



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 2073

11th November – 18th November 2023 – 32nd 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 The Psalms always put things simply and clearly: *our souls are thirsting for you, O Lord my God.* We thirst for God but all too often we fill that thirst with something else: food, music, excitement, pleasure etc. In any form of competitive sport especially where the teams are equal in ability, the team that wins is the often the one who has the greatest thirst. Because God often chooses to come to us, we become lazy like the foolish virgins in the gospel story. We will be all right we say to ourselves. So, when the Lord comes, and he comes when we least expect it, we are not ready and he passes by without our ever knowing it.

To be ready to welcome God who comes to us each day we need the right kind of awareness. *A man took his new hunting dog out on a trial hunt. He shot a duck that fell into the lake. The dog walked over the water, picked the duck up and brought it back to his master.*

The man was flabbergasted! He shot another duck. Once again, while he rubbed his eyes in disbelief, the dog walked over the water and retrieved the duck.

Hardly daring to believe what he had seen; he called his neighbour for a shoot the following day. Once again, each time he or his neighbour hit a bird the dog would walk over the water and bring the bird back. The man said nothing. Neither did his neighbour. Finally, unable to contain himself any longer, he blurted out, "Did you notice anything strange about that dog?"

*The neighbour rubbed his chin pensively. "Yes," he finally said. "Come to think of it, I did! **The dog can't swim!**"* (Anthony de Mello)

It isn't as if life is not full of miracles. It's more than that: life is miraculous, and anyone who stops taking it for granted will see it at once! How much do you thirst for God?

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

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, Thess 5:1-6, Matt 25:14-30

Diary Dates

Sun 12 November



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

3pm In Memoriam service for those who have died in the past year. Come to pray and light a candle for those you have loved who have died.

6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society - St Mary's

Mon 13 November

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

7pm PPC LCR

Tue 14 November

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

7pm FHC Session 5 Hall

Weds 15 November

11am Mass for UCM Deceased LCR

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 16 November

10.30am St Pio Hall

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

2.30 – 3.30 Faith Sharing Group with Fr Tom on **The Year of the Council.** LCR

7pm Finance Meeting LCR

Friday 17 November

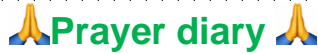
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Diary Dates cont.....

Sat 18 November

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



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
7- 8pm **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in church with prayer for peace between Israel and Palestine

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 7pm

Many thanks from the Flower Team who hosted the coffee morning last Sunday and raised £220.40 for the church flowers. Thank you so much for your great generosity to help keep our church beautiful.

Other help needed in or around the church

① To continue the theme on keeping the church beautiful we do need a couple more cleaners for a Saturday morning as we have had a couple of people drop out recently. If you can give an hour a month, ideally working with a team of three, we can really keep the church dusted, mopped and vacuumed. At this time of year, the carpet really can get mucky. We need more people to help us with this.



② We have a small team of people who help keep the votive candle stands clean on the outside and the wax removed from the inside which can be done about once a month. We have one stand without a helper to clean it. Trish can show you exactly what is needed.

③ We have had two parishioners look after the Assumptionist graves in St John's cemetery for many years, keeping them clean and tidy and on one of them planting some flowers occasionally. They are now both in their 80's and need to step back from this so it would be wonderful if someone else would take this on out of respect for our Priests who have served us so well.

If you are able to help with any of these needs please speak to, email [Trish](#) or text 07801752141 asap. Thanks in anticipation of your help.



Our Lady School Admissions Evening Tuesday 14th 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.

It is with sadness that we let you know that Rob Hitchcock, our Sacramental & Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, will be leaving us on December 22nd to take up a similar role in a much larger parish in Wimbledon. We are so grateful to Rob for everything he had done in his time in our parish, particularly how he got us online and delivered all the sacramental programmes online during the covid period. He really has been a Godsend and we wish him all the best in his new role.

Of course this means we have a **vacancy** for a **Sacramental Co-ordinator** in the parish so wanted to offer the first chance to apply to any of our parishioners who might see this as the opportunity the Holy Spirit has been directing them to.

You can find details of the job on our [Job Vacancy](#) page. Please do consider this or show it to anyone you know who might be suitable.

Please note we will have **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in the church on **Thursdays** from **7-8pm** for a chance to pray for peace between Israel and Palestine or anything else you feel the need for.

16th November 2-4pm Building a Safe and Strong Volunteer Team.

This online session (via Microsoft Teams) will cover how to encourage volunteering in your parish - getting it right and making it sustainable, further details are provided below. Trish will be speaking as we have such a good volunteer base in our parish and everyone is invited to hear suggestions to make it even better.

To book your place please complete the registration link here: [Volunteer session](#). Registrations will close on Monday 13 November at 5pm and the teams link will be sent on the morning of Tuesday 14 November.

Christmas Hampers

This year for the Christmas hampers to support those in need we have been asked to supply 250 rolls of wrapping paper. This may sound challenging but if every family in the parish gave one we would have double that! You can drop them off in the box in the porch. Thanks in anticipation of your usual generosity. Deadline for this is Tuesday 12th December. We met our target by the 2nd December last year so can we beat that this year I wonder?

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The Santa Marta Group was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. **On Thursday 30th November the Santa Marta Group will hold an information meeting in the parish hall of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church, 16, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, from 7pm – 9pm.** Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All are welcome to come to learn more about the prevalence of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and the steps we can take to prevent it.

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The last fairtrade stall in our parish will be on Sunday 19th November. This will end a monthly tradition of many years. We give thanks to Frances Chamberlain and family for running it for the last 10+ years and those who came before them notably Eileen and Jodie Dutt. This will be your last chance to buy the remaining Fairtrade goods, cards etc. Frances thanks all those people who have supported the stall over the years. It's good to reflect that Fairtrade goods are far more available these days and awareness has increased.

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Sunday 3rd December 2.30pm our next **Healing and Wholeness service** Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated.



Other dates

29th Nov 7 pm ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHET ISAIAH In preparation for the beginning of Advent Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest

of Gidea Park and Scripture scholar, will be giving a talk on the Prophet Isaiah in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is free and is in person, and it will also be live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org. No booking necessary. A recording of the talk will be made available subsequently on the same website.

30th Nov 5.30pm A new exhibition at the charity Street Talk showing the work of the charity whose founder is one of our parishioners. 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.



2nd Dec 2– 5pm Advent Summit This Advent all young people in the diocese are invited to join Westminster Youth Ministry December. This afternoon of prayer and adoration will be themed around 'the dwelling place' with speakers including Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Emmanuelle McFarlane-Barrow. Confessions will be available throughout. The event will take place at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Queensway. You can sign up at [Advent Summit](#)



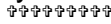
Sat 9th December
7.30pm

9th Dec 7.30pm in our church Orpheus Choir Christmas concert Once again we are hosting the Orpheus Choir for a Christmas music and carols concert in our church. This choir has always been very popular amongst our parishioners and their own following so please get your tickets as soon as possible. The price is still only £5 per ticket which will include some refreshments in the interval. Any prophets made will go to support the needs of our local Asylum Seekers. You can get tickets by emailing [Trish](#) or from the parish office.

Other items of interest

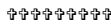
CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [CAFOD Appeal](#) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping

those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.



Upper Room The closing date for the Upper Room Leadership Programme has been extended to 16th November! This 8 month programme, starting in December, is open to young people 18-23 of age who are interested in growing in discipleship, spiritual formation, and practical training, culminating in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's an opportunity to journey with 20 other young Catholics in developing your unique vocation, gifts and identity in community. Please visit [Leadership Programme](#) for more details.

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit [Homes for Ukraine](#) for more information.



Can you spare an hour a week to help an elderly person in your local area ?

Reach Out is looking for people in Hertfordshire who can spare an hour a week to help an elderly person in their local area who is home from hospital and feeling lonely and isolated.

Reach Out offers companionship and practical support to people as they recover and rebuild their confidence. Many elderly people really appreciate someone popping in for a cuppa and a chat, or helping them by collecting small items of shopping for them. Autumn can be a difficult time for older

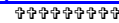
people who are living with frailty and are still recovering from a hospital stay. As the nights are getting longer and the cold weather is setting in, social isolation can have a huge impact.

Reach Out Volunteers can help people to feel connected to their community, whilst offering vital support and encouragement to them as they recover. Just giving a small amount of your time can make a huge difference.

You can register your interest [here](#) .

Find out more here <https://www.reachout-project.org.uk/> or contact Reach Out via email at reachout@nhcvs.org.uk or by calling 01462 689403.

As we often get asked if we know anyone who can clean we thought the following details might be of interest. [Blue Sapphire Cleaning Services](#).



Update on our Sanctuary Seekers Thanks for your response for the young lady who is starting at college. She has all the college equipment she needs but she still needs winter clothing. She is 6ft 1" and requires any pre-loved/donated winter clothing especially a warm jacket.

Her sizes are as follows:

Shoes: 7.5 or 8 Top: Size 14 Bottom: Size 16

Also at Needham House Hotel they are still in need of winter clothing for all ages – there are about 110 adults and 89 children of all ages. Coats are still a priority – thanks for all that have already come in. They also need large soft play equipment for the children and a toddler's pushbike. If you can provide any of these items please leave them in the black box in the porch.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity.



Our prayer expresses praise to the Father for having revealed his love and thanksgiving for all He accomplishes in us and in others. It prompts us also to beg forgiveness for the world and for ourselves and to ask for the strength we need to do His will.(Rule of life)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 359 Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today

Worldwide consultation highlighted better training is needed in the formation of ordained ministers to deal with the complex problems currently facing families.

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

Asst Priest Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350

Retired Priest Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk

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