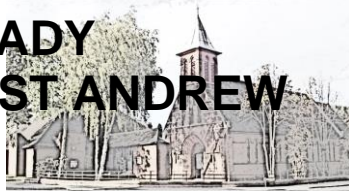




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 2069

14th – 21st October 2023 – 28th 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 25:6-10, Phil 4:12-14, 19-20, Matt 22:1-14

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Psalm: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Is 45:1.4-6, Thes 1:1-5, Matt 22:15-21

Ramblings

Having mistaken my Sunday readings last week a second bite of the cherry by John Pillich sj speaking about the society in which Jesus lived:

A king arranges a wedding banquet for his son. Commoners will not likely be invited. Royalty associate almost exclusively with royalty or at least with VIPs. Among the king's invited guests are a landowner and a businessperson and members of the elite. Notice the double invitation: "The king sent his slaves to call those who had been invited. ... he sent other slaves, saying ... 'Come!'" This was common practice in antiquity. After the first invitation, the guests checked out who was invited or not invited, what kind of preparations were made or not made; who was planning to attend and who was planning to stay away. If key people decided to stay away, so would others.

The refusal of the invited guests to attend the king's wedding party shames him. For some reason the guests disapproved of the arrangements. They offer flimsy and insulting excuses, implying that tending the farm or the business is much more important than the wedding of the king's son. This was the traditional and indirect or face-saving method of turning down an invitation.

Other invited guests challenge the king's honour more directly. They seize, beat, and kill the slaves who brought the invitation. Clearly this action demands redress, so the king first sends troops to kill the murderers and burn their city. This evens the score and solidifies the king's honour according to the rules of the honour and shame game. But then the king does something that breaks the rules. He invites non-elites to the wedding feast!

Jesus' parable was directed against his elite opponents from Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders. He contrasts their rigid observance of exclusivity with the open-hearted inclusivity expressed by the king. Parables tell how God relates to us, implying that we ought to relate to each other in the same way. Do we?

Diary Dates

Sun 15 October



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by **One World/Live Simply Group**. Proceeds

will go to support Herts Welcomes Refugees, a local charity which works with newcomers to our community. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale as well as items from the Fairtrade stall. All are welcome. All are welcome.

Mon 16 October

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 17 October

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

7pm Finance Meeting EC (rescheduled)

Weds 18 October

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 19 October

10.30am St Pio (2) Meeting Hall

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

Friday 20 October

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 21 October

11am MEMORIAL MASS Kevin McCalman RIP
Church followed by bring and share gathering in the Hall. All are welcome.

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


KISS Coffee Morning - thank you to all those who prepared, baked, helped, and supported last Sunday's KISS Coffee morning which raised **£160** – We, as always, are blessed to be supported with the generosity of you, our parish community, and particularly thank 2 students from St John Henry Newman School who have joined the team. A big thank you to all those actively involved in the raffle, tidying up and clearing away tables.



We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Sidney Journet**; we pray for his Family as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.




Thursday 19th October 12 noon – Midnight Prayer Vigil in the church to pray for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. There will be Exposition of the blessed sacrament. Please sign up on the notice in the porch so we know that we have every slot covered.

 **Saturday 21st Oct 11am** is the Funeral Memorial Mass for our parishioner and organist Kevin McCalman. This will be followed by a **Bring and Share Buffet** in the hall. All our welcome to attend this celebration. **Please**

note there is no 10am Mass this day (21st Oct) or Exposition and Confession.



 We pray for **Sandra Faranda** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 1.30pm**. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

Other dates

Oct 18th 1.30-3pm Archbishop Emeritus Kevin McDonald will speak on "All in the same boat" his study of Fratelli tutti in our series "Who is my neighbour?" We meet in the Hinsley Room Morpeth Terrace SW1 1EP. All are welcome and there will be refreshments.

Oct 21st 1.30-4.30pm Divine Mercy Retreat at Most Precious Blood and St Edmund Campion RC Church, 115 Hertford Road, Edmonton, N9. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

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




Every year we Assumptionists are asked to hold a chapter during which we reflect on our life together and plan for the coming year. We welcome an Assistant to our Provincial who will join us and our brothers at Bethnal Green for our chapters this week. Please remember this in your prayers.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 356 *Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today*
The Church wishes, with humility and compassion, to reach out to families and 'to help each family discover the best way to overcome any obstacles it encounters'. Relatio finalis 2015, 56.

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 Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350	Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Parish Tel no 01462 459126
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