



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 **No 5pm**
Monday – Saturday 10am
Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am
during Exposition. All Masses are
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)

Newsletter No 2059

5th - 12th Aug 2023 - Transfiguration of the Lord - Year A

Prayer for those seeking sanctuary

Lord Jesus, we pray for those members of God's family who come here to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Let them not meet with fear, doubt or suspicion from the local population. May those seeking sanctuary in our country receive a warm and generous welcome as they settle-in and commence their new life. Joyfully, we welcome the many gifts they bring to us. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Readings: Dan 7:9-10,13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matt 17:1-9

Entrance Antiphon: In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Listen to him.

Psalm: The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Kgs 19:9,11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Matt 14:22-33

Ramblings One Transfiguration story deserves another. *"There was once a lion that grew up among a flock of sheep and therefore had no awareness that he was a lion. So, he would bleat like a sheep and eat grass like a sheep. One day, while wandering near the edge of the jungle, a mighty lion let out a big roar and leaped out of the forest right into the middle of the flock. All the sheep scattered and ran away. Imagine the surprise of the jungle lion when he saw this other lion there among the sheep. So, he gave chase. He grabbed hold of him. And there was this lion, cringing in front of the king of the jungle. The jungle lion said to him, 'What are you doing here?' And the other lion said, 'Have mercy on me. Don't eat me. Have mercy on me.' But the king of the jungle dragged him away, saying 'Come with me.' And he took him to a lake and he said, 'Look!' So, the lion who thought he was a sheep looked, and for the first time he saw his reflection. He saw his image. Then he looked at the jungle lion, and he looked in the water again, and he let out a mighty roar. He was never a sheep again and it only took an instant."* It takes only a moment to wake up to God, only a moment of interior silence, a moment of real prayer, to know deep in our bones our true identity.

John's vision is dazzling, overwhelming, beyond spectacular, obviously an experience beyond words. For a moment, however, rather than focus on Jesus, focus on the apostles. They were able to see Jesus beyond his normal appearance. They experienced his divinity, his graciousness, a power that was all embracing, uplifting, reassuring, full of goodness, love and mercy. What is reassuring is that Jesus shares this divinity, graciousness, this embracing and uplifting power full of goodness, love and mercy with all of us..... Can you see it???

Diary Dates

Sun 6 August



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be in support of **Our Lady's Special Support Group.**

Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

Tue 8 August

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

Weds 9 August

10.30am Praise Group LCR

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Fri 11 August

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Sat 12 August

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Please note there is no Mass at 5pm throughout August. The next 5pm Mass will be Sept 3rd.



Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre

No Eucharistic service

Wednesday 9.30am Rosary Church

12pm 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



We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, Leo Shanahan and Ryan Bennett; we pray for them and their families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

Thanks to all who supported the Choir coffee morning last Sunday. We raised **£155** which will be used for music for our Liturgy in the future. Diapalante's recent coffee morning raised **£146** for their education centre in Senegal.



Mass to welcome Fr Justin & Thanksgiving for Fr Tom – followed by Bring & Share supper - Friday 8th September 7pm All the parish are invited to formally welcome

our new parish priest Fr Justin Kasareka and to give thanks for Fr Tom's service to our parish. Can you please sign up on the notice in the porch for what you are bringing and for helping to set up and clear at the end.

If you would like to make a donation towards a retirement gift for Fr Tom please leave your donation in an envelope marked **Fr Tom Ret.** A card will be in the porch for parishioners to sign.



We pray for **Maureen Starr** whose funeral is on **Friday 18 August 2023 at 2pm at North Herts Crematorium.** May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

We 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?** This includes



- Sweeping or dry mopping between the pews to remove debris.
- Dusting the altars and statues
- Vacuuming the church including the sanctuary
- Washing the front porch floor.

