



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 2082

13th – 20th January 2024 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - 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 Sam 3:3-10.19, Cor 6:13-15.17-20, John 1:35-42

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy
Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Jonah 3:1-5.10, Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20


Ramblings What's exciting about the Gospel is that the two new followers of Jesus come to him out of a nagging interest; they are not called or chosen, just curious. It could well have been because of the extraordinary stories being told about Jesus and they wanted to come and see for themselves. But rather than them asking questions, Jesus takes the initiative and ask them a question that is often one we ponder. "What are you looking for?"

Only then do they ask, "Where are you staying?" Rather than offer explanations and reasoning, Jesus simply says, "Come and see!" Jesus comes at Christmas as a new light and, like the followers in the gospel, we are looking for that same light: Jesus.

Jan Richardson writes:

*I cannot tell you how the light comes.
What I know is that it is more ancient than
imagining. That it travels across an astounding
expanse to reach us.
That it loves searching out what is hidden, what
is lost, what is forgotten or in peril, or in pain.
That it has a fondness for the body, for finding its
way toward flesh, for tracing the edges of form,
for shining forth through the eye, the hand, the
heart. I cannot tell you how the light comes, but
that it does.
That it will. That it works its way into the deepest
dark that enfolds you, though it may seem long
ages in coming or arrive in a shape you did not
foresee.
And so may we this day turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it
makes. May we open and open more
and open still to the blessed light
that comes. Jesus Christ!*

Diary Dates

Sun 14 January
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by KISS . All are welcome.
Mon 15 January
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall ***** No Beavers/Cubs in Scout Hall due to mice eradication
Tue 16 January
10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall *****
2pm Craft Circle LCR *****
7pm FHC Session 8 Hall ***** No Scouts in Scout Hall due to mice eradication
Weds 17 January
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
Thurs 18 January
10.30am St Pio Group Hall *****
1pm Italian Club Hall ***** No Brownies in Scout Hall due to mice eradication
Fri 19 January
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House
Sat 20 January
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Prayer diary

Opportunities for communal prayer

- Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
No 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 - 8pm

Thanks to all who supported the coffee morning last week in aid of Parkinson's. **£216.10** was raised through your generosity.

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We are in acute need of people (MCs) to help set up for Mass at 10.30am on a Sunday and guide the altar servers - so you would need to be here at 10am. Full training and a manual are available. to help and if more than one person offered it would not have to be a weekly commitment. It is really important to get this help. **Please let [Trish](#) know if you are able to help in this.**

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Update on boiler The boiler has had some attention but still needs more work, scheduled for 23rd January, so is not working very well and it is cold in the church and in the hall and committee rooms if there are only a few people so please do dress up warmly. There are blankets in the porch to use to help keep warm.

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CHARISMATIC GROUP A small group of parishioners meet on a Wednesday at 12 noon in the Upper committee room.

We sing and Praise the Lord and have prayer intentions. Listen to music on occasion and sometimes have a biblical reading. Come along and join us. If you want to know more ring Mary on 0775 9195487. All welcome.

Other dates

18th-25th Jan Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

This international Week of Prayer starts on the 18th January. The theme this year, proposed by the churches of Burkina Faso, is You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself, based on the story of the Good Samaritan.

"We have been invited to live the divine call to love God and our neighbour as ourselves," reads one

prayer of intercession. "As we renew our commitment to this call, may this love strengthen our unity as Christians." There will be a pulpit exchange in that week. There won't be an extra joint service on the Sunday afternoon, but everyone is invited to St. Mark's Taize service at 4pm on **Sunday 28th January** on the theme of the week, using music and reflections in the style of the Taize ecumenical community in France. All are welcome to come along to this and stay for the refreshments afterwards.




14th Feb Ash Wednesday - The annual fund-raising simple lunch for Christian Aid will be held at Walsworth Road Baptist Church. More details to follow.

1st March 1.30pm World Day of Prayer using material, written this year by women of Palestine, will be held at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church.

Other items of interest

Hertfordshire Health Walks Take a look at the [Winter Walks Timetable \(Jan to Apr 2024\)](#) where you'll see there is a walk for everyone. There are 15 walks in and around Hitchin - so plenty of opportunities nearby.

There is a new **First Steps Taster Walk** from the Westmill Centre in Hitchin. This short social walk is ideal for people whose New Year's resolution is to gradually increase their fitness levels and improve their overall health and wellbeing. Our walks are for all abilities and led by friendly volunteers to keep everyone together. Walks are graded between 20-30 minutes (First Steps) and longer than 90 minutes (Grade 4+) unless otherwise stated. There is no need to book. People can [Register online](#) or, if they prefer, they can turn up 10-15 mins before their first walk to complete a New Walker Form. To find out more, visit [Hertfordshire Health Walks](#)

 <p>AUGUSTINIANS OF THE ASSUMPTION The Kingdom Come</p>	<p>Fr d'Alzon was one of those people who could be active in many different areas at once. Not only did he found the Assumptionists and be responsible for a school in Nimes he was also, for most of his life, Vicar General of the diocese of Nimes. Added to this he was spiritual advisor to many individual people as well as starting sodalities for the youth of Nimes.</p>		
	<p>Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 368 <i>Pastoral Perspectives - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Family Today</i> All this in no way diminishes, but rather complements, the fundamental value of spiritual direction, the rich spiritual treasures of the Church, and sacramental Reconciliation.</p>		
<p>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</p>			
<p> If you have a need for prayer, please contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions</p>			
<p>Parish Priest Asst Priest Retired Priest</p>	<p>Fr Justin Kasereka 07438 793351 Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350 Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570</p>	<p>E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin Parish Tel no 01462 459126</p>	
<p>Administrator Pastoral Assistants</p>	<p>Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk } Ciara O'Reilly to start soon Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }</p>	<p>press 2 01462 459126 press 5 press 5</p>	