



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 2032

28th January – 4th February 2023 – 4th 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: Zeph 2:3;3:12-13, Cor 1:26-31, Matt 5:1-12
Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.
Psalm: **How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
Intercession: Lord in your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!
Next Week: Is 58:7-10, Cor 2:1-5, Matt 5:13-16

Ramblings David E Crawford writes the following about the Beatitudes; In writing about the poor in spirit, Matthew is not referring to individuals weak in the faith. He refers to those who are not spiritually arrogant; those who recognise their own limitations and rely completely on God. The poor in spirit are doubly blessed because they are closer to God now and their total reliance on God is the doorway into God's kingdom. The "humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the Lord" described by Zephaniah fall into this category.

The meek, Jesus mentions, need not be timid, cowering individuals. Ancient Greeks warriors prized a meek war horse. In battle, the rider had to count on a steed responding quickly to commands. A horse that fights the bit is said to have a hard mouth, but one with a gentle mouth – a meek horse, as the Greeks described it – moves in unison with its rider. We are called to have gentle souls that respond quickly to the Spirit's guidance so that our thoughts and action are in concert with God's plan for us.


Blessed are the bringers and maintainers of peace. Peace is more than just the absence of conflict. The Hebrew word for peace *shalom* understands peace also to be harmony, tranquillity, completeness, wholeness, welfare, with all things in their right place. In short, *shalom* is a peace that comes from God. When Jesus says "Blessed are the peacemakers," He means people who bring God's peace to volatile situations as well as to troubled souls. Only one who possesses God's peace, even at a small level or for a period of time, can bring that kind of peace to others.


Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are often persecuted. Paul writes that Jesus became righteousness for us – *Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness.*

Rather than focus on a list of Do's and Don'ts, however, let us hunger and thirst to be with and like Christ. Being insulted, persecuted, lied about, because of belief in Jesus is because we aspire to live Christ-like, Spirit-led lives.

Diary Dates

Sun 29 January 2023

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses in aid of Parkinson's Charity. All are welcome.

 **3pm Let's talk about Loneliness and what we can do to overcome it.** All welcome to share your views. Do join us in the Lower Committee Room.

Monday 30 Jan

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

7pm Parish Pals Young adults social in church. Adoration followed by social time locally.

Tuesday 31 Jan St John Bosco

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Wed 1 Feb

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 2 Feb Presentation of the Lord

1pm Italian Club Hall

10.40am Take down the crib – please come to lend a hand. **We really need your help!!!**

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 3 Feb Sts Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore

10am-5pm Warm Spaces Hall includes coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House



Sat 4 Feb

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

6.30pm Meet the Parish/Share the Plans - 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*

Meet the Parish Council On the weekend of the 4th/5th February 2023 after each Mass, the plans for the proposed replacement Scout Hut will be displayed in the Church Hall for the Parish to view and to comment upon. These plans have recently been "approved in principle" by North Hertfordshire Planning Department. A member of the Parish Steering Team will be present each time to answer any questions. After 10.30 Mass on Sunday, 5th February 2023 as well as the plans being displayed, there will be a **"Meet your Pastoral Parish Council and Finance Committee"** where members of both the PPC and the Finance Team will be available to connect with and discuss the roles they play in helping Fr Tom with the running of the Parish.

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We really need help with

taking the crib down after the 10am Mass on Thursday 2nd February. If you can give an hour or two to help with taking down the crib and cleaning afterwards please can you let Trish know asap as only 2 people have offered so far.



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Hall/Room keys There have been a number of occasions recently where keys have been given out/taken by room users and not returned. This means that when the next group wishes to use that room, there is no key available for them.

Please do remember to return all room keys immediately after use. Many thanks.

Other Dates

1st Feb 2.30-4.30pm meeting in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. CAFOD, need volunteers to help raise awareness about their work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out more from [Tony](#) or ring 0208 449 6970

22nd Feb 12.30-1.30pm Ash Wednesday Lunch at Church House, this year organised by St Mary's church. £5 per adult £2.50 for children. This simple lunch of soup, roll and a piece of fruit raises vital funds for Christian Aid. With all the disasters in the world at present the money is much needed.

Other items of interest





Message from Frances Chamberlain regarding the closure of Traidcraft. [Traidcraft in administration](#)

Dear Customers, I am sure that you share my disappointment in reading about the imminent closure of Traidcraft. Many factors have made it increasingly difficult to stock the stall but we must rejoice in the fact that it has played an important part in our parish life for many years. This would never have been possible without your loyal support, for which I thank you.


The growth of the Fairtrade mark has had a significant effect on the market and it is now more common to see Fairtrade goods on sale in the major supermarkets. I urge you to take every opportunity to continue in your support of Fairtrade by including these in your purchases and keep the drive to achieve fair trade alive.

Many thanks for all your support. Our Fairtrade stall **will be open** in the parish hall on **Sunday 5th Feb.** where you will find irresistible reductions. **Do come along and see.**

 One of the problems today for many is the constant noise. Fr d'Alzon was well aware of this and one of his well known sayings is 'Without silence there is no interior life'. He believed very much that despite the noise around us we must seek quiet moments to be able to pray and reflect.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 318** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* The fourth commandment to honour your father and mother comes immediately after those commandments dealing with God himself.

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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