



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 2048

20th – 27th May 2023 – 7th 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 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11
Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.
Psalm: **I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living**
Intercession: We pray to the Lord
Response: **Lord hear us!**

Next Week: Acts: 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23

Ramblings After the Ascension, the apostles and disciples spent much of their time in prayer. They had entered into another Advent Prayer, a waiting for God; in this case the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who will return to renew our lives next week. Prayer is important in so many ways. One can think that the disciples were praying to be ready to receive the Spirit and recognise his(her) arrival when he comes. It would have been a prayer with many questions. What will happen? What kind of truth will be opened to me? Will I have the courage to respond? What is the best way to preach the Good News Jesus wants me to convey? I only speak one language? And many more. We now have a short time to reflect on what help, guidance, challenge, renewal and wisdom we hope the Holy Spirit will bring to each of us. John Henry Newman wrote a magnificent hymn to the Holy Spirit. Here is another one written by Bill Gathers:

Come as a wisdom to children.
Come as new sight to the blind.
Come, Lord, as strength to my weakness.
Take me soul, body and mind.


Come as a rest to the weary.
Come as a balm to the sore.
Come as a dew to my dryness.
Fill me with joy evermore.

Come Holy Spirit, I need you now.
Come, Sweet Spirit, I pray.
Come in your strength and your power.
Come in your own gentle way.

Come like a spring in the desert.
Come to the withered of soul.
O, let your sweet healing power
touch me and make me whole.

Come Holy Spirit, I need you now.
Come, Sweet Spirit, I pray.
Come in your strength and your power.
Come in your own gentle way.
Come in your own gentle way!

Diary Dates

Sun 21 May	
	Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am by One World/Live Simply Group . Proceeds will go to support Feed Up, Warm Up, a local charity which provides hot meals and other services to local homeless and vulnerable people. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale. All are welcome.
Mon 22 May	
6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs	
Tues 23 May	
10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall *****	
2pm Craft Circle LCR *****	
7pm Confirmation Session 9 Hall *****	
7pm Scouts Scout Hall	
Weds 24 May	
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****	
7pm RCIA EC	
Thurs 25 May St Bede, the Venerable	
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall	
Fri 26 May St Philip Neri	
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	
Sat 27 May St Augustine of Canterbury	
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall	

Return of Sunday 5pm Mass We seem to have sufficient numbers to trial the return of 5pm Mass. It will resume on June 11th until July 30th. There will be a break during August and then the attendance numbers will be presented to Fr Justin for his decision on its continuation. Please do attend if you want it to continue.

🙏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

Parishioners are reminded that we now receive communion under both kinds. There is a shortage of Eucharistic Ministers so there is likely to be only one chalice at 6pm and 8.30am which will be in the middle between the Priest and the EM/MC giving out the Body of Christ. Do turn to the Chalice if you wish to receive the Blood of Christ.



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We are due to have a fire evacuation drill soon (we should have them annually) This will be unannounced and is likely to take place at the end of the Mass and we would be grateful if you would follow the instructions of the Fire wardens to leave the church quickly and quietly and exit the premises as soon as possible. We do have to time the evacuation.

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Do you have a child you would like to have baptised? The next baptism course is

Date: Saturday 10th June

Time: 15.30-17.30

Veune: Church Hall

More information and links to register please go onto the website [Baptism](#)



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We pray for **Domenico Franco** whose funeral is on **Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 11.30am**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



International Masses We would like to have occasional Masses with a flavour of the many nationalities of our Parishioners. If you would like to help prepare a Mass that reflects your nationality / culture including music and prayers in your country's language please speak to Fr Tom or Trish and we would be delighted to support this.

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Quarterly offertory figures – Feb-April 2023

Figures in Green are for the previous quarter

Envelopes	£3,164.34	£3,102.59
Standing Orders	£18,073.25	£18,084.25
Online	£ 930.00	£ 775.00
Loose Plate & Contactless	£3,952.17	£3,451.07
TOTAL	£26,119.76	£25,412.91

Other Dates

May 23rd 6:30-7:45 pm **Lincoln Lecture: Our unstable economic system must change.** To book go to: [Lincoln Lecture](#)

June 10th **CAFOD event Following the footsteps of the Saints** Called to action by our faith. Click [CAFOD](#) for more details and to book.

Other items of interest

AED AWARENESS EVENT

Learn about the importance of CPR and how to use an AED in the case of an emergency.

SATURDAY 27TH MAY AT HITCHIN MARKET SQUARE 10AM - 1PM

CPR DEMONSTRATIONS AND 'DE-FIB TREASURE HUNT'

May trust be one of our principal means of bringing about the victory of the cause of truth. We are not owners of truth, only its servants. Isn't the cause of truth God's cause? And the cause of truth is His alone. (E d'Alzon)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 336 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Knowing and judging past events is the only way to build a meaningful future. Memory is necessary for growth: 'Recall the former days' (Hebrews 10:32)

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

Asst Priest Fr Adams Tatsidjoudoung 07438 408350

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