If you can help with this vital ministry to keep our church clean please contact Alan at alanom@btinternet.com

Cook required for Priests during the week The current cook for our Priests is leaving in two weeks and we need to find someone who will provide this service. A main course and simple pudding to be provided by 1pm Monday-Friday. You can cook in the presbytery kitchen or cook in your own home and bring to the church. It is possible to bring cooked meals for two days at a time if that works better. Please contact [Cheryl](#) in the parish office on 01462 459126

Books will be given away in the church hall after Sunday morning Masses in August. Mostly,

they have been donated but are not to be added to the parish library. Some are duplicates of books already in the library. Please come into the hall and take anything that you want. Also, please borrow books from the library! There are also some books and CDs from Fr Tom's room for anyone to take.

Parents and Toddlers Group has not come back since covid and we have plenty of equipment and still have space on a Monday morning for a group to meet. If you are interested in supporting such a group for the parish and its younger children please sign up on the notice board in the porch. Please note this also includes parishioners who would not bring children but would be willing to help provide an activity or help with coffee.

GIFT AID TAX REBATE = £ 24,597.58

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has signed up to Gift Aid their Mass Offerings and other donations to the Parish. We have now received the Gift Aid tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of **£24,597.58**. The return reflects really really well on the fact that so many of you have signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations and choose to Gift Aid your other donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which make a valuable 25p in the £1 addition to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to commit to making an offering ...AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY MORE !!

Rob Hitchcock our Sacramental co-ordinator is looking for a room from October in a house locally with access to the kitchen, happy for a shared bathroom. If you are able to help can you contact him at [Rob Hitchcock](#)

Other dates

2nd Sept World Youth Day Summer Picnic: Join Westminster Youth Ministry on 2nd September for a taste of Lisbon at their Summer Picnic. This event is aimed at any young person (12-35) in the Diocese who wasn't able to make it to World Youth Day. It will explore the theme for World Youth Day, 'Mary arose and went with haste', with workshops activities, testimonies and

Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan. Sign up at [Summer Picnic](#)

Please note, for Safeguarding reasons any young person 12-16 year old will need to be accompanied either by a parent or by a group leader of a parish/school group. For 16-18 year olds additional sign up requirements are in place. Travel to Walsingham with Westminster Youth Ministry: 23rd September. Westminster Youth Ministry is taking a group of 45 young people (16-25) by coach to Walsingham as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage on 23rd September. The coach leaves at 7am from Westminster Cathedral, and should return around 8pm. The cost is £35, which includes the pilgrimage contribution. Bookings are open until 16th September, so sign up now at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/pilgrimage-to-walsingham/>

If you have any questions, please email Ola from our Outreach Team at youth@rcdow.org.uk

5th August 10am-2pm the postponed **Hitchin Eco Day** in Market Place. There will be stalls, displays, fun events and much more, all promoting a more sustainable community here in Hitchin. All churches are welcome to come along with friends and families

1st Sept 10am An OPALS (Older Persons Activity Learning and Safety) event is taking place at St. Michaels Mount Community Centre, St. Michaels Road, Hitchin, SG2 0QY.

The aim of the OPALS event is to provide quality information, advice and help available within the local community on a wide range of services available to reduce vulnerability of our senior citizens, to provide reassurance, safe and wellbeing support and reduce loneliness.

All event guests will be seated and served refreshments and a FREE hot meal, representatives from a variety of agencies will move from table to table to give advice and the services they offer.

It is a sociable event, and a great opportunity to meet other residents in the local area.

Agencies not giving talks will have stalls that you can visit, to get advice, collect some safety related information and freebies.

The event lasts around 4 hours, please arrive on time to ensure you do not miss out on the speakers or freebies on offer. "Act of Kindness" bags will be handed out at the end of the event.

The event is targeted to our elderly citizens, if you would like to attend, please contact Terry Morris, on 07740 670 642 or email: terry.morris@hertfordshire.gov.uk with names and contact information, spaces are limited so if

you don't want to miss out then please reserve a space quickly.

