

Make a way, way for the Lord!

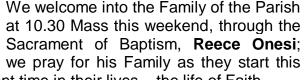
APrayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

Tuesday 11.3	Oam Meditation Emmanuel Centre
Wednesday 9.3	0am Rosary Church
12	pm Charismatic Prayer UCR
Thursday 6.3	Opm 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

On Saturday 9th December between 12 noon and 3 pm one of our Ukrainian friends will be holding a Christmas decoration workshop in the Church Hall. Drinks will be available from Hitchin Pantry. You are invited to come along with your children to participate and have the opportunity to meet some of the families supported by the Pantry. There is no charge and materials will be provided.



important time in their lives – the life of Faith. ******

CAFOD Next (16/17th weekend just one world December) will be there а collection for CAFOD after all masses. Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors. *****

Fr Andrew's next Scripture session will be on Friday January 5th at 2.30pm in his flat. All are welcome to attend. ******

The next Tuesday Eucharistic service will be on Tuesday 2nd January at 7pm in the church. Available face to face or via Zoom ****

We pray for Brian Harrington-Spier whose funeral is on Monday 11 Dec 2023 at 12 noon.



May he rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family. *****

It is with great sadness we pray for **Michael Hill** who died on 3rd December

peacefully at his home. Michael and his wife Anne were great supporters of this parish and we remember them for their great love and generosity. Michael's funeral Mass will be at Pirton Church on 18th December at 1pm celebrated by Fr Denis from Baldock parish.

******** Children's Christmas Mass 5pm on 24th **December** will have the gospel acted out by children in the parish and they need more children to be involved. They need Shepherds, Innkeepers and Sheep. If your child would



like to help at that Mass please can you contact Maria at mmaurello85@googlemail.com who will give you details of rehearsal dates and times.

1 🕼 Viail Mass 9pm we also an older need male and a younger female to act as Joseph and Mary during the reading of the gospel. May be ideal for a Father and daughter. If you are planning to attend that Mass and are willing to help please let Trish know.

The state Crib assembly will take place at 11am on Tuesday 19th Dec. If you are able to help with this please turn up on the day. We also need greenery to decorate the back drop please bring fir tree greenery to the back door of the presbytery by Monday 18th December.

The state



22nd Friday Dec 6.30pm Service of Carols and readings for Christmas. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall and

a celebration to say goodbye to Rob Hitchcock as he leaves our parish. The leaving card for Rob is available to sign in the porch this weekend after Masses. Donations to a leaving gift can be left in the parish office in an envelope saying Rob leaving. *****

Update on the situation regarding Scout hut replacement building. We have just had approval from the Diocese for the expenditure to fund the next stage of our rebuild process. This stage is the Request to the North Herts Planning Team for full Planning Permission. This stage will be carried out by our architects CHQ based in Baldock. We have to carry out a Land Survey of the Parish Estate to establish the correct area for the new building. When this is completed, full drawings of our ideas will be put on paper and sent to planning for approval. When this is completed we can move to the next phase, the cost of the building and going out for tender.

The cost of the votive candles in the Church has remained the same for some time. With the ever increases in costs in general, it has been necessary to implement a small increase to 50p per candle. Thank you as always for your continued support and generosity.

Cheques for Christmas Collections. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collections are made out to the Parish – i.e. Our Lady's Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be

assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !

The Coffee Morning Rota for 2024 has been drawn up and distributed to the Groups. We do have the following slots available. 26 May, 30 June, 28 July, 22 September, 29 September and 29 December. Please let Cheryl in the Office if you wish to book any of these. Many thanks.

The Hitchin Foodbank Distribution Centre is moving from Our Ladys Scout Hall on the 4th January 2024. From then it will be based in the Westmill Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin, SG5 2PG. The Foodbank is very grateful to everyone at Our Ladys Church for all the help and donations received over the last 10 years. We hope to continue to receive your help at our new venue.

