



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 2060

12th – 19th August 2023 – 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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: Kgs 19:9.11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Matt 14:22-33

Entrance Antiphon: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Psalm: **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: **Lord, hear us!**

Next Week: Is 56:1.6-7, Rom 11:13-15.29-32, Matt 15:21-

Ramblings

Let's thank Elijah for teaching us about the true nature of God. To experience the gentleness of God who is all embracing and unimposing, is reassuring. His experience fosters thoughts of kindness and compassion that come with a healing and inspiring gentleness. We can experience all this in Jesus Christ if we would but spend time in his presence. It will be a presence like that of a gentle breeze wafting over us. It suggests that, when Jesus called Peter to come to him over the sea, there was a calmness in the words spoken that encouraged Peter to leave the boat. Ask yourself if you would have fared any better in the circumstances!

God has a way of allowing us to be in the right place at the right time and helping us make good decisions. A man walking home late one evening heard muffled screams coming from behind some bushes. Alarmed, he slowed, listened and panicked, realising that a woman was being attacked. Should he get involved? He was frightened for his safety and cursed himself for taking a new route home that night. What if he became another statistic? Should he call the police? As the girl's cries were growing weaker, he knew he had to act fast. He finally resolved not to turn his back on this unknown woman, even if it meant risking his own life. Not feeling at all courageous, once he resolved to help the girl, he became strangely transformed. Running behind the bushes, he pulled the assailant off the woman. Grappling with him for a few minutes, the attacker jumped up and escaped. The man heard the girl sobbing, crouched behind a tree. Not wanting to frighten her further, he gently said "It's OK," "The man's run away. You're safe now." There was a long pause, then a voice said "Dad, is that you?" And from behind the tree, stepped his youngest daughter, Katherine!

Diary Dates

Sun 13 August
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be in support of Our Lady's Special Support Group . Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to enable children from our refugee families to access summer holiday activities. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.
Tue 15 August
Holy day of obligation – Masses are at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm. ***** 10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall ***** 2pm Craft Circle LCR
Weds 16 August
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall ***** 7pm RCIA EC
Thurs 17 August
10.30am St Pio Meeting Hall
Fri 18 August
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 19 August
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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



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

There will be a collection after next weekend's Masses (19/20th August) to support Cafod's development work overseas. Gift aid envelopes will be available from the collectors.

Please remember to sign up for the Mass of Welcome and Thanksgiving on 8th September.

A sheet is in the porch to register attendance.



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.

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 which is paid role. 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!



#easyfundraising is running a new giveaway where 100 lucky causes will win a £10 donation! You can help increase our chances of winning - all you have to do is sign up to support Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin to give us an extra entry. Every donation makes a difference, so please take a moment to do this for us and also ask everyone you can to do the same! Sign up here: [Easyfundraising](#)

Other items of interest

Sanctuary Seekers at Needham House Hotel

We have recently found out that there are now several families being housed in Little Wymondley and whilst generally we are not able to support them to the same level we have the families based in Hitchin they do have some needs which we may be able to help with.

Do you have any of the following:

- *Educational resources - small tables and chairs. Pencils/pens for the children.*
- *Clothes for all ages. In particular children's ages 9-14.*
- *Adult underwear specifically for ladies and gentleman is the most in need when considering adult attire.*

Trish will be taking the excess from your previous generous donations of clothing to the hotel but if you can help with any of the items listed above please leave them in the box in the church porch.



Mary, although she is the Mother of God, is still a creature, the purest, the most admirable of all, but in the end a creature. Mary brings me to Jesus and that is quite a privilege: she leads me to Him by teaching me how to imitate Him. (Fr d'Alzon, reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 348 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart*

Friends and other families are part of this larger family, as well as communities of families who support one another in their difficulties, their social commitments and their faith.

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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