. John was the forerunner and recognised witness of God and of the Messiah, God's chosen one. In this relay race, however, the changeover is initiated by the receiver, not the other way round. John steps back and Jesus picks up the baton, a changeover fully backed by John. We need therefore to be attentive to the many different ways that Jesus comes to us so that we are ready to pick up the baton and move forward. Ronald Rolheiser writes: *"In a marvellous book entitled, **The Music of Silence**, David Steindl-Rast highlights how each hour of the day has its own special light and its own particular mood and how we are more attentive to the present moment when we recognize and honour these "special angels" lurking inside each hour. He's right. Every hour of the day and every season of the year have something special to give us, but often times we are unable to make ourselves present to meet that gift!"*

Ronald Rolheiser reminds us that there are over thirty weeks of the year we call *Ordinary Time*. In this season we often wear green vestments, green is the sign of Hope. This first period of the season is a time of waiting for plants to nurture and begin growing, a season of waiting for new life, made ever more glorious by Easter and the resurrection. This part of the season asks for patience, for reflection and hopefully for silence. All of which helps us recognise the new life that is preparing to spring forth and help us be more aware of what David Steindl-Rast calls the angles of God and the messages they bring!

Diary Dates

Sun 15 January 2023

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses by One World/Live Simply group. Proceeds will go to the Garden City Hospice. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome
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6.30 to 7. 30pm Hitchin Theological Society in St Mary's Church. **What sort of Christian unity do we pray for?** Talk followed by Q & A.

Monday 16 Jan

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tuesday 17 Jan

10.30am "Coffee Chat" Hall
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2pm Craft Circle LCR
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7pm Scouts Scout Hall
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7pm FHC Session 7 Hall

Wed 18 Jan

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
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7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 19 Jan

1pm Italian Club Hall
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6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 20 Jan

10am-5pm **Warm Spaces** Hall includes coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.
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2-4pm **Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall
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2.30pm **Scripture** with Fr Andrew Christopher House



Sat 21 Jan

2-4pm **Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

Final call for applications for the **Confirmation 2023 programme** Please find more details [here](#). The sessions will commence on 24 January 2023 and they are open to anyone who is school year 9 and above.



🙏 **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

The **Fairtrade stall** is open after 8.30 & 10.30 Masses this weekend for all your fairtrade needs.

This weekend is your **last chance** to take books that have been removed from the parish library. They will be on a table in the hall. After to-day, any that remain will go to the charity shop. Once again, you are encouraged to borrow books from the library.

'Kiss Coffee Morning - a huge thank you to all those who prepared, baked, helped, and supported last Sunday's Kiss Coffee morning which **raised £165.00** – The support and generosity from you, our parish community, is wonderful – in these pressured times. Thank you for also being actively involved in the raffle, tidying up and clearing away tables. Thank you - you are all amazing!' We have a very Blessed parish community; following a spirited 10.30 Mass of renewal, that same sense of togetherness spread among us in the Church Hall.

Sunday 22nd January at 6pm Prayer session for the **Week of Christian Unity** with the theme of **Be-longing: praying for unity amidst injustice**. An opportunity for shared prayer and quiet moments. There will be refreshments

following this prayer session.



Sunday 29th January at 3pm in the hall the start of a new series of sessions entitled **Let's talk about ...** to continue our sharings on our Synodal journey. **Let's talk about**

Loneliness and what we can do to overcome it. We will have some input followed by discussion in smaller groups and then sharing together. Refreshments will follow. All are welcome.

The Pastoral Parish Council is in need of new members to support Fr Tom with the running of the parish. We would welcome anyone from the parish (do not have to be RC) and would really like to see a more diverse mix of cultures represented. The formal commitment is 6 meetings per year. If you want to find out more please speak to [Trish](#) or [Roger Hyde](#).

Help us get 2023 off to a great start for Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin by signing up to support us for **FREE on #easyfundraising**. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 7,000 brands including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, M&S and more. Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! Sign up today - it will make a BIG difference to us this year: [Easyfundraising](#)



Following last week's theme, Fr Roger Killeen founded Emmanuel House at Nottingham as a day centre mainly for weekends and bank holidays when homeless people had no place to shelter or obtain food. This simple plan, now over 40 years later is a thriving centre for many people with all sorts of needs.

Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 318 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family* Our extended family may have members who require assistance, or at least companionship and affection, or consolation amid suffering (Relatio Finalis 2015,11).

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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