



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 2062

26th Aug – 2nd Sept 2023 – 21st 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: Is 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Matt 16:13-20

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Psalm: Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Matt 16:21-27

Ramblings As I sit here at our Provincial Chapter, we have been reflecting on our Assumptionist mission to grow and strengthen the kingdom of God in us and around us. This mission is not just for Assumptionists but for everyone. We understand that we cannot share something that we do not have ourselves. The really encouraging thing is that it is together that we make up the kingdom. Christ lives within us. We allow the kingdom to grow within us by giving God free reign. The kingdom of God is one of the greatest gifts that God has given us. What is so good is that the kingdom of God is made up of people, you and me. The Assumptionist believes the kingdom of God is the kingdom of Christ, a different way of seeing the same thing. We also believe that it is God who grows the kingdom within us but this can only be truly accomplished if we hand over our lives fully to God. In this way we become a channel of grace, of the love, mercy, goodness and presence of God. Just think for a moment, all we have to do is to be present, whether in the family, our place of work, various groups, parish families et al and Christ will do the rest!! Doesn't this mean that our prayers, our many apostolic activities, food bank, feedup warmup, my pantry, prayer groups, support for those seeking sanctuary, church cleaning, choirs, flower arrangers, parish council, to name but a few, all allow Christ to work within and around/through us allowing the kingdom of God to grow??

Thy Kingdom Come! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Mass of Welcome for Fr Justin & Thanksgiving for Fr Tom on 8th September. 65 people have now signed up. Please come to welcome our new Parish Priest and give our thanks to Fr Tom. Sign up on the sheet in the porch. Donations are welcome for Fr Tom's gift – leave in the parish office marked Fr Tom retire.

Diary Dates

Sun 27 August



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by the **Gardening Group**. All are welcome.

Mon 28 August **St Augustine**

Tue 29 August **Beheading John the Baptist**

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

Weds 30 August

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

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7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 31 August

10.30am St Pio Meeting Hall

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1pm Italian Club Hall

Fri 1st Sept

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 2nd Sept

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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

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

The next 5pm Mass will be September 3rd

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The Scripture Session with Fr Andrew will resume at 2.30p on Friday 1st September focused on the **Acts of the Apostles** in his lounge in Christopher House. All are welcome to attend.



Next **Sunday 3rd Sept at 2.30pm** is our Healing and Wholeness Service in the church. Join us if you want to pray for yourself or others and receive the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick and/or Reconciliation. There will also be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. If you cannot attend and wish prayer for yourselves or others please send the names to [Trish](#).



On **23rd September 7pm**, organised by the One World/livesimply group to get together and raise funds for CAFOD. Teams of 1-6 £3 Per Person no need to sign up just turn up Tea and Coffee provided but you are encouraged to bring your own snacks and nibbles.



Counting our collection is a vital service to the parish. This is the only income that we get and we are dependent on our parishioners not only to make their contributions to the parish but to count them too! We are in need of at least three people. The commitment is only once every four weeks on a Tuesday morning (can be flexible). If you are willing to help in this important way can you let [David Wilson](#) or [Cheryl](#) know as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Books and other items to be given away are still in the church hall. Come into the hall and take anything that you want. **Please do not bring any more!** Also, please borrow books from the library!

Thanks to Helen Wilson for managing our readers rota for the past few years. We are very grateful to her. Her work commitments mean she is finishing this role now so we need someone to take over co-ordinating the rota from September. It involves compiling a rota for the normal Sunday services and asking readers for help with Holy days of obligation, Christmas and Easter services. Trish will support whoever takes over to show you what needs to be done. If you can help please let [Trish](#) know asap.

For those who are planning to get married in the Catholic church we offer a **Marriage preparation course** which is required by the Diocese. Our next course is Saturday 28th October from 10am-4pm in the parish Hall. Please complete an online registration form.- [register here](#) and contact [Rob Hitchcock](#) for more information



Youth Sessions from September

Rob Hitchcock, our youth ministry co-ordinator, has been running youth group sessions for the past year filled with:

Fun, Fun- games and socialising and arts and crafts

Faith- explore a theme from the liturgical calendar or theme from the readings

Food- pizza (dietary needs are met) for Year 9 upwards. He would like to extend this to **Years 6, 7 and 8** also because of his great relationship with the children in these year groups at Our Lady's school.

