



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 2063

2nd – 9th Sept 2023 – 22nd 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.

Ramblings Why are we not more welcoming to Jesus' request to take up our cross and follow him? Any form of work, especially vocation work e.g. Medicine, Finance, Legal, Business, involves deprivation, self-sacrifice, going without, long periods of time committed to study, and more. In fact, it would seem that Jesus' cross for us is the easier option!!

William J Bausch suggest that there are three types of cross: the cross of inconvenience, the cross of witness and the cross of martyrdom. Rather than write about all three let's focus on the cross of inconvenience.

A story: An elderly nun had been greatly upset because a young nun in the community, who was always smiling and cheerful, had lots of energy and sparkled with life, had left. For a year the elderly nun had noticed that the young nun had been agonising over whether to stay or to leave and was not even sure if she was wanted by the community. So, the elderly nun prayed for her that she might stay, that she would come to know that she was wanted and valued, and that God would give her the strength to see beyond her doubts. Yet, at no time did she ever go and talk to the young nun about this. She never inconvenienced herself to tell her how much the community appreciated the gift that she was. Now she was upset that the young nun had left.

Her spiritual director told her that, yes, she had prayed but she had not inconvenienced herself, never put herself out or help bring about that for which she was praying. She never took up her cross; she left things totally up to God. But how was God to let the young nun know that she was appreciated inside the community when the community itself never ever told her??

St James makes sense when he says faith and good works go together. You are the hands, feet, and mouth of God, let God use you!!

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

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.


Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20

Diary Dates

Sun 3 September

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am will be in support of the **Hitchin Pantry** which provides subsidised shopping for people who need it. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

2.30pm 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.

5pm Mass resumes today

Mon 4 September

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 5 September

10am Funeral of Christine Withers RIP

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

Weds 6 September

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 7 September

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

Fri 8 September Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary

12pm Funeral of Michael Donnelly RIP

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

7pm Mass of Welcome for Fr Justin & Thanksgiving for Fr Tom. Followed by a bring and share supper. It is not too late to sign up on the sheet in the porch.

Diary Dates cont

Sat 9 September

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

We are delighted to welcome Fr Justin Kasereka as our new parish priest. Fr Justin arrived on Thursday with a big smile and is now settling in. We are looking forward to our celebration Mass this Friday at 7pm followed by the bring and share supper. There is still time to sign up for this. We certainly need more people to help clear afterwards so please **tick that box!!** ✓

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Last week's Cafod collection raised **£338.83**. Many thanks for your generosity.

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We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Leopold & Arthur Rioche**; we pray for them and their families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.



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We pray for **Michael Donnelly** whose funeral is on **Friday 8 September 2023 at 12 noon**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

The next **Baptismal Course** will take place here on Saturday 14 October 2023 from 3.30pm and 5.30pm. To register, please visit the website [Baptism Course](#) or contact Rob Hitchcock.



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The next **Marriage Course** will take place in the church hall on Saturday 28 October 2023 from 10am–4pm. To register, please visit [Marriage Preparation Course](#) or contact Rob Hitchcock. Cost is £75.00 per couple.

Other Dates

9/10th Sept Knitted Bible Exhibition

St. Faith's Church is hosting the national Knitted Bible Exhibition over the weekend of. The exhibition will include more than 200 knitted characters and handmade scenery items, recreating many scenes from the Bible. It will be open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 11.30am – 4pm on Sunday. This is a free exhibition with buckets around to make donations. Refreshments will be available both days.

Other items of interest

Needham House Hotel update It turns out that they have plenty of summer clothes but still do need winter clothing for adults and children and toys/outdoor toys (no cuddly toys thank you) for the children particularly boys of all ages.

Hitchin Sanctuary seekers One family has asked for three small back packs for their children at Our Lady's school. Can anyone help?

Please leave all items in the box in the porch.



The welcome of Fr Justin to our parish reminds us that it is nearly a hundred years since the Assumptionists came to Hitchin. It is easy to recall the parish priests but we often forget the assistant priests who have worked here as well as the apostolate carried out in local parishes. Both Biggleswade and Knebworth owe much to the priests, who as well as teaching in St Michael's College, did a lot of the basic work in founding those parishes. We thank God for these years and pray that we will be able to continue work for the coming of the Kingdom.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 350 *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart*

This wider family can help make up for the shortcomings of parents, detect and report possible situations in which children suffer violence and even abuse and provide wholesome love and family stability in cases when parents prove incapable of this. (Catechesis 7.10.2015).

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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