



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 2072

4th November – 11th November 2023 – 31st 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: Mal 1:14-2:2.8-10, Thes 2:7-9.13, Matt 23:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Psalm: **Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Wis 6:12-16, Thess 4:13-18, Matt 25:1-13

Ramblings Hypocrisy! A word we dislike but see in others and rarely in ourselves. Many make efforts not to be hypocritical and yet it still taints their lives, often unknowingly. In fact, some people are so busy pointing out the hypocrisy of others that they forget to look in a mirror!! Jesus was well aware of the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees even if not all were like that. He calls them out on it and lays it bare.

George Orwell: *the Ministry of Peace concerns itself with war, the Ministry of Truth with lies, the Ministry of Love with torture and the Ministry of Plenty with starvation. These contradictions are not accidental, nor do they result from ordinary hypocrisy: they are deliberate exercises in doublethink"*

Pope Francis: *Hypocrisy can be called the fear of the truth; that it is better to pretend than to be yourself. This can suffocate the courage to openly say what is true. The Bible tells us about Eleazar, in the time of the Maccabees, who refused to pretend to eat meat sacrificed to idols, even at the cost of his life. Hypocrites are people who pretend, flatter, and deceive because they live behind a mask not having the courage to face the truth. They are incapable of truly loving.*

One Sunday morning during service, a 2,000-member congregation was surprised to see two men enter, covered from head to toe in black and carrying sub-machine guns. One of the men shouted, "Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ, remain where you are."

Immediately, the choir fled, the deacons fled, and most of the congregation fled. Out of the 2,000, only about 20 remained. The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the preacher and said, "Okay Pastor, I got rid of all the hypocrites. Now you may begin your service. Have a nice day!" And the two men turned and walked out.

Diary Dates

Sun 5 November



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

Mon 6 November

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

2-4pm OWG Meeting LCR

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 7 November

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

11.30am Funeral Mass Eric Fox May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

Weds 8 November

10.30am Praise Group LCR

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 9 November

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

2.30–3.30 Sharing Faith with Fr Tom LCR

Friday 10 November

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 11 November

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Maiya Victorino** and **Grace Chapman**; we pray for them and their Families as they start this important time in their lives – the life of Faith.

 **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

Sharing Faith Reflecting on Vatican II

Pope Francis invites us to listen again to each other, hearing experiences of faith with all its joys and disappointments and find new ways of strengthening each other. We look at the three Popes, Worship, Belonging, How God speaks and Faith and Culture – 5 sessions in all. This is preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 entitled **“Pilgrims of Hope!”**

Please join Fr Tom on Thursdays starting 9th November 2.30pm in the Lower Committee Room. Please can you let [Trish](#) know if you plan to come so we can prepare materials.

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Sunday 12th November 3pm is our **In Memoriam** service for those 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.



Our Lady School Admissions Evening Tuesday 15th Nov 7pm Places available for September 2023. You're invited to visit Our Lady Catholic Primary School for our Admissions evening.

Parents require a Certificate of Catholic Practice to submit with the school application. Meetings with Fr Justin will be held on Mon 20th Nov, Tues 21st Nov, Fri 24th Nov. There is no need to bring the child concerned though they are also welcome. Please make sure that you give as much information as you can about yourselves, asking yourselves the question: “Why is Our Lady’s the School for my son or daughter, or children?” Fr Justin can then issue the Certificate of Catholic Practice. You can sign up for a meeting with Fr Justin on the notice board in the church porch.

Other dates

7th Nov 6.30pm for tea/coffee, begins at 7pm.

A very special evening with Ros Powell from Stoke on Trent, a Catholic Evangelist and International Speaker. Don't miss this opportunity. Come to The Well at St. John's on Tuesday 7th November. Donation only. St. Johns Parish Centre, Sundon Park Road, LU3 3AL.

12th Nov 6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society in St Mary's Church. The theme is *Claiming God is on our side in a conflict* with presentations by Fr Jake Pass RN and Bal Sandhu. All welcome.

Other items of interest

Job Vacancy at the North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum. Resource Centre Coordinator – for full details go to [Job Vacancies](#).

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Job vacancy Fundraising Manager for Jesuit Missions (JM), the international mission and development organisation of the Jesuits in Britain. All details at [Job Vacancies](#).



Pope Francis has named Fr Benoit Gschwind bishop of Pamiers in France. Fr Benoit had just taken over responsibility at our Assumptionist house in Montpellier. We wish him well and ask the support of your prayers.



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 358 *Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today*
The main contribution to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, which is the family of families. Relatio Finalis 2015, 77

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 Tatsidjoudong 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