



# 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 2064

9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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:** Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Matt 18:15-20

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Psalm:** **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

**Intercession:** Lord, hear us

**Response:** **Lord, graciously hear us!**

**Next Week Readings :** Ecc 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Matt


**Ramblings** Responsibilities! Are they a burden or a guide?? Accepting and carrying out our own responsibilities can be hard enough but Jesus says that we are also responsible for the behaviour of others. That is much, much harder. We don't wish to interfere in other people's lives, just as we would not want them to interfere in ours. However, if we see someone harming themselves or moving in that direction, we would want to step in to help them avoid unnecessary hardship and suffering because of our love and concern for their well-being. Parents help their children in this way all the time. It is really a love-response filled with a desire to help their child(ren) and find true fulfilment and happiness in life. It would be good then, to realise that Jesus is only asking us to do what we want to do to help others anyway!

Pope Francis emphasises the importance of "fraternal correction" as a "gesture of love for one's brother and sister." This does not mean feeling superior or better, but helping and assisting the other person to overcome their difficulties, shouldering their problem because of weakness or fragility and if your shoulder is not there, (s)he will collapse. To correct means 'to hold with': not to reproach others for their sins but by being their neighbour, to help them overcome their sins, walking together towards healing or towards its beginning. The other will be healed because (s)he has felt your love and has felt a longing to love.

"First of all, I must give them what they need. Immediately. Love them with sincerity and then suffer for the sins they commit. And then pray for them, because prayer makes me God's hand on them, the sign of His fatherly concern through my presence. The Holy Spirit will do the rest."

## Diary Dates

### Sun 10 September

 **Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by Our Lady's School on **Education Sunday**. All are welcome.

### Mon 11 September

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

7pm PPC Meeting LCR

### Tue 12 September

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

### Weds 13 September

10.30am Praise Group LCR

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

### Thurs 14 September

10.30am St Pio Group LCR

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

### Friday 15 September

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

### Sat 16 September

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

There will be a CAFOD collection for after all masses next weekend (16/17th Sept) Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors.

Calling all jam jars. Our parish preservers are running out of jars for jam, chutney, pickles etc. If you have any standard size jars and would like to donate them please contact Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) or bring them to the hall after Sunday's coffee morning. Thank you.

## 🙏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*

**Many thanks** to those who supported recent Sunday coffee mornings. The amounts raised:

- **£150** to purchase groceries for **Hitchin Pantry**.
- **£73** for **Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern**. One World/Live Simply
- **£161** for the **gardening group**
- The **Parish Special Support group** were able to fund a visit to the Beach in Bancroft on Thursday 17th August for children of Asylum seeking families. Eleven children from the hotel and one Ukrainian child had a wonderful afternoon on the rides there and each received spending money for refreshments.

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We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Penelope Durling**; we pray for her and her family as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.



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**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.

The Saint John Henry Newman School warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on **Thursday 28th September, from 5.30 – 8.30 pm**. Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening. The last tour will be at 7pm and the school will close to visitors once the final Headteacher's address starts at 7:30pm.






There will be opportunities for parents to view the School the following week.

### Other dates

**10<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am – 3.30pm Triangle Garden Summer Fete** this Sunday at Ransoms Rec off Grove Road, Hitchin, and all are invited. There'll be live music, street food, kids' activities, plant/spring bulb sales, garden tours, sustainability info and much, much more. The event will also host 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. 'Bring your cup, not your car' and for those who do, there'll be a discount off all hot and cold drinks on sale.

**10<sup>th</sup> Sept 6.30 pm Hitchin Theological Society** begins again in St Mary's Church. The theme is Artificial Intelligence - implications for society and religion and the main speaker is Tamsyn Krammer of Luton College. There will be usual opportunity for general conversation - all welcome to join in debate on this important topic.

**19<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am to 12:30pm Season of Life - Living and Dying Well – Workshop online** An opportunity to discuss important topics impacting older people in their communities. Dying Well was one of the topics that participants were most keen to explore further. [Click here to book.](#)

	Bearing with one's neighbour can be hard and painful at times, it's a heavy burden either because of the character of those with whom we are in relation or because of our own. (reflections. Fr E d;Alzon)	
	<b>Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 351</b> <i>Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart</i> This larger family includes fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law and all the relatives of the couple. One particularly delicate aspect of love is learning not to view these relatives as somehow competitors, threats or intruders.	
<b>We are a Safeguarding parish</b> EduCare (now part of Tes) safeguarding leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/</a> <b>Safeguarding representatives: Trish Bonnett and Maria Greene via 01462 459126</b>		
	If you have a need for prayer, please contact <b>Mary</b> on <b>07759195487</b> and let her know your prayer intentions	
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjoudoung 07438 408350	Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
<b>Parish Tel no</b>	01462 459126	
Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }