



# 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 2075

25<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING - 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** Challenged by Jesus with the call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick etc. causes us to reflect on ways in which we can do this. Given that most of those in real need live in vast areas of Africa, India and other faraway places, this seems virtually impossible. Rather than say and believe that nothing can be done and give up trying, there is a very positive way we can do something positive here and now. Change your lifestyle and live more simply, reduce your amount of wastage, especially food, do not waste water.

Here in Hitchin, we are doing what Jesus asked. Clothing the naked with mountains of clothes for those seeking sanctuary living among us. The Pantry, Feedup Warmup and the Foodbank all help to provide food for the hungry and we are not alone in this. The help given to those with little or no means will enable them have a happier Christmas together as a family. Concrete testimony to a very positive response to the Gospel.

So, when asked what love looks like in being called to love our neighbour, this is exactly what love looks like. Helping people in this way both directly and indirectly, we promote their dignity, self-respect, honour, reverence and respect. Equally as important is that in allowing us to help in this way enhances and strengthens our own dignity, self-respect, honour, and the sacredness of our lives.

It seems that *our ancestors in the faith were impressed that sheep suffer in silence. They even compared men to sheep and considered suffering in silence to be the sign of a real man. Sheep came to symbolize honour, virility, and strength* (John Pilch sj). Jesus would have known this. I hope you will think this way about sheep in the future!!

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**Psalm:** **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response:** Lord, hear us!

**Next Week:** Is 63:16-17;64:1.3-8, Cor 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

### Diary Dates

#### Sun 26 November



**Coffee Morning** after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by **Our Lady's School**. All are welcome.

#### Mon 27 November

**No Toddler Group today due to inset days.**

2pm OWG Meeting LCR

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

#### Tue 28 November

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

#### Weds 29 November

4.30pm FHC Non Faith Schools Hall

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

#### Thurs 30 November

1pm Italian Club Hall

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

6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

7pm **Santa Martha Meeting** Hall Information meeting in the hall led by Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner. All are welcome to learn more about the prevalence of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and how we can prevent it.

#### Friday 1 December

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

#### Sat 2 December

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*

There will be second collection after every Mass this weekend in aid of The Flower Group for the Christmas Flowers.

Many thanks to all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last Sunday. A total of **£138.50** was raised and will go to the Mines Action Group.

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

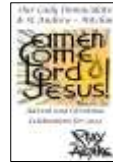
**Wrapping paper** - As of Friday we had 84 rolls of paper which is 1/3 of the 250 we have been asked to supply. We can do it if you pick up a roll and pop it in the tub in the porch. All go to the Christmas hampers for those in need.

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm in our church Orpheus Choir Christmas concert** £5 per ticket which will include some refreshments in the interval. Any profits will go to support the needs



of our local Asylum Seekers. You can get tickets by emailing [Trish](#) or from the parish office. **If you are able to help serve the refreshments at the break please let Trish know.**

The Advent and Christmas services timetable sheet is available in the porch this weekend. Please help yourself to a copy if you have not received this by email.



**Other dates**

**28<sup>th</sup> Nov** is Giving Tuesday and Diapalante has been invited to participate in GlobalGiving's Move a Million Campaign again this year. All donations (from £5 to £2,000) on **TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER** made through **GLOBALGIVING** enable Diapalante to receive an additional donation from GlobalGiving's \$1,000,000 pot of matched funding. **To donate to this campaign wait until Tuesday** then use this [link](#)

**Dec 2&3 11am-5pm Nativity Crib Festival** St Ippolyts Church Get into the spirit of Christmas and see the fabulous display of Nativity cribs.



**14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Dec Wintershall Nativity Story** Experience the Christmas story Discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable event for all the family. It's a Nativity like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. To book tickets go to: [Wintershall Nativity](#) Once again Trish will play the Innkeeper in some performances.

The first missionary apostolate of the Assumptionists was in Israel and Turkey. This was followed by work in Russia, Bulgaria, and Rumania. The second world war and the take-over by communism greatly reduced this apostolate. Today the number of Assumptionists in these countries is small but the work carries on. Please remember what we know as The Eastern Mission, in your prayers.

**Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 361** *Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today* The presence of lay people, families and especially the presence of women in priestly formation, promotes an appreciation of the diversity and complementarity of the different vocations in the Church. 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

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