



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 2084

27th January – 3rd February 2024 – Fourth 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: Deut 18:15-20, Cor 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts..

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Job 7:1-4.6-7, Cor 9:16-19.22-23, Mark 1:29-39

Ramblings John Henry Newman is a man full of wonderful insights. We would do well to discover some of his wisdom since it will help us live our faith and belief in an encouraging and uplifting way. For those who think they do not understand their faith or are unable to explain it, Newman makes it clear that you cannot ever fully explain your faith because it is so much more than understanding and rationalisation. It is the consequences of living our faith that is the most important and proof of its existence in us. We heard that in the synagogue the people clearly recognise that Jesus speaks and acts with authority and with a power that they cannot fully understand but believe it real none the less. He writes: *“Religion has a store of wonderful secrets which cannot be communicated to others, but which are most pleasant and delightful to know. This is a fact which all who seek God will find to be true, though they cannot perhaps clearly express their meaning. Strange truths about ourselves, about God, about our duty, about the world, about heaven and hell, new modes of viewing things, discoveries which cannot be put into words, marvellous prospects and thoughts half understood, deep convictions inspiring joy and peace, these are a part of the revelation which Christ, the Son of God, brings to those who obey him.”*

As Matthew wrote: *The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.*

It was this same light that shone upon St Paul at his conversion. It is the light of Christ that helps us recognise Christ's presence in others as well as in ourselves. So let us say with St Mathew, *“Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.”... to us!*

Diary Dates

Sun 28 January



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am. Proceeds will go to support **Our Lady's Special Support Group**. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

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4pm Taize service at St Mark's to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All are welcome to come along to this time of devotion and stay for the refreshments afterwards.

Mon 29 January

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall

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6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall

Tue 30 January

10.30am “Tuesday Chat” Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Scouts - Scout Hall

Weds 31 January

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 1 February

10.30am St Pio Group Hall

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1pm Italian Club Hall

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6.30pm Brownies - Scout Hall

Fri 2 February **Presentation of the Lord**

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 3 February

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

On Friday 2nd Feb after the 10am Mass we will be taking down the Crib as it is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. All help to deconstruct the crib will be greatly welcomed. Please let Trish know if you are able to help.

 **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 - 8pm

Many thanks to you all for your continued generosity to the Second Collections. A sum of **£242.38** was raised last weekend in aid of SPUC (Society for the Unborn Child – White Flower Appeal) and an amazing total of **£523.25** was raised for the people of Israel and Gaza and **£184.50** was raised at last week's Coffee Morning in support of The Hitchin Pantry. Thank you all.

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 We welcome into the Family of the Parish, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Emilio Gaitan**; we pray for his family as he starts this important time in his life – the life of Faith.

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The **Marine Conservation Society** have thanked the parish for a donation of £130 raised from the recycling of Crisps/Popcorn/Pretzels/Nuts/Tortillas/Savouries and Pringles. See [Thank you](#)

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Thanks go out to residents of the Villare hotel, who the parish has been supporting for the last year, for their tremendous work last Saturday. A whole day was given over to deep cleaning the parish kitchen and its contents. This facility is used by many groups and their efforts are to be welcomed and applauded.

Other dates


10th Feb 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HY includes teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction All Welcome.


Feb 14th 12.30pm Ash Wednesday Lunch for Christian Aid, at Walsworth Rd Baptist Church Come and share a traditionally frugal meal of soup, roll, cheese and fruit, while raising funds for much needed work by Christian Aid, and enjoying the company of people from churches in Hitchin. No need to book.

Other items of interest

CTH Lent Discussion Groups 2024 These take place this year from Sunday 18th February through to Palm Sunday 24th March. Meeting in homes or churches, these can work in various ways. Some are set up just for the five weeks of Lent. Some existing groups that meet all year pause for those weeks and use the Lent study, invite a few extra people from other churches to join them. Some meet fortnightly and continue well after Easter. Whatever suits people. The study is The Final Week by John Birch. This can be purchased in PDF form to download from his website Faith and Worship for £3.49. It can be followed on your device or printed, whichever suits. It's possible for just the group leader to have it, or members if they so wish. CTH can provide a photocopy if that is preferable.

If you would like to host or lead a group, please let Helen Richardson 07880 682681 know which day of the week you prefer and what time. If you are an existing group let her know how many more you can accommodate.

 Reflections of Fr d'Alzon. Here is our mission; to extend His reign, to make His name known, and to work to have His will carried out. These are the first three demands that must rise from our hearts as fierce desires whenever we adore Jesus Christ.

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 369** Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage The Synod Fathers stated in a number of ways that we need to help young people discover the dignity and beauty of marriage. 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** with your prayer intentions

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| Asst Priest | Fr Adams Tatsidjodoung 07438 408350 | Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin |
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| Administrator | Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk } | press 2 |
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