



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 2089

2nd March – 9th March 2024 – THIRD 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.

Readings Ex 20:1-17, Cor 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Psalm: You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Chron 36:14-16.19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21

Ramblings As an advocate against slavery in America during the civil war William Lloyd Garrison wrote: *“On this subject (slavery) I do not wish to think, or speak or write, with moderation. No. No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell a mother to gradually extricate her baby from the fire; but urge me not to use moderation in the cause like the present! I am in earnest. I will not equivocate – I will not excuse - I will not retreat a single inch.*

Some describe Jesus' action in the temple of driving out the money changers and traders as angry and aggressive. The better word today would be *assertive or forceful*. Aggression derives from the Latin *aggredi* meaning *go forward, to approach, to move against*. Jesus' action was constructive because he believed in the importance and value of prayer that requires quietness and calm which the money-changers and traders had taken away. We can develop habits that gradually cloud or hide the original purpose of what we are doing. Jesus wanted to spring-clean the temple. He could not do this with moderation! John Birch writes: *The Temple was a smallish building within a larger complex containing the Holy Place and the inner sanctuary (Holy of Holies). In the large surrounding were various courtyards. The Court of the Gentiles, open to anyone, but no Gentile could go beyond. Then there was the Court of the Women, the Court of the Israelites and lastly the Court of the Priests. With money-changers converting Greek and Roman coins into temple currency and traders selling sacrificial offerings in the Court of the Gentiles; there was nowhere for quiet prayer. The Temple was not fulfilling its God ordained role as a witness to the nations. It had become a symbol of a belief that God would protect his people irrespective of their behaviour or attitude. Lent helps us rid ourselves of our clutter and focus more fully on God in prayer.*

Diary Dates

Sun 3 March
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am will be to support “Tommy’s” *****
2.30pm Church Healing and Wholeness service with the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation. Come to pray for you and others.
Mon 4 March
9.30am Parent & Toddlers Hall *****
6pm & 7.15pm Beavers/Cubs – Scout Hall
Tue 5 March
10.30am “Tuesday Chat” Hall *****
2pm Craft Circle LCR *****
7pm Scouts – Scout Hall
Weds 6 March
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
Thurs 7 March
10.30am St Pio Group *****
10.45 – 12.15 Lent Group with Fr Tom LCR *****
1pm Italian Club Hall *****
6.30pm Brownies – Scout Hall
Fri 8 March
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall *****
2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House
Sat 9 March
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

One World Live Simply Lenten meditation Monday 11th March 1pm in the LCR. This year's meditation will be led by Beata Rozycka from Cafod, preceded by a light Lenten lunch at 1pm and will begin at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last week in aid of The Osteoporosis Society which raised **£130**.

 **Prayer diary**

- 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
Please note that during Lent the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered after every weekday and Sunday Mass. Please go into the Sacristy after Mass to let the Priest know you wish to have the Sacrament.



We pray for **Maria Comparetto** whose funeral is **Tuesday 5th March at 11.30am** and **John Byrnes** whose funeral is on **Thursday 7 March at 2pm**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.



Monday 25th March 7pm (please note earlier time to accommodate the younger members of the First Holy Communion families being able to attend) **Passover Meal** in the Church Hall. To celebrate Passover is to do what Jesus did with his disciples at the Last Supper. Please sign up on

the board in the porch. This is a joyous parish occasion not to be missed.

The **Confirmation programme** for all those in Year 9 and above will begin on Tuesday 12th March at 7pm. If you have a young person who would like to join the programme to enable them to make a decision about their readiness to be confirmed please go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/sacramental-prep/confirmation/> to download the application form and send it to [Ciara O'Reilly](#) or bring it to the parish office asap.

Appeal for Refugee family that you may have received by email. Thank you for your great response. The family has table and chairs and a sofa. They really need a **pressure cooker** if anyone has one going spare. Let [Trish](#) know asap. More appeals for help may come this week.

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across 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.



Prayers for our intercession We pray for people suffering from illness especially: Mary O'Carroll, Sandra Massey, Betty Duncan, William O'Reilly, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell & Conetta families, Stella Patterson, Maria Victoria Lahitte-Martins, Regine Hallinan, Evie Roberts, Niall Heffron, David Laing, Ann Milner, Anne Harte, Antoinette Fernandes and Patrick Brack.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Fr Christopher Burgess, Paddy Murphy, Stephen O'Neill, Patrick McCormack, Larry Walsh, Pietrina Campisi, Roy Cleaver, Cissie Wallace, James Fergus Gildea, Mary Gill, Edward Ross, Felicity Osborne, and John Smith.

If you have a need for prayer you can also contact **Mary** on **07759195487** with your prayer intentions



Human nature is so made that even with the best of resolutions it fails at every moment. It is a lamp that must be continually filled with oil. My soul tires and goes out, unless new sustenance is provided every day to keep it going and that sustenance is prayer. (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 374 Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage I, Pope Francis, encourage Christian communities to recognise the great benefit they themselves receive from supporting engaged couples as they grow in love.

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**



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