Terracycle recycling funds raised for charity 1st November 2023 - 30th April 2023: Total = £ 443.72

Biscuit&Cakes/Bakery and Wax Wrap: £85 (Parish Hardship Fund) Pens /Colgate: £ 168.50 (Herts. Homeless Help / Sanctuary) Pringles /KP Crisps & Nuts: £130 (Marine Conservation Society) Coffee/ Marigold Gloves/ Sistema: £60 (Phase)

A <u>BIG Thank You</u> to everyone that have shared this recycling journey with us, and contribute their packaging to be recycled, to be re-purposed, and kept out of landfill sites or an incineration fate. Please also be aware that Nestlé recently withdrew support for the Confectionery wrappers program, and we are no longer collecting them, for all those wishing to continue to recycle their sweets and chocolates wrappers/packaging we advise the use the soft plastics recycling facilities available now also at some supermarkets. However all products containing some form of cake or biscuits in them, can continue to be recycled in our current McVities scheme for Biscuit and Cake wrappers. *****

Sign up to support Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Church - Hitchin on #easyfundraising and raise FREE donations for us with your Christmas shopping. There are over 8,000 brands, including M&S, Argos, John Lewis and Tesco that will donate to us for free! Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! Sign up here: Easy Fundraising.

Other items of interest

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* flight. Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & three Breakfast. Lunch on days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

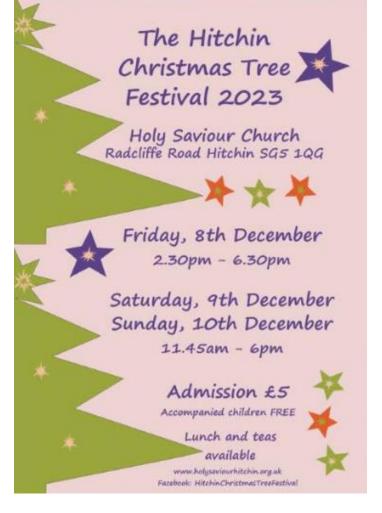
Crib Offering to support the Catholic Children's Society

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. Recently CCS helped a mother and her two young sons who were evicted from their home when the landlord sold the property. They were moved into Local Authority housing but the flat was completely empty, cold and drafty. Their previous home was furnished and they had no money to buy even a bed - the mother and children slept on her coat on the bare floor. Both children had asthma and their health quickly deteriorated in the cold flat. CCS provided a grant to help them buy beds, warm fleece bedding, thick duvets and rugs to keep the family warm through winter. The mother said:

"I cannot believe the difference this has made. I can tuck my children into their very own beds at night and keep them warm and cosy. Thank you for caring about us".

There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

Other dates





JHN students would like to invite Seniors and Older Adults to their school on 15th Dec 10am - 11.30am for a morning of refreshments and festive

cakes, seasonal music and entertainment. RSVP to Mrs A Berwick Tel: 01438 314 643 or email BerwickA@jhn.herts.sch.uk



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.

It's the perfect festive event for kids, parents and grandparents.

Book your tickets today, before they sell out. THE 18TH OF DECEMBER AT 2PM IS SOLD OUT.

"A refreshing antidote to the rampant glitz"

The Guardian

"An absorbing and delightful reminder of what Christmas is really all about"

Surrey Life

"A powerful, unreconstructed telling of the Christmas story"

The Times

To book go to https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativityjourney-0

Assumption Eastern Mission (Eastern Europe) Romania. Today there are two communities in Romania. A Christian Study Centre at Bucharest and a parish at Margineni. Russia. There is a small community in Moscow. For many years the chaplain at the American Embassy was always an Assumptionist. Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 363 Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today Pastoral care of families can include the help of teachers, counsellors, physicians, social workers, juvenile and family advocates. 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 Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350 Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin Parish Tel no 01462 459126 **Retired Priest** Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570 Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk } Administrator press 2 Robert Hitchcock roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk } 01462 459126 press 5 Pastoral Assistants press 5 Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk