



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 2047

13th – 20th May 2023 – 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - 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: Acts: 8:5-8, 1 Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Psalm: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Alleluia!

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11

Ramblings It is love that brought us into the world and it is love that sustains us through life even though we might not always recognise it as such. All our yearnings, desires and dreams are inspired but the one question that guides and challenges us though life: to better understand or better experience God's love for us. Jesus is clear and straightforward that God's love is expressed in the Father's love for us, Jesus' love for us and the Spirit's love for us. How does God's love express itself? It is the gift that makes each of the sacraments so special. It reveals itself in the kind, supportive, compassionate words that others speak to us or in their gestures of friendship. It is the love of God within that draws others towards us. It allows others to see the goodness, kindness, concern in us. It is the love of God that lies at the root of honour, dignity, respect and reverence. It is the love of God that inspires wonder, amazement, exultation, music and art and it is found in a very special way in the natural world. Ultimately the love of God speaks of divine or holy presence which comes to us in many guises, all of which light up the moment or the encounter and offers reassurance and a warmth that gently embraces us.

Jesus expresses it in this way: *The Father will give you an Advocate to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth . . . anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.*

"The Love of God" describes the depth of God's love:

"Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; were every stalk on earth a quill and everyone a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky..."

Diary Dates

Sun14 May



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am. Proceeds will go to support Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

Mon 15 May

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs

7.30pm PPC Meeting LCR

Tues 16 May

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Confirmation Session 8 Hall

7pm Scouts Scout Hall

Weds 17 May

10.30am Praise Group LCR

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 18 May

6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall

Fri 19 May

10.30am-3.30pm Community hub Coffee after morning Mass. Do pop in.

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

6pm-8pm Youth Group Hall

Year 9 and above welcome for Faith, Food & Fun with Rob, Fr Adams and others, every fortnight.

Sat 20 May

10am FHC Session 13 Workshop Hall

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** UCR
- Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm

There is no under 5 liturgy at 10.30 Mass this Sunday as Trish is elsewhere. The older children's liturgy is still happening. 😊

Thanks to all who supported the pro-life coffee morning on Sunday. £190 was raised for the cause.

We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Maisie & Cillian Byrne**: we pray for their Family as they start this important time in their life – the life of Faith.



Christian Aid Week is 14-20 May
 There is no longer a house to house collection but if you wish to donate please either go online to [Christian Aid](#) or take an envelope from the porch and leave it in the black box in the church with your donation.

Other Dates

15th May 7:30pm at Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1JE - free event on **Truth for a Change: Agrivoltaics: Farming and Solar Panels** - *Dr Richard Randle-Boggis* a University of Sheffield lecturer will be talking about

'Agrivoltaics: Farming and Solar Panels' Does it work? Learn about it, followed by *Chris Berry* planning manager from CPRE Hertfordshire who will speak on **'The Countryside - worth protecting?'** with plenty of opportunity for you to ask questions. For further information and to reserve your free places go to: [Reserve your place](#)

24th May Understanding Discipleship

A Webinar with Fr. Brice Higginbotham May 24, 2023 5pm UK time. See [Adult Formation](#) for details and to register

31st May 7.30pm to 9pm Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Westminster Youth Ministry are hosting a Eucharistic Adoration event for young people from the diocese. This will take place at Farm St Church in Mayfair, with our World Youth Day Pilgrims. There will be a talk by Antonia Salzano, the mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Her talk will be focused on Blessed Carlo's trust and focus on the Lord in the Eucharist. The event is open to everyone; however, we especially would like to welcome any of the young people and catechists from your parish, especially those who have just received the sacrament of confirmation or are about to receive the sacrament. Antonia is a very compelling speaker and reminds us that sanctity is achievable for all of us.

Other items of interest

Did you know that Pope Benedict XVI said that "Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace." For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to [CAFOD](#)

May 12th was the feast day of St John Stone the patron of the English Assumptionists. St John was prior of the Augustinian priory at Canterbury. He was executed at Canterbury in 1539 for refusing to accept that the king (Henry V111) could be head of the Church in England. He is one of the forty martyrs of England and Wales. St John Stone pray for us.

Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 335 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Attention to the elderly makes a difference in a society. Does it show concern for the elderly? Does it make room for the elderly? Such a society will move forward if it respects the wisdom of the elderly. (Catechesis 4.3.2015)

We are a Safeguarding parish EduCare (now part of Tes) safeguarding leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>
Safeguarding representatives: Trish Bonnett and Maria Greene via 01462 459126

If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

Parish Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Asst Priest Fr Adams Tatsidjoudoung 07438 408350	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Parish Tel no 01462 459126	
Parish Administrator Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	
Pastoral Assistants Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }	01462 459126 press 4
Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	