7th Sept 9.30am-3.30pm Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership would like to invite you to the **Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire Celebration Day** at the University of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire Sports Village in Hatfield. This event is free of charge to attend and lunch and refreshments will be provided. The event's aim is to promote the importance of physical activity for living longer better, and to heighten awareness of the range of opportunities available for getting and staying active aimed at those adults aged 50+.

The event will run from and you are welcome to enjoy the whole day or come and go as you please. The day will feature several talks, interactive workshops, marketplace and practical physical activity and sport sessions. A schedule of activities for the day will be released ahead of time, but to give you a flavour of what to expect there will be seated dance workshops, walking football, pickleball sessions and everything in between.

To book on for free, please register online [here](#) or phone 01707 281201. We hope to welcome as many people as possible and empower individuals to Live Longer Better.

23rd Sept PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - ST HUGH OF LINCOLN, Letchworth A coach has been booked for parishioners and friends from neighbouring parishes who wish to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The coach will depart from the St Hugh of Lincoln carpark at 8am. The church is situated on Broadway Gardens, Letchworth, next to the local library. Pilgrims are welcome to use the Fortescue Hall carpark (down Pixmore Way, past the Presbytery if coming from Broadway Gardens) if they need to leave their vehicles. The coach will depart from Walsingham at 4.30pm to get back to St Hugh of Lincoln, Letchworth. Tickets are £18 per person and must be paid at the time of booking to secure a place. Please contact the St Hugh of Lincoln office letchworth@rcdow.org.uk to book your place. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Other items of interest

CELEBRATE SUMMER family activity pack
Download the brand new CELEBRATE online family activity pack for summer! Packed full of activities to do, pray, read and watch, this online resource will give you ideas on how to connect with God, your family and others. Why not try the CELEBRATE Summer Psalm walk in this pack at your local park or on holiday? Use this link to

download the CELEBRATE SUMMER pack for free today – [Family Pack](#)
 CELEBRATE Children and Family Lead
<https://www.celebratetrust.org/>

Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ. Tel. 01362 421442.
www.walsinghamcommunity.org

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon in aid of The Passage - Sunday 8th October 2023

This stunning autumnal route showcases the iconic sites of London through four Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park.

Run past some of the capital's most historic landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade and the Royal Albert Hall. Although undulating in parts, the course is not hilly and is great for both experienced and first-time half marathon runners.

Registration fee: £20

Fundraising goal: £300

All money raised will go towards supporting those currently experiencing or threatened by street homelessness so that we can end homelessness for good. Sign up here: [Passage Marathon](#)

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



JOIN US AS A Community Volunteer


We are currently recruiting a small team of Community Volunteers to help us provide support to people at the end of their life, and the people who are caring for them.


If you are looking for a new challenge, are passionate about supporting people at the end of life and you live in the Stevenage area - do get in touch!

Community Volunteers will be able to help in several exciting roles:

- Telephone Support: Support people via our telephone service
- Support Groups: Help us set up and run Bereavement Groups in the community
- Fundraising: Run fundraising events and support others to raise funds
- Office: Join our team in the office to help with vital administration tasks
- Ambassador: Get involved in community events and talks


For more information on how to apply please click [here](#). If you have any questions about the role, please email support@annerobsontrust.org.uk, we will contact you to arrange to have a chat. Applications close on the 30th August.

 Our Assumptionist General Chapter was held earlier this year. Now each province has to reflect on the decisions and resolutions made at the Chapter. Our European province will meet in the coming days to put into effect the Chapter resolutions. Fr Tom and Fr Justin (our future parish priest) are both elected delegates to the Chapter. Please keep this meeting in your prayers.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 347** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart*
 The love between husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters and relatives and members of the household - is given life and sustenance by an unceasing inner dynamism leading the family to ever deeper and more intense communion, which is the foundation and soul of the community of marriage and the family.' (St. John Paul II Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio 22.11 1981).

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
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