



# 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 2038

11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42

**Entrance Antiphon:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Psalm:** O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts'.

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy


**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next Week:** Sam 16:1.6-7.10-13, Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

**Ramblings** Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: "Give me a drink", you would have been the one to ask and he would have given you living water." John 4:10 Reflecting on the importance of water for life both physical and spiritual, **Macrina Wiederkehr osb** writes:

*What makes this world so lovely  
is that somewhere it hides a well.  
Something lovely there is about a well  
so deep, un-piped and real.  
Filled with buckets and buckets  
of that life-giving stuff...  
Sometimes, people are like wells  
deep and real  
natural (un-piped), life-giving,  
calm and cool, refreshing.  
They bring out what is best in you  
They are like fountains of pure joy  
Some experiences are like wells too.  
People create them.  
They are life-giving happenings.  
They are redeeming experiences.  
They are wells  
Wells of wonder and hope.  
When you find a well  
and you will someday,  
drink deeply of the gift within.  
Then maybe soon you will discover  
that you have become a well for others.  
By the mystery of the water and the wine in the  
eucharist, we are offered an opportunity to share  
in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to  
share in our humanity!*

## Diary Dates

<b>Sun 12 March</b>	
	<b>Coffee Morning</b> after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses is in support of <b>KISS</b> . All are welcome.
<b>Mon 13 March</b>	
6pm Beavers & 7.15pm Cubs Scout Hall ††††††††††	
2pm OWG/LS Meeting LCR ††††††††††	
7pm PPC LCR	
<b>Tues 14 March</b>	
10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall ††††††††††	
2pm Craft Circle LCR ††††††††††	
7pm Confirmation Session 3 Hall ††††††††††	
7pm Scouts Scout Hall	
<b>Weds 15 March</b>	
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall ††††††††††	
7pm RCIA EC	
<b>Thurs 16 March</b>	
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall	
<b>Fri 17 March St Patrick</b>	
10am-4pm Warm Spaces Hall includes coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in. ††††††††††	
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall ††††††††††	
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House ††††††††††	
6pm Youth Group Hall	
<b>Sat 18 March</b>	
10am FHC Workshop Confession Session 9 Hall ††††††††††	
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall	

**26<sup>th</sup> March 3pm Let's Talk about....**  
**Reconciliation** following on from Sin and Evil in February; with input from Fr Adams and Fr Tom and discussion from all. Please join us in the Lower Committee room.

Next week on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March the Fairtrade stall will be available after both Masses for all your needs.



 **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*



We welcome **Aria Reeve** into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray for her and her family as she starts this important time in her life – the life of Faith.

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The **gardening group** thanks everyone who supported last Sunday's coffee morning, and made generous donations of cakes and raffle prizes. **£177.40** was raised which will be used to buy plants, shrubs and additional tools, to help us maintain and improve the church gardens.

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We pray for **Maria Vasquez** whose funeral is at North Herts Crematorium on **Saturday 1 April 2023 at 12 noon**. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

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**Proposed Replacement for Scout Hut.** There will be a further presentation with members of the Pastoral Parish Council and the Finance Team to report back on the practical comments made by Parish members and Stakeholders during the previous presentation showing plans for the proposed replacement for the Scout Hut. The revised plans will be on display in the Church Hall after all Masses next weekend **18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March**.

**Asylum seeker families need help** 14 families living in Hitchin need help with the cost of membership of Hitchin Pantry (£56 for week for all the families) and also the cost of school uniform and shoes for 14 children. If you are able to help please let Trish know asap.

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**Date for your diary** It is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination of Fr Andrew O'Dell on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We will be having a Mass of celebration and thanksgiving for his years of Priesthood at 7pm followed by a bring and share supper. There will be a sign up sheet for this soon.


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**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Westminster Cathedral, **Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm**

The Cardinal is inviting to this celebration all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, give Cheryl, the parish administrator the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**. Cheryl will forward the details to the Diocese.


**Other Dates**

**31<sup>st</sup> March** 7.30 for 8pm **Oddments Theatre Company** perform an Easter play entitled **The Road to the Cross** at Knights Templar School, Baldock, Park Street, SG7 6DZ Set in the 21st century, this play challenges the audience to think about the Christian message in a new way as it follows the story of Jesus and his disciples from Palm Sunday to Pentecost. Tickets are at a subsidised rate of £8 (advance) and £10 (on the day) and include refreshments. To book tickets, please visit <http://www.oddments-theatre.co.uk>.

 Prayer is difficult for everyone, It engages us in a struggle in order that our experience of God permanently casts its light on our vision of the world. It requires of each one and of the community, a discipline of life which keeps us attentive to the prompting of the Spirit. (*Rule of life, Prayer*)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 326** *Love made fruitful - Being sons and daughters*  
Just as God asks us to be his means of hearing the cry of the poor, so too he wants us to hear the cry of the elderly.

**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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<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjoun 07438 408350	Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
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