To be able to do this we need your help in the following ways:

- Do you have children you would encourage to attend these sessions with their friends?
- If yes please say which day is best
Tuesday
Friday or
Sunday evenings from 6pm-8pm.
- **Would you be willing to help occasionally at a session?** (DBS check will be required)

We will need support to be able to run these sessions but there may be other people in the parish who are also willing to help who aren't parents.

Please contact [Rob](#) or [Trish](#) with your feedback.

This is a great opportunity for our young people to get together, have some fun and explore their faith in a different way.

We do hope that you will want to encourage this.

Update on Sanctuary Seekers at Needham House Hotel The atmosphere at the hotel is really lovely with people chatting in the lounge and children playing outside. Three of the residents are barbers so they are doing the hair cutting for all of the families. They are very grateful for all we are doing. They still need the following:

- Buggy for new born and 9m old babies
- Flip flops of all sizes or single strap sandals for both men and women.
- Toys/outdoor toys for the children particularly boys of all ages
- Winter clothing for adults and children.

Please leave all items in the box in the porch.

Financial donations can be made via the parish bank account using the reference **Asylum NHH**
Name: Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew
Sort Code: 40 05 20 Account Number: 81094610

Other dates

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.

5th Sept 7pm You are invited to meet and make new friends at **The Well**, at St. John's Parish Centre, 296 Sundon Park Road, Luton, LU3 3AL. Doors open at 7pm for Tea/cake. Speaker Gerard Pomfret. Donation only event, finishing with more tea/cake at approx. 9.30pm.

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.

10th Sept 11-3.30pm Summer Fete Sunday at Ransoms Rec off Grove Road, Hitchin.

There'll be live music, street food, kids' activities, plant/spring bulb sales, garden tours, sustainability info and much, much more. We're especially pleased to be hosting a performance of the new wellbeing musical 'Wobbly Wood Squirrels' by Imajica Theatre which has a heartwarming message about mental health and great family-appeal. We're asking people who come to 'bring their cup, not their car' again this year, and for those who do, there'll be a discount off all hot and cold drinks on sale.

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

Summer Fete Sunday 10th September from 11am-3.30pm at Ransoms Rec off Grove Road, Hitchin.

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The next (NHDC) Hitchin Area Forum is on 5 September, anyone is welcome to attend. We will be discussing town centre accessibility for people with mobility issues, and there's also a presentation by Citizens Advice North Herts. For the most up-to-date information about area forums, please visit: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/area-forums>

If you live in Hertfordshire, the county council is inviting you to share your views on its services, your local area and what is important to you. With a vision to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and safer Hertfordshire, the council wants to hear your views to help shape how they support every resident, business and community across it.

The 10 minute survey is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/residentsurvey until 15 September 2023.

If you require a printed copy, you can pick one up from your Local Library, or phone the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4040 to receive a copy by post..

Wintershall Nativity Experience the Christmas story in a new way. 14th, 16th-18th December

Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. The Nativity is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Adult tickets start from £24.

Go to [Wintershall Nativity](#) to book your tickets.



Season of Creation 2023


From September 1 – October 4, the Christian family unites worldwide in prayer and action for creation during the Season of Creation. The 2023 theme is “Let Justice and Peace Flow.” The symbol is the mighty river.


Message of Pope Francis for the Day of Creation 1 September 2023

“In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again.”


For the full message from Pope Francis and other resources for the season please see [Message for the Day of Creation](#)

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](#)

 August 28th is the feast of St Augustine of Hippo. He is well known for his conversion to the faith and for his theological writings especially the ‘Confessions.’ Even as bishop he lived in community with priests working in his area. His Rule of life written originally for a convent is followed by many religious orders including the Assumptionists. His feast is a time to pray that we may all live up to the ideal he puts before us as we work for the coming of God’s Kingdom.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 349** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart*
This larger family should provide love and support to young people struggling with addiction, the unmarried, separated or widowed who are alone, and the elderly and infirm who lack the support of their children.

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 Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
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