



# 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 2068

7 October – 14 October 2023 – 27<sup>th</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.

**Ramblings** In many forms of celebration, food and drink play an important role if not a major one. My nephew's daughter, Alba, has recently celebrated her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and invited 20 or so friends to it. It was a joyful and happy event. Presents were given and received, there was dance and song and, of course, cake, jelly and soft drinks for all. Jesus' story this week focuses on a feast offered by a king who had gone out of his way to provide a spectacular feast for all his guests. Unfortunately, the guests refused to come. One can only wonder why?

The banquet reminds us of the Eucharist in which the best of food and wine are served, a banquet offered generously by our king, Jesus Christ. Ronald Rolheiser offers these few thoughts about the bread and the wine: *bread is both is symbol of joy, togetherness, health, and achievement (the smell of fresh bread and the primal beauty of a loaf of bread) even as it is made up of broken kernels of wheat which had to be crushed in their individuality and be baked in fire to become that bread. Wine is both a festive drink, the drink of celebration, of wedding, even as it is crushed grapes and represents the blood of Jesus and the blood and suffering of all that is crushed in our world and in our lives.* Joy, togetherness health is what we all yearn for. It is offered to us freely and lovingly in the Eucharist.

Although books, songs, treatises and poems about the Eucharist are manifold, like a wedding, the Eucharist is something that has to be experienced, received and welcomed freely and lovingly because it offers something beyond words and explanations. It is something that you don't want to miss!!

**Readings: Is 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Matt 21:33-43**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

**Psalm: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response: Hear our Prayer!**

**Next Week: Is 25:6-10, Phil 4:12-14, 19-20, Matt 22:1-14**

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 8 October



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

6.30pm **Hitchin Theological Society** in St Mary's Church. The Rev Chris Bunce, Rector of St Mary's, and Ali Sheriff of the local Muslim community will give presentations on **Culture shapes religion** and there will be the usual opportunity for conversation on the theme.

#### Mon 9 October

9.30am **Parent & Toddlers** Hall

6pm & 7.15pm **Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall**

#### Tue 10 October

10.30am **“Tuesday Chat”** Hall

2pm **Craft Circle** LCR

7pm **Scouts - Scout Hall**

7pm **Finance Meeting** EC

#### Weds 11 October

10.30am **Praise Group** LCR

6pm **Feed Up Warm Up** Scout Hall

7pm **RCIA** EC

#### Thurs 12 October

1pm **Italian Club** Hall

6.30pm **Brownies - Scout Hall**

7.30pm **CTH Council meeting** in the Church.

#### Friday 13 October

2-4pm **Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

2.30pm **Scripture** Fr Andrew Christopher House

#### Sat 14 October

10am **FHC Session 2** Hall

1-3pm **Hitchin Pantry** Scout Hall

3.30pm **Baptism Course** 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*

Many thanks to all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last week in aid of SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child). A total of £138 was raised.



There will be a collection for Cafod after all masses next weekend (14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> October) Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors.

The Fairtrade stall will be open on Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. There will also be Christmas cards and the remaining craft items – ideal for Christmas presents! Cash only.



**12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm in the church -Churches Together in Hitchin Council meeting.** It begins with the Phase annual update, and at 8pm a few items of business and report, including a short AGM, then we will have a session in which ministers new to Hitchin will share their first impressions and what they are looking forward to in their ministry here. All are welcome at any point in what we hope will be an enjoyable and inspiring evening. All are welcome to attend.

There are a variety of greeting cards (including Christmas cards) available for sale after Sunday Morning Masses. These will also be available to purchase in the Hall on a Tuesday morning.

**Certificate of Catholic Practice for children who wish to start at the St John Henry Newman School in September 2024**



All admission applications for Catholic children require a Certificate of Catholic Practice and this year we are inviting people to meet with Fr Justin to discuss this with him. **Dates Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct from 4–5.45pm** (15 minute visit)

You can sign up for your meeting on the sheets in the church porch. You need to bring a photo of your child and their baptism certificate.

**Other dates**

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup> (\*15<sup>th</sup>) 10am (\*11am)-4pm Knitted Bible stories** The exhibition of knitted Bible stories that was recently at St Faith's will be at Ickleford Parish Church. Highly commended - all welcome.


**Other items of interest**


The Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School is a popular 11-18 mixed Catholic comprehensive school in Stevenage. The roll is currently 1600, 400 of which are 6th form.

**WE CURRENTLY HAVE VACANCIES FOR TWO FOUNDATION GOVERNORS.**


Our current team of Governors are highly committed, talented and aspiring Governing Body, which sees its purpose as one of service to our school community and the wider community. Remember that the gift you bring is of yourself. This will entail life skills and experience, qualifications and business skills, but above all, it will simply be the gift of YOU.

If you would be interested in joining the Governing Body – in the first instance please contact the Clerk to the Governors:- [radcliffel@jhn.herts.sch.uk](mailto:radcliffel@jhn.herts.sch.uk)

 You must go to God with great joy and with the happiness of being at his service. Joy is the portion of those who empty themselves willingly. The source of religious joy comes from a blossoming of hope. (Fr d'Alzon, reflections on Joy)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 355** Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today  
"As in the parable of the sower (Mt 13:3-9) we are called to help sow seeds; the rest is God's work."

**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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<b>Retired Priest</b>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Parish Tel no</b> 01462 459126

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