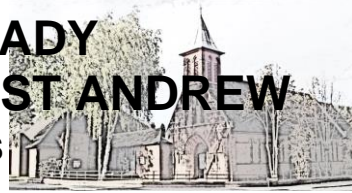




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Mass Times
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am, 5pm
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am
during Exposition. All Masses are
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

Newsletter No 2056

15th – 22nd July – 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

A Prayer for Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Lord Jesus, you call us to welcome members of God's family who come here to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Help us not be fearful, doubtful or suspicious. Help us welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, realize that you call us to learn the ways of peace and justice, share of our abundance and witness to your love for everyone, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Readings: [Is 55:10-11](#), [Rom 8:18-23](#), [Matt 13:1-23](#)

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Psalm: **Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

Next Week: [Wis 12:13.16-19](#), [Rom 8:26-27](#), [Matt 13:24-43](#)

Ramblings Jesus raises two important challenges: Seeing and Hearing. Tell a story to a small audience and it is guaranteed that there will be several different understandings of the story. People approach priests after mass and say they were particularly struck by something in the sermon which the priest has no notion of saying. The same can be said of a car accident. Observers will have noticed something that the others did not see. As for hearing, people often assume things they have heard that have not been said, leading to misunderstandings that often lead to arguments. The great gift of stories, including parables, is that they can lead people to various understandings all of which are valid. The better stories will lead a person to different understandings each time they hear them.

Anthony de Mello sj asks:

Do you listen in order to confirm what you already think? Or do you listen in order to discover something new? It doesn't matter whether you agree with what someone says or not. Agreement and disagreement are about words, concepts and theories. Yet they have no bearing on the truth because truth is never expressed in words. Truth is sighted suddenly, as a result of a certain attitude; an attitude of openness and a willingness to discover something new. Whether you agree or disagree is unimportant because theories and knowledge never adequately describe reality. What we really need to know are the obstacles to the truth. These can be described, whereas no one can describe the truth.

Misunderstanding: Returning from the funeral of Uncle George, a married couple, who had lived with him for twenty years, had found him to be such a nuisance that he almost wrecked their marriage. "There is something I have to say to you, dear," said the man. "If it hadn't been for my love for you, I wouldn't have put up with your Uncle George for a single day." "My Uncle George!" she

exclaimed in horror. "I thought he was your Uncle George!"

Diary Dates

Sun 16 July
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses provided by the One World/Live Simply Group will support Hitchin Pantry which provides subsidised shopping for those who need it. All are welcome. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale.
Mon 17 July
6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs
Tue 18 July
10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall +++++
2pm Craft Circle LCR +++++
7pm Scouts Scout Hall +++++
7pm CONFIRMATION Church
Weds 19 July
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall +++++
7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 20 July
10.30am St Pio Meeting Hall +++++
6.30pm Brownies Scout Hall
Fri 21 July
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall +++++
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House
Sat 22 July
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

There is a CAFOD collection after all Masses this weekend. Gift Aid envelopes will be available.
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This weekend 10.30 Mass is the last children's liturgy before the summer break. Next Sunday is a Children's Mass and they will be invited to come up in front of the altar at the homily.

Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday 11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
No 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 - 8pm

The coffee morning (9th July) in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust raised an amazing £189.70 and we are truly grateful for everyone's kind generosity.

Our Priests are without a permanent cook now.

We have been advertising the position but have not had any interest shown as an employed position. If anyone (or more than one person) is interested in helping on a more casual basis for a short while to provide a main course and simple pudding to be provided by 1pm Monday-Friday please contact speak to Fr Tom after Mass or contact Cheryl in the parish office—cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk or on 01462 459126 (please note that Cheryl is out of the office now until 31st July) We just need some help to tide us over until a permanent person is found. Thanks in anticipation of your help.



We pray for **Stephen O'Sullivan** whose funeral is on **Friday 21 July 2023 at 11.30am**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family. We also pray for **Tracy Scargill** whose funeral is on Thursday.

The Funeral Mass for Barbara Hobbs, the sister of Fr Andrew, is Tuesday 1st August 11.30am and all the parish are invited to attend. Coffee will be served in the hall after the Mass while the family

go to the crematorium. This will be the Mass of the day. There will not be a 10am Mass.

Other Dates

For those of you who attended James Laing singing in the parish on Good Friday there is another opportunity to hear him coming up.

<https://operahollandpark.com/productions/itch/>

Discount code : OHPfamily gets 35% off when buying 3 or more tickets.

COMPANY25 gets you £25 tickets for first or second performance. (this really works Trish has got two tickets for 26th July that were £70 each for £25 each)

NOTE : trains strikes affecting certain shows including first night

Other items of interest

Local Florist in Hitchin is looking for a Saturday driver - Company van used. Approx. 2 to 3 hours. Contact **Nora or Samantha** on 01462 451011 for more details.

Young Adults Formation The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer. As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham. There are two choices of dates: 14th - 21st August or 30th August - 6th September. To find out more, please enquire by 31st July by emailing the COLW Sisters at freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ. Tel. 01362 421442. www.walsinghamcommunity.org



We must return to the Christian spirit of the first centuries. We must be men of faith like the apostles because it was thanks to this attachment of their souls and of their intelligence to the word of God that they conquered the world. (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 344 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* It must be acknowledged 'having a brother or a sister who loves you is a profound, precious and unique experience'. (Catechesis 18.2.2015).

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

Asst Priest Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350

Parish Tel no 01462 459126

E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

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