



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 2065

16th – 23rd Sept 2023 – 24th 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 is reconciliation and forgiveness so important??

Jesus gives us several stories and examples of reconciliation and is an important part of the Our Father. It concerns both the offender and the offended. It is found at the root and heart of everything that Jesus did in his life and it led him to the cross. It permeates every single expression of what is true love. Like all that we see in God: goodness, mercy, abundant grace and compassion, a desire to bring joy and happiness to others, it is a source of discovery. It must be lived, embraced, even denied and rediscovered. Although beyond adequate explanation, it is the substance of who we are and who we will become. Our conscience is shaped by reconciliation.

We spend our whole lives seeking reconciliation with who we are and who we want to be, only to discover that, however hard we try, we can never do this on our own. In fact, it is impossible to do it on our own. For every relationship to grow reconciliation is an important element. It is needed to accept others for who they are, recognise their gifts and abilities, their warmth and friendship, their value and their sanctity. It is through reconciliation that we discover how God is present in our lives and his deep desire for our happiness. We don't add God to our lives. God is always present. God was present in us even before we were born. Reconciliation and forgiveness teach us the true value and importance of God's presence, made especially effective in Jesus Christ: a true brother and a true friend. In this month of prayer for creation, we seek reconciliation and forgiveness for the incessant harm and abuse with which we have brutalised it. Yet, if we stop harming it by living more simply, not wasting energy, cease using fossil fuels, it will instantly forgive us and be reborn.

Readings: Ecc 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Matt 18:21-35

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week :Is 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24.27, Matt20:1-16

Of course reconciliation and forgiveness are Important!!

Diary Dates

Sun 17 September	
	Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by the One World/Live Simply Group. Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to The Living Room, a local charity which supports people recovering from a range of addictions. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale. All are welcome.
Mon 18 September	
6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall	
Tue 19 September	
10.30am “Tuesday Chat” Hall *****	
2pm Craft Circle LCR *****	
7pm Scouts - Scout Hall	
Weds 20 September	
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****	
7pm RCIA EC	
Thurs 21 September	
1pm Italian Club Hall *****	
6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall	
Friday 22 September	
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****	
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House	
Sat 23 September	
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****	
5pm-10pm One World/LS Quiz Night Hall	

There is a **CAFOD** collection after all weekend masses. This collection will be sent via Cafod to the Moroccan earthquake appeal and the Libyan flood damage appeal. Giftaid envelopes are available from the collectors.

 **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*

Copies of the Cardinal's Pastoral letter can be found in the porch and on the parish website.

Many thanks from the gardening group for the help, donations and support for our coffee morning on 27th August. It was much appreciated and we were delighted to raise **£161**.

We pray for **Mary Doherty** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 2.30pm** and we also pray for **Bridget Tomlinson** whose funeral is on **Thursday 21 September 2023** at 2pm. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

 **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.

Best wishes to Martin McDonagh who, after many years of service as an altar server and MC,

is leaving to explore a vocation to the Priesthood. He moves to Bethnal Green this week. Please keep Martin in your prayers.



The Saint John Henry Newman School warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on **Thurs 28th Sept, from 5.30–8.30pm**. 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


21st Sept – UN International Day of Peace event at the Quaker Meeting House, 1 Paynes Park, Hitchin. A meditation walk around the Peace Garden at 6 pm will be followed by a discussion 'What Peace means for us' in the Meeting House at 7pm Refreshments will be available.

23rd Sept Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham The coach departs St Hugh of Lincoln carpark at 8am. Pilgrims are welcome to use the Fortescue Hall carpark 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.


Other items of interest

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of London opened a Diocesan Hub named 'The Sanctuary' in the heart of the City of London, with a Message from His Majesty King Charles III [Click here for details](#)

 Our sister Congregation. The Oblates of the Assumption were founded by Fr d'Alzon in 1865 to work with the Assumptionists in Eastern Europe. Today they are present in 23 countries. We share the same spirituality based on the words of the Our Father 'Thy Kingdom Come' and love of Jesus Christ and those things He loved most His mother and the Church.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 352** *Love made fruitful - Life in the wider family - A big heart*
The conjugal union demands respect of the traditions and customs of in-laws, an effort to understand their language and to refrain from criticism, caring for them and cherishing them while maintaining the legitimate privacy and independence of the couple. Being willing to do so is an exquisite expression of generous love for one's spouse.

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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