



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 2066

23rd – 30th Sept 2023 – 25th 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 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24,27, Matt 20:1-16

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them and I will be their Lord forever.

Psalm: **The Lord is close to all who call him.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: **Lord, hear us!**

Next Week: Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11,27, Matt 21:28-32

Ramblings "My thoughts are not your thoughts says the Lord," through the prophet Isaiah. One can't help but think "And a good thing too!! The Parable of the workers in the vineyard shows yet another way in which Jesus thinks about things differently. It raises the important question of how we see our service in the kingdom. Do we serve for the rewards we will receive, or do we serve with willing and loving hearts and with the belief that it is actually a privilege to be able to serve with generosity and love. After all, we are family. The other question Jesus poses is whether we spend our lives comparing ourselves to others, jealous of the fact that they have more than we have or appear to be more favoured by God than ourselves. This will only lead to a miserable life. In fact, we should rejoice in the fact that others do well, succeed where we fail and receive more than we do, because we are family. What would be even more interesting is to find out what you make of the parable, this story?? There is the generosity of the Vinyard owner for starters. Think about the gratitude of the workers who were hired later in the day especially those who were hired at the very end of the day. Before hand, they must have felt very dejected, believing that they were about to return home not having worked and with no money for food for the family. Think too of the joy they must have felt to be able to work for even one hour.

AN OLD SHOVEL Paula Goldsmith

I remember when Grandpa used me every day, now he has gone far away.

I am sitting here watching the clouds turn grey, as the family never comes my way.

For Grandpa and me digging was play, it was fun to hear what he had to say.

Diary Dates

Sun 24 September



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by the Pro Life Movement.

Mon 25 September

9.30-11.15am Parent & Toddler Group resumes. Come along for interactive play with your children and chats with others. Refreshments provided. Contributions welcome.

10am Funeral Mass Adolfo Lanni. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort his family.

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 26 September

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

7pm FHC Parents Meeting Session 1 Hall

Weds 27 September **St Vincent de Paul**

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 28 September

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

Friday 29 September

Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 30 September **St Jerome**

10am Pilgrimage for the Planet see below.

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

🙏 **Prayer diary** 🙏

Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre
No Eucharistic Service Church

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



Not too late to come on 23rd Sept at 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. **Join us for fun.**

+++++

From Fr Tom

Thank you!

To say that I feel humbled by the love, prayers, gifts, thanksgiving and blessings you have bestowed upon me is an understatement. As an Assumptionist firstly and then as a priest, I have come to understand that God asked me to be a mirror of the goodness, love, generosity and the many other virtues filling the lives of the people I encounter. Everything you have said and written to me is a reflection of your inner selves. For that I cannot thank you enough except to continue to respond with the love you have shown to me. I have grown stronger in faith as a member of the parish. I see you as my brothers and sisters, friends and companions, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers - family. What better image of God could I ever have???????



Fr Tom Fr Justin The Bike Fr Norbert

The new bike is a great blessing and like the Buddhist prayer wheel, I now have two, so that wherever I travel on it, prayers will be offered for

you all. Among the blessings received I now know that:

Old people are just young people who have been alive for a very, very, very long time!

I am told that three things happen in old-age. First your memory goes. Can't remember the other 2!!

And finally: so far, this is the oldest I've ever been!!!

+++++

⊕ **First Reconciliation & Holy Communion**

For all children in Year 3 or above who have not yet received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, we are beginning our programme of preparation for parents and children this Tuesday 26th September at 6.45pm for a prompt 7pm start and should finish about 8.30pm.

This first session is primarily aimed at parents. If childcare is an issue then please bring them with you, do not let it be an obstacle to your ability to attend this important session.

All details about the structure of the programme, the resources available for Parents to help prepare their children, and the additional support for children not at a Catholic school, will be outlined at the first session.

Please complete in advance the application form which can be found on the parish website at [First Holy Communion](#)

If you have any questions please email [Robert Hitchcock](#).



Is starting again!!! Thanks to Seaneen for getting it up and running again. Come along this Monday 9.30-11.15am. Be prepared to play, read, sing and chat. Refreshments provided. Help will be needed to set up and clear up before and after the session. Please contact Seaneen 07899 921735 if you can offer help.

+++++

We pray for the repose of the soul of Rosina Denton. Her requiem Mass will be on Monday 16th October at 11.30 at St Hugh's Church in Letchworth & afterwards in the Church hall. All are welcome.





We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Eoin & Finn Curtis and Rory Page**. We pray for them and their families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

Thanks for your generosity at the coffee morning on Education Sunday **£110.67** was raised for Our Lady School and last week **£164** was raised for The Living Room - a local charity which supports people recovering from a range of addictions.

Last week's CAFOD collection in aid of the Moroccan Appeal raised a total of **£725.26**. Thank you all for your continued generosity.

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.



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.

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.



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

Fun, Fun- games, socializing, 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 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.

Other dates

30 Sept 10am Pilgrimage for the Planet: The theme for this Season of Creation is 'Let Justice flow like a river'. We will gather at 10am on Saturday morning at the top of Redhill Road, Hitchin. This can be reached by bus (no 81 from town centre). We will walk to the source of the Oughton river and then along the river as far as Westmill Lane where we can rejoin a bus route back into the town centre. There will be stops along the way to pray for our Common Home.

30th Sept & 1st Oct Marriage Encounter non-residential enrichment weekend for couples: at St. George's Parish Centre – Sudbury. (Saturday 9am to Sunday 5.00pm). This is a great opportunity as a couple to affirm, enrich and explore your unique relationship (NB: There is no group sharing). For more information go to: <https://wwme.org.uk/book-a-weekend/>

16th Oct Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

4th Nov 11am Anointing of the Sick Mass at St Hugh of Lincoln, Letchworth Refreshments served afterwards in Fortescue Hall. All welcome.

Other items of interest

National Minimum Wage and Getting Employment Contracts Right Online Webinar

Date: 28th September Time: 10 am – 11.30 am

Are you worried that you may not be paying the correct minimum wage?

Do you know your responsibilities for employees depending on the type of employment contract you have in place?

Would you like to know what help there is for you as an employer to get things right?


If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the webinar for you. The link to book is [Online Webinar](#)

THE LISTENING EVENT


We warmly invite you to a relaxed & informal presentation on *Catholiclisteners*, LANDINGS, our returning Catholics Programme, and the launch of our new *Catholiclisteners* Website.


18 October from 6.30 to 8.30pm
(following 6pm Mass at Farm Street Church)
at 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, W1K 3AJ,
in the Arrupe Hall & The Cana Lounge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BOOK YOUR PARTICIPATION:
0800 448 0704
or email: Catholiclisteners@gmail.com
RSVP BY 1st OCTOBER




Catholiclisteners
compassionate confidential faith helpline

 Human nature is so made that even with the best of resolutions it fails at every moment. It is a lamp that must be continually filled with oil. My soul tires and goes out, unless new sustenance is provided every day to keep it going. That sustenance is prayer. (Fr d'Alzon, reflections)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 353** *Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today*
The Synod Fathers emphasise Christian families, by grace of the sacrament of matrimony, are the principle agents of the family apostolate, above all through 'their joy-filled witness as domestic churches'. Relatio Synodi 2014,30.

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 Justin Kasereka 07438 793351	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
Asst Priest	Fr Adams Tatsidjoudoung 07438 408350	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Parish Tel no: 01462 459126

Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	press 2
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }	01462 459126 press 5
	Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	press 5