



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 2070

21st October – 28th October 2023 – 29th 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 Rather than become embroiled in the scheming of Jesus' adversaries, focus on the fact that we are made in the image of God. The God who is the source of all life. The God who is Love in its purest form and know that we are made with and permeated with the love of God. Ronald Rolheiser talks about us being people who promote a **culture of life** rather than a culture of death. We are given the impression that the Pharisees and Herodians lived a culture of death especially where Jesus was concerned. Cleverly, Jesus uses their challenge to teach us that just as the coin produced had the image of Caesar stamped on it that we are stamped with the image of God who is the source life and the source of love. It is because of this that we *belong* to God.

John Foley sj suggests that, if we are "*those things that belong to God*", then we "*Belong*" in a way felt by people who love and are loved. Because of this, we would definitely want to give ourselves to God, and bring our God-filled selves to the secular society within which we live and seek to show everyone around us that Jesus is truly good news. We live in both worlds just as Jesus did. So that rather than either/or we live in both a secular society and the kingdom of God that we know as Church.

We are stamped then with the life, of which God is the source, and with love as well as being gifted with Faith. All three, life, love and faith are lived and experienced, we learn them by living and grow in them through our experiences and attempts to live them better and more fully. Even our failures can help us do this because Jesus helps us live them positively and learn from them!

Readings: Is 45:1-4-6, Thes 1:1-5, Matt 22:15-21

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.


Psalm: **Give the Lord Glory and Power.**

Intercession: Lord, hear us

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

Next Week: Ex 22:20-26, Thess 1:5-10, Matt 22:34-40

Diary Dates

Sun 22 October	
	Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by Diapalante . Proceeds will go to support Diapalante's Education Centre in Senegal. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.
Mon 23 October	
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall	
Tue 24 October	
10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall *****	
2pm Craft Circle LCR	
Weds 25 October	
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall *****	
7pm RCIA EC	
Thurs 26 October	
1pm Italian Club Hall	
Friday 27 October	
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****	
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House	
Sat 28 October	
10-4pm Marriage Course Hall *****	
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall	

Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

No Eucharistic Service

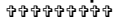
Wednesday 9.30am **Rosary** Church

12pm **Charismatic Prayer** UCR

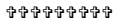
Thursday 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

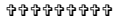
Many thanks to all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last week. A total of £146 was raised for "Herts Welcomes Refugees" on behalf of the One World, Live Simply Group.



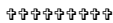
Many thanks to all who contributed to the CAFOD collection last week. **£397.98** was raised.



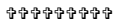
We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Anthony Priest**; we pray for their Family as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.



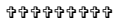
We pray for **Michael Sweeny** whose funeral is on **Thursday 26 October 2023 at 10am**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



Wednesday 1st November All Saints Masses will be at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm. Envelopes for Masses for the Dead to be remembered will be on the table as you enter the church from next weekend. They should be returned to the box after Mass and this will be removed after each Mass. Envelopes at other times can be posted through the parish letter box.



Thursday 2nd November All Souls Mass will be at 10am followed by blessing of the graves in St John's cemetery with Frs Tom, Justin and Adams from 11am. Fr Andrew is also willing to bless the graves of family members who are at Wilbury Hills Cemetery at 12pm. If you have a family member there please let [Cheryl](#) know that you will be attending. Email or ring on 01462 459126.



Sunday 12th November 3pm is our **In Memoriam** service for those in our parish who have died in the past year. We welcome all parishioners to this service where we read out the names of

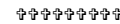


those who have died since our last service and prayer for all those we have loved and who have died.

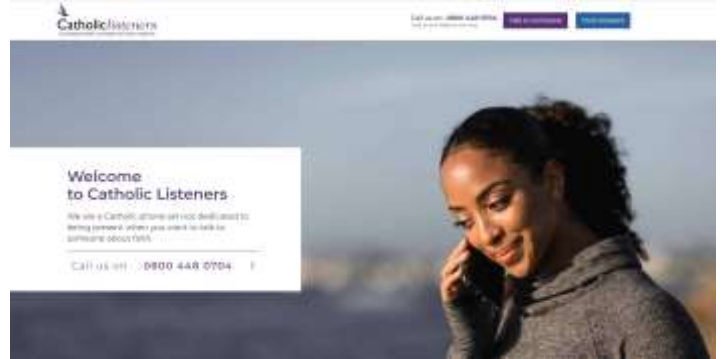
Other items of interest



Advent Giving Calendar Advent helps us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, with the cost of living crisis, many in our communities are facing difficulties. This Advent Giving Calendar is designed for you to use this season to think about those who might need some extra support this Christmas. You can follow along each day and make up a food parcel that you generously donate to the Hitchin Pantry or the Foodbank. Click on **Advent Giving Calendar** to download your calendar.



The Catholic Listeners website is now up and running and can be found at catholiclisteners.com It is ideal for those seeking to find a way back to the Catholic Church and they can talk to someone also by calling the number on the site.



Needham House update Now the cold weather is upon us it appears that the Sanctuary seekers **do need** warm coats for all ages, children, adults both male and female. If you have any you no longer use please bring them to the porch and leave them there. There are 198 children and adults living there at present.



It's not a matter of seeking one's vocation, but listening in the depths of one's soul to the call made by Jesus Christ. What is scary is that our Divine Master asks a little bit more of us each and every day. (Fr d'Alzon, Reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 356 Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today
The Synod Fathers highlight the need to highlight factors within our cultures that prevent authentic family life and lead to discrimination, poverty, exclusion and violence.

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