



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 2033

4th – 11th February 2023 – 5th 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 58:7-10](#), [Cor 2:1-5](#), [Matt 5:13-16](#)

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord, our God.

Psalm: **The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: [Ecc 15:15-20](#), [Cor 2:6-10](#), [Matt 5:17-37](#)

Ramblings Isaiah proclaims: Then your light will shine like the dawn – a new day. For Our light to shine Isaiah calls us to live the beatitudes we heard last week for they are the way of life for all who want to shine forth like a new day.

Paul tells us that we are who we are by the power of God, the power we received in baptism and Confirmation but we shine only when we let the power of God help and guide us in living the beatitudes. Both Light and Salt are transformative. They transform us from within and help others also to be transformed. Anthony de Mello describes this in the following story:

This is a dialogue between a recent convert and an unbelieving friend:

“So you have been converted to Christ?”

“Yes.”

“Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me: what country was he born in?”

“I don’t know.”

“What was his age when he died?” “I don’t know.”

“How many sermons did he preach?” “I don’t know.”

“You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ.”


“You are right. I am ashamed of how little I know about him. But this much I do know: Three years ago, I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling apart. My wife and children would dread my coming home each day.

Now I have given up drink; we are out of debt; ours is a happy home. All this Christ has done. This much I know of him!”


To really know Christ and to be Salt and Light we will be transformed by what we know and by how we live.

Diary Dates

Sun 5 Feb

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses - Proceeds from this Sunday’s coffee morning will go to help **Our Lady’s Special Support Group**. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale.

Mon 6 Feb **Sts Paul Miki & companions**

 **11.30am Funeral Mass of Mrs De Luca.** May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

Tues 7 Feb

10.30am “Tuesday Chat” Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 8 Feb

10.30am – Praise Group – Singing hymns, relevant to the previous month’s liturgy, in the lower committee room, after the 10am mass. All are welcome.

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4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 9 Feb

LOCAL ELECTIONS IN HALL ALL DAY

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6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 10 Feb **St Scholastica**

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 Fr Andrew Christopher House



Sat 11 Feb

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

Meet the Parish Council This weekend 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 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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Next Sunday's gospel talks about the healing power of Jesus which continues through the Sacrament of the sick which will be offered after all Masses next weekend including Saturday 11th Feb 10am. If you wish to be anointed with the Holy oil of the Sick please approach the Priest at the end of Mass who will remain on the sanctuary to offer the sacrament. Prayer ministers from the healing team will also be available to pray with you.

Thanks to everyone who helped take the crib down. Your efforts to restore the sanctuary to normal were gratefully received and it looks as it ever did.

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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.**

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Next Youth session is Friday 17th Feb 6-8pm in the church hall. Year 9 and above welcome for **Faith, Food & Fun** with Rob, Fr Adams and others. Fortnightly after.


Other Dates

12th Feb 6.30-7.30 pm Churches Together Theological Society in St Mary's Church. Bearing in mind that Lent is close, its theme is **Fasting**. Father Tom from Our Lady's and Herbert Riley from The New Testament Church of God will speak on why the practice is important in their church life and it is hoped that there will also be a presentation on the Muslim observance of Ramadan. After these, there will be the usual conversation with all welcome to join in. Everyone welcome.

22nd Feb 12.30-1.30pm Church House Ash Wednesday Lunch. St Mary's Church hosts this simple meal of soup and a roll and a piece of fruit, with tea and coffee. Funds for Christian Aid. No need to book.

3rd March 1.30pm World Day of Prayer Service at Our Lady's Church. This year the service has been compiled by women in Taiwan. This is particularly apt as it is presently being threatened by China and needs our prayers. Refreshments will follow the service giving the opportunity to get to know people from all the churches in Hitchin.

 Like Fr d'Alzon, a man of faith, we recognise the need for prayer. Prayer opens us to God's action. It is the ever refreshing fountain of our Apostolic action, By being faithful to the Gospel in the choices we make, in our daily work, in our openness, to others and our availability in times of need, our whole life, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, becomes an encounter with God. (Rule of Life, prayer)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 321** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* To honour your father and mother has to do with something sacred, something divine, something at the basis of every other kind of human respect

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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