



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 2087

17th February – 24th February – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - 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.

Ramblings For some the story of the flood is completely alien to their understanding of God but it reflects the understanding of God of the people of the time. They believed that goodness was blessed and evil was punished.

Whatever we think of the story, despite all the warnings and invites to change our lives similar to what happened in Noah's day, we do not listen deeply enough. Although God promised never to destroy the people of the world by a flood again, today we face a similar disaster. We have already reached the global increase in temperature of 1.5°C, the failsafe level, and are moving towards the collapse of the planet. But be clear, God has kept his promise. We have brought this impending destruction on ourselves.

Appeal to the people of Nineveh, who heeded God's call, to help us change our ways radically. Maybe we will be saved too. God has given us Lent this year as a time for renewal, cutting out or cutting down on all that that harms the planet. The call from God could not be any clearer.

If we want to 'go without' as a sign of repentance, go without wasting utilities (water, electricity, gas) or reducing your usage of them; recycle rather than throw away; live more simply, reuse rather than buy new.

Fast from judging others:

Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness

Feast on the healing power of God

Fast from words that pollute;

Feast on speech that purifies.

Fast from discontent; **Feast** on gratitude.

Fast from anger; **Feast** on patience.

Fast from pessimism; **Feast** on hope.

Fast from negatives; **Feast** on encouragement.

Fast from bitterness; **Feast** on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; **Feast** on compassion.

Fast from suspicion; **Feast** on truth.

Fast from gossip; **Feast** on purposeful silence.

Readings Gen 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Psalm: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Intercession: Lord, hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Gen 22:1-2.9-13.15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

Fast from problems that overwhelm;

Feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from anxiety; **Feast** on faith.

Diary Dates

Sun 18 February



Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be provided by the **One World/Live Simply Group**. Proceeds will

go to support North Herts Hospice Care. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome

3pm Baptism Course followed by First Anointing at 5pm Mass.

Mon 19 February

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Half Term

6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Half Term

Tue 20 February

10.30am "Tuesday Chat" Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Scouts – Half Term

Weds 21 February

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 22 February **St Peter's Chair**

10.45 – 12.15 Lent Group with Fr Tom LCR

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies – Half Term

Fri 23 February

2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 24 February

1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall



There will be a Cafod collection after all masses this weekend. Giftaid envelopes will be available from the collectors.

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
 - Friday** 10.30am **Stations of the Cross** Church
- All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm*

'KISS Tea & Coffee Morning - thank you to all those who prepared, baked, helped, and supported last Sunday's KISS Coffee morning which raised £170.00 – Thank you to our generous parish community and a big thank you to all those wonderful people who give their help on the day - in the raffle, tidying up and clearing away tables'.

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If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations to support the work of our services, such as Marriage and Family Life; Youth Ministry and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. There is also a box on the wall by the Porch doors marked up "Lenten Alms". Thank you for your generosity.

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We have been contacted by the local Police regarding parking in College Road. It has been

noted that vehicles are parking on double yellow lines causing unnecessary obstructions. Please ensure that cars are parked in the Church Car Park. If this is full, please use council car parks nearby. There are also "No Entry Signs" at the entrance to College Road when entering via Ickleford Road. Drivers have been seen to ignore these signs. To enter College Road, please use the Grove Road entrance. When exiting the Church Car Park, please turn left (not right) out of the Car Park. Hitchin Police Station is very much a working station. Thank you for your understanding.

Other items of interest

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th,



40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Cheryl in the Office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by **Monday 15th April 2024**

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Right to Life Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the porch and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.



If once a week we slowly, with reflection. In a perfect spirit of prayer and of adoration, make our Sign of the Cross, the Cross would be rooted in our souls and begin to produce much fruit in them. (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 372 Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage
The challenges faced by the family require great effort on the part of the whole Christian community in preparing those who are about to be married.

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

Parish Priest	Fr Justin Kasereka 07438 793351	E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk
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