



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 2057

22nd – 29th July 2023 – 16th 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: Wis 12:13.16-19, Rom 8:26-27, Matt 13:24-43

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help.

The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Psalm: **O Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: **Lord, hear us!**

Next Week: Kings 3:5.7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Matt 13:44-52

Ramblings Last week we heard about a Sower who was profligate with his seed-sowing and produced a rich harvest. This week we are told of a mustard seed which is very small compared to others. Yet, this mustard seed grows into a flourishing tree able to offer shelter to all the birds of the air. This provides one of many images of the kingdom of God. Starting small, without any indication of what it is or what it might become, it grows into something immense, full of life and able to offer help comfort and shelter to the birds of the air. Just think what God can make of you! Our future is hidden from us and impossible to foresee when we are born. The kingdom of God, Jesus speaks of, is full of wonderful possibilities, of creativity and beauty beyond imagination. These can become a source for reaching out and helping others in many different ways. In fact, wonder, creativity and beauty will only fully reveal themselves if and when used for others.

An explorer returned to his people, who were eager to know about the Amazon where he had been. But how could he ever put into words the feelings that flooded his heart when he saw exotic flowers and heard the night-sounds of the forests; when he sensed the danger of wild beasts or paddled his canoe over treacherous rapids?

So, he said to them, "Go and find out for yourselves." To guide them he drew a map of the river.

They pounced upon the map. They framed it in their Town Hall. They made copies of it for themselves. And all who had a copy considered themselves experts on the river, for did they not know its every turn and bend, how broad it was, how deep, where the rapids were and where the falls?

Don't just learn the story! – Live it!!

Diary Dates

Sun 23 July



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

Tue 25 July

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

Weds 26 July

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 27 July

10.30am St Pio Meeting Hall

Fri 28 July

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 29 July

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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



This weekend we welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Kyro Tomeldan and Abigail Tinney**; we pray for them and their Families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.



This Sunday 10.30 Mass is a Children's Mass and they will be invited to come up in front of the altar at the homily.

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The coffee morning (16th July) raised £149 for the Hitchin Pantry. The One World/live simply group wish to thank everyone for their generosity

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After 3 years of fogging our church we have made the decision to stop now. We thank all of those people who have helped over the past three years to keep our church clean and virus free. We still need cleaners to help on a Saturday morning with general cleaning of the church. **Can you give an hour a month to help with this?** If so please contact Alan at alanom@btinternet.com

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Fr Tom has received the document [Instrumentum Laboris](#) (click to access) which is the working document for the next phase of the Synodal process in October. It asks us a number of questions and we have a further opportunity to make our views known. If you can reflect on this document over the summer and answer any of the questions posed (these are summarized on the webpage above) please send your reflections to [Trish](#). If you cannot access this via a computer and would like a hard copy of the document please tell Trish who will provide one for you.

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have thanked us for our donation to them from our recycling efforts.

They received £243.30 from Terracycle in June and it's brilliant to have the support of your parishioners. They really appreciate it.

Other items of interest

Volunteers wanted to support local health walks First Steps Health Walk at Jackman's Community Centre. The first was a great success - with 16 people taking part. All enjoyed the short walk around the play area and even did a 2nd lap. Afterwards, many walkers continued their conversations in the community centre's café.

The good news is that - thanks to the amazing Health Walk volunteers - they have been able to extend the taster session and offer another 4 walks. The dates are: 26 July and 2, 23 and 30 August. If you would like to take part in or volunteer to help with these short and free walks go to [Health Walks](#):

**W: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks
E: healthwalks.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk
T: 01992 555 888**

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Free Rugby taster sessions for Year 6 and Year 7 Boys & Girls during the summer holidays


Hitchin Rugby Club are running 2 Saturday morning sessions over the summer; A boys' group and a girls' group on both mornings.

Saturday July 22nd - 9.45am - 11am


Saturday August 19th - 9.45am- 11am

At Hitchin Rugby Club, Old Hale Way, SG5 1XL

 With great joy we have received the news that our new Superior Provincial is Father Fabien Lejeusne. Fr Fabien is Belgian, aged fifty and was assistant to our previous provincial who is now first assistant to Fr General. Please remember these Assumptionists in your prayers as they take on their new responsibilities.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 345** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - Being sons and daughters* Children do need to be patiently taught to treat one another as brothers and sisters. This family experience, at times quite demanding, is a true school of social development.. (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

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