



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 2036

25th February – 4th March 2023 – 1st SUNDAY OF LENT - 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 Gen 2:7-9.3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Psalm: **Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next Week: Gen 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-19, Matt 17:1-9

Ramblings Anthony de Mello (adapted)

Sooner or later every human heart yearns for holiness, spirituality, for God. Mystics speak of a divinity all around them, which is within our grasp too. This would help make our lives meaningful, beautiful and rich, if we could only discover it. People try all sorts of methods, techniques, spiritual exercises, formulas to find it, then, after years of fruitless striving, become discouraged, confused and wonder what went wrong.

Yet they never stop to consider the simple fact that their efforts will get them nowhere. Effort does not lead to growth; effort, whatever form it may take, whether it be willpower or habit or a technique or a spiritual exercise, does not lead to change. At best it leads to repression and a covering over of the root disease. Effort may change the behaviour but not the person.


With spirituality and holiness, it is not what you do that brings it to you. What matters is what you are, what you become.

Holiness is not an achievement; it is a grace. A grace called awareness, a grace called looking, observing, understanding. If you would only switch on the light of awareness and observe yourself and everything around you throughout the day, if you would see yourself reflected in the mirror of awareness the way you see your face reflected in a looking glass, that is, accurately, clearly, exactly as it is without the slightest distortion or addition, and if you observed this reflection without any judgment or condemnation, you would experience all sorts of marvellous changes. You will not be in control of those changes, or be able to plan them in advance, or decide how and when they take place. It is this non-judgmental awareness alone that heals and changes and makes one grow in its own way and in its own time.

This is what Jesus discovered when he went into the desert!

Diary Dates

Sun 26 Feb

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses is in support of Our Lady's Special Support Group. Cakes, Preserves and books will also be on sale. All are welcome.

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3pm Let's Talk about.... Sin and Evil. The next in our synodal journey discussions. With input from Fr Adams and Fr Tom and discussion from all. Please join us in the Lower Committee room.

Mon 27 Feb

6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall

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2.30pm OWG/LS Meditation LCR

This year, the meditation will be delivered by Trish Bonnett who visited the Holy Land last year. She will explore a series of Scripture readings illustrated by pictures from the locations where they were considered to have taken place. A story of the life of Christ from birth to death. The meditation will be followed by a light Lenten Supper. All welcome.

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

Tues 28 Feb

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 1 March **St David**

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 2 March

10am Funeral Mass of Les Gentle. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Diary Dates cont...

Fri 3 March

10am-4pm Warm Spaces Hall includes coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.

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1.30pm World Day of Prayer Service Friday in our 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.

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2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

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6pm Youth Group Hall

Sat 4 March

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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3-5.30pm Baptism Course 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 UCR

Thursday 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre

Friday 10.30am Stations of the Cross

Church

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm

Many thanks to you all who came and supported the One World Group/Live Simply Coffee Morning last weekend. A total of £165.86 was raised for the Feed Up Warm Up Charity.

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We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Cassius Dempsey, Leo Brown** and **Anna Massiah**. We pray

for them and their Families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

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We pray for Rezso Aranyi whose funeral is on **Wednesday 8 March 2023** at 11.30am.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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Family Fast Day Appeal (Friday 3 March 2023) will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please

join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

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Cheques for Easter Collections. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter and collections are made out to the Parish and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !

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We will shortly be submitting the tax rebate claim for money donated to the Church under the Gift Aid Scheme in the tax year ending April 2023. If you have signed up for Gift Aid but no longer pay tax, please inform either David Wilson our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organiser, or Cheryl, our Parish Administrator, through the Parish Office so that we do not submit an inappropriate claim. If you are not sure whether or not you have signed up for Gift Aid or whether you have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim, David or Cheryl will be able to let you know. Similarly, if you have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, but would like to do so, it is not too late and you should contact David or Cheryl who will make the necessary arrangements for you. Also, can we take this opportunity to remind you that a Gift Aid donation must be made in the name of the person who pays the tax on the money that is donated; if that is not the case, please let us know and alternative arrangements can be made. Last but not least, can we again say a big "thank you" to all of you who have signed Gift Aid Declarations as the tax rebate plays such an important part in financing the running of the Church particularly in these difficult times.

