



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 2093

30th March – 6th April 2024 – EASTER SUNDAY - 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: Acts:10:34-37-43, Col3:1-4, John 20:1-9

Entrance Antiphon: I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad

Intercession: Lord hear us

Response: Lord, graciously hear us!

Next Week: Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31

Ramblings Celebrating Easter: The importance and value of family gatherings, which we often have at Easter, is outlined in this reflection by Ronald Rolheiser:


“God is community, family, parish, friendship, hospitality and whoever abides in these abides in God and God abides in him or her.” God is a trinity, a flow of relationships among persons.... dealing with each other in community, at the dinner-table, over a bottle of wine or an argument, not to mention the simple giving and receiving of hospitality are not pure, secular experiences but the stuff of church, the place where the life of God flows through us....

God can be known, experienced, tasted, related to in love and friendship. God is Someone and Something that we live within and which can flow through our veins....

God is a flow of relationships to be experienced in community, family, parish, friendship, and hospitality. When we live in these relationships, God lives in us and we live in God. Scripture assures us that we abide in God whenever we stay within family, community, parish, friendship, hospitality — and, yes, even when we fall in love. This means that in coming to know God, the dinner-table is more important than the theology classroom, the practice of grateful hospitality is more important than the practice of right dogma, and meeting with others to pray as a community can give us something that long hours in private meditation (or, indeed, long years spent absent from church-life) cannot. Such a concept also blurs all simple distinctions between “religious” and “purely secular” experience.

This implies that, since God is within community, we should be there too, if we wish to go to heaven. In other words, we can't go to hell, if we stick close

Diary Dates

Sun 31 March
 Coffee Morning after 8.30am and 10.30am. Proceeds will go to support Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.
Mon 1 April Bank Holiday
Tue 2 April
10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall *****
2pm Craft Circle LCR
Weds 3 April
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
Thurs 4 April
10.30am St Pio Hall *****
1pm Italian Club Hall
Fri 5 April
2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 6 April
1pm-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

to family, community, and parish!! A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all!!!!

Prayer diary

Tuesday 11.30am Meditation Emmanuel Centre

Next Eucharistic Service 30th April

Wednesday 9.30am Rosary Church

12pm Charismatic Prayer UCR

Thursday 6.30pm Meditation Emmanuel Centre

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm



We pray for Enzo Conetta whose funeral is **Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 1pm** at North Herts Crematorium. May he rest

in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort his family.

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Please remember the clocks go forward on Saturday night. Don't want you to arrive at 9.30am for the 8.30am Easter Mass!

Cheques for Easter Collections. It would be appreciated if cheques for the Easter collections are made out to the Parish, and not to the Order. You can be assured the Priests will get your financial gifts. This will make accounting more straightforward. Many thanks.

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Sunday 7th April – Divine Mercy Sunday with a programme of devotion from 1.30pm – 5pm Mass followed by **Bring and share** refreshments. See poster in porch for