



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 2076

2nd – 9th December 2023 – 1st Sunday Advent - Year B

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

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalm: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Is 40:1-5.9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

Ramblings We ended the previous liturgical year on a call to be *attentive* and *aware*, with a readiness to act when the Master returns. The same two themes are picked up again as we begin our Advent Journey of 2023. We have just celebrated Jesus Christ as our King and King of the Universe. Hopefully, you have had time to reflect more deeply on this, recognising the immense love of God who graces us in so special a way. No wonder then that we are now called to reflect on what this birth, this coming of Jesus Christ, means to us and to our world. Rather than rush into his birth, we are offered a short time (four full weeks) to what this coming of Christ really means. To reflect on how our understanding and appreciation of Christmas has changed over the years; the importance of family especially in our early years, but also how this most special birth has taken us on a journey to where Jesus is to be found today. We will need all the time offered to clear away the baggage we have accumulated over the years. It will be like having a sauna and coming out fully refreshed, renewed and with a new energy for life.

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We have so much to do to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus! Come!" (H.J Nouwen)

Diary Dates

Sun 3 December



Coffee Morning after 8.30am & 10.30am

supports Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. Diapalante was praised for its work with Talibe (street children) in Senegal at the AGM of the British and Foreign Schools Society. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale along with a range of Christmas cards. All are welcome.

2.30pm Healing and Wholeness service Church Prayer, Sacraments of the Sick and Reconciliation.

Mon 4 December

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

7pm Liturgy Meeting LCR

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 5 December

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

Weds 6 December

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

7pm RCIA EC

Thurs 7 December

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

Friday 8 December

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 9 December

10am FHC Session 6 Hall

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

7.30pm Orpheus Choir

 **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
7 – 8pm **Exposition** Church


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

Wrapping paper update – at time of writing we only have 35 more rolls to collect. I am sure we will meet our target with time to spare! Thank you so much to all who have already contributed. Please leave rolls in the tub in the porch.

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

We pray for **Antonino D'Amico** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 11.30am**. May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.



 **9th 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 **on the door** on the evening.

Rob is leaving the parish on **22nd December** and that is the evening we will be having our parish **Christmas Carol service** in the church at

6.30pm. This will now be followed by a celebration in the hall with refreshments to say goodbye and good luck to Rob in his new job. There will be a card for people to sign in the porch after Masses at the weekend. If you wish to contribute to a gift for Rob please leave donations in an envelope marked **Rob leaving** and give to Trish or leave in the parish office.

Very few people access the Mass now via **Soundcloud** so we are now withdrawing this option. The Mass will still be livestreamed and available afterwards on the parish website.

Other dates


5th Dec All are invited to St. Johns Parish Centre 296 Sundon Park Road, LU3 3AL, for this month's WELL. The ever popular international evangelist Derek Williams (from Walsingham) is speaking. Doors open for tea/cake at 7pm. Mike and Rob lead worship at 7.30pm, tea/cake served at 9pm.


10th Dec 6.30 to 7.30 pm **Hitchin Theological Society** in St Mary's Church. The theme is Who is the Christ Child? and there will be presentations by the Rev Dennis Stamps, Rector of Harpenden, and the Rev Jonathan Smith, retired Archdeacon of St Albans. All welcome.

13th Dec 11am in our church Our Lady's School Reception Nativity. All parishioners are welcome to attend.


14th Dec 9.30am in Our Lady's School, Year 1 & 2 Nativity. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

15th Dec 10-11.30am **Christmas celebration** for Seniors and Older Adults at John Henry Newman School. Refreshments and festive cakes. Seasonal music and entertainment. RSVP to Mrs A Berwick 01438 314643.

 The Assumptionist Eastern Mission (Eastern Europe). Bulgaria one community at Plovdiv. Before the communist period there was a thriving school here. The three Assumptionist martyrs were involved with this school. The present government has said that the three martyrs underwent a show trial.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 362** Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today
There is a need for training lay leaders who can assist in the pastoral care of 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

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