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Thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner, we are now able to fund work on a long-standing 'wish list' Parish Project to move the three Stained Glass Windows and put them in backlit frames. The windows are by the celebrated local artist, craftsman and parishioner Theodore Kern and depict Jesus and the Sacred Heart, St Joseph and the Sacred Heart and Our Lady. Work has started on the project and when complete your views will be sought on the siting of the windows in the Church.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023 Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity

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The Diocesan Bishops' Reflection on the Continental Stage of the Synodal Process can be found on the parish website at [Synodal journey](#)

Other Dates

Pirton Churches Present Free Hot Potato Talks 7.30-9.00pm at Pirton Methodist Chapel
Talk, discussion, refreshments

February 28th Homelessness in Herts (speaker our own Liz Wills)

March 7th Inclusion & Diversity

March 14th Growing Resilience in Teens

Other items of interest

Lent study groups These are now taking place on various days and various places, using the study **A Search for Peace** by John Birch which can be downloaded at www.faithandworship.com/Peace Bible Study

If you would like to join a group, it's not too late - contact **Helen Richardson** (07880 682681 helenwrich@btinternet.com)

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ZSL's two conservation Zoos, London and Whipsnade, are responding to the tough economic climate. Until 31 March this year they are offering people from low-income households £3 tickets to visit London Zoo, generously supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. All the information can be found at www.zsl.org/cas.

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This Lent, do you feel called to offer the gift of time? Please speak to the parish priest, contact the parish office or fill in the form on [Caritas](#)

[Volunteering](#) to find out how you can help in the parish. Thank you!

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Another stream of recycling now available. The Food Storage Container and Reusable Bottle Free Recycling Programme: (placed in the blue bin with home hygiene packaging) - All brands of (rigid) plastic food storage containers and lids & All brands of reusable plastic water bottles and caps



Waste that is NOT accepted:

- Glass containers and lids
- Glass bottles and caps

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Trish is once again in the Passion at Trafalgar Square on Good Friday. She is part of the Wintershall players and the event is below:



If you would like to help in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday they would welcome more people to volunteer as stewards on the day or to be a Roman Soldier/crowd cast member for a day (full training and armour provided!). Our London rehearsal is at Holy Trinity Clapham on the 4th of March between 1 pm and 3pm, [email us](#) if you can make it.

If anybody has any spare wooden or plastic (not wire) coat hangers their costume department would love to have them please just leave them in the church porch and Trish will take them to her next rehearsal.

‘In the process, we have sent 22,706.454 kg to be recycled’

DEOLINDA ELTRINGHAM, Recycling Queen for Terracycle

What keeps resident Deolinda Eltringham motivated to keep going? ‘The hope to leave this world in a better place for having done what I could, rather than not caring at all,’ says Deolinda.

The 64-year-old is contributing and trying to make a big difference within her community, and her recycling journey began in 2013 while being a member of the parish council of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church in Hitchin.

‘I got approval to start working with TerraCycle on collecting spent writing instruments for recycling,’ she says. ‘Also, with the help and support of my husband and the parish, we signed up to be collectors of other waste, and so it has snow-balled into 15 waste stream options.’



‘This was part of the parish activities taken on to provide a service to parishioners and the surrounding community that had an environmental benefit, which enabled the parish to get its Eco-Congregation award, and we haven’t stopped since!’

Their results speak for themselves. ‘In the process, we have sent 22,706.454 kg to be recycled, and away from being sent to landfill or incineration while raising £14,951.92 for four charities,’ she says.

Deolinda still feels it is not enough. ‘People bring us waste from surrounding towns, but as we’re just two people, we would strongly encourage others to set up their drop-off locations through TerraCycle’s website to become recycling hubs for their communities. Growing in numbers, we can make even more of a difference.’ terracycle.com/en-GB



To obtain a favour by the intercession of Venerable Father Emmanuel d’Alzon and so that the Church might recognize his holiness we pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you called Emmanuel d’Alzon
to the service of your Kingdom.
So that the Church might recognize
the holiness of Father d’Alzon,
grant us by his intercession
the favour that we now ask...
You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 324 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Both spouses need to make an effort to grow in trust and communication. Marriage challenges husbands and wives to find new ways of being sons and daughters.

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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