



# 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 2074

18<sup>th</sup> November – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 33<sup>rd</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.

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**Psalm:** **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

Response: **Hear our Prayer!**

**Next Week:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17, Cor 15:20-26, 28, Matt 25:31-46

**Ramblings** Over the last three Sundays Jesus appears to us as a wonderful storyteller even if Matthew does not do justice to his storytelling, giving us only the bare essentials of the story. Here are an assortment of reflections on using our abilities:

- Alas for those who die, but die with all the music in them (O.W.Holmes)
- Doing easily what others find difficult is talent; doing what is impossible is genius. (Amiel)
- *Author:* Well, sir, the upshot of it was that it took me ten years to discover that I have absolutely no talent for writing literature.  
*Friend:* You gave up?  
*Author:* Oh, no. By then I was too famous!
- Since Christians have different gifts (Rm 12:6) each one must collaborate in the work of the gospel according to his/her opportunity, ability, charismatic gifts, and call to service (1 Cor: 3.10) Hence all alike, those who sow and those who reap (Jn 4:37) those who plant and those who irrigate must be united (1Cor 3:8). Thus, in a free and orderly fashion co-operating toward a common goal, they can spend their forces harmoniously for the upbuilding of the Church (Vat II).
- One day Michelangelo saw a block of marble which the owner said was of no value. *'It's valuable to me'* said Michelangelo *'There is an angel imprisoned in it and I must set it free'*.
- *Your will ask me where my ideas come from. I cannot say for certain. They come uncalled, sometimes independently, sometimes in association with other things. It seems to me that I could wrest them from Nature herself with my own hands as I go walking through the woods. They come to me in the silence of the night or in the early morning. Stirred into being by moods which the poet would translate into words. But which I put into sounds; and these go through my head ringing and singing and storming until at last I have them before me as notes (Beethoven).*

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 19 November



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

will go to support the Mines Action Group, a charity which finds and destroys land mines and unexploded bombs in places afflicted by conflict. Cakes, preserves and books will also be on sale. All are welcome.

#### Mon 20 November

**9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall**

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

#### Tue 21 November

**10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall**

**2pm Craft Circle LCR**

**7pm Scouts - Scout Hall**

#### Weds 22 November

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

**7pm RCIA EC**

#### Thurs 23 November

**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

#### Friday 24 November

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

**2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House**

#### Sat 25 November

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

The **last** fairtrade stall in our parish will be this Sunday. 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.



 **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** from the Bereavement Group for the coffee morning last Sunday raising **£161.22**.

**Quarterly offertory figures** – Aug, Sept, Oct 2023. Figures in blue are for the same quarter in 2019 (pre-Covid). Figures in brackets are for the previous quarter 2023

	Last Qtr	This Qtr	2019
Envelopes	(£1,895.35)	£2,498.14	£8,624.28
Standing Orders	(£18,609.25)	£17,669.25	£16,021.25
Offertory Online	(£ 755.00)	£ 940.00	
Offertory Loose & Contactless	(£3,899.43)	£5,537.25	£5,182.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(£25,159.03)</b>	<b>£26,644.64</b>	<b>£29,828.21</b>

Sunday Mass Attendance Figures comparison for two separate months –  
January 2023 total = 991  
October 2023 total = 1319 (this includes the recently re-instated Sunday 5pm Mass).

 **Wrapping paper** - we are off with 6 rolls being donated since last weekend – we need 250! We can do it if you pick up a roll and pop it in the tub in the porch. All goes to the Christmas hampers for those in need.



Our last gardening session and final clear up of the year will be from 9am to 12pmish next Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. It will be great to see all present, previous or potentially new gardening volunteers and to share early seasonal refreshments of mulled wine (low alcohol) and mince pies, plus our usual tea, coffee etc.

**9<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Information about Advent resources / retreats** is available on the parish website at [Advent](#)

**Nativity Crib Festival St Ippolyts Church Dec 2&3 11am-5pm**


Get into the spirit of Christmas and see the fabulous display of Nativity Crib sets. Entry £4. Children free.




**Other items of interest**

One YMCA is putting together a submission for a replacement hostel at 25 Nightingale Road, Hitchin and is holding a consultation. One YMCA and HHH have exciting plans to create a new facility that will help even more local people get back on their feet and achieve independence. For more details click [Consultation](#)

November 21st is the anniversary of the death of Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon founder of the Assumptionists and of the Oblates of the Assumption. He spent his life working for the coming of God's kingdom in us and around us. His spirituality was simply 'love of Jesus and of those things he loved most His mother and the Church.'

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 360** Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today  
There is a need to ensure the formation process can enable Seminarians to attain the maturity and psychological balance needed for their future ministry.

**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

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Justin Kasereka 07438 793351	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst Priest</b>	Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350	<b>Website:</b> <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin</a>
<b>Retired Priest</b>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Parish Tel no</b> 01462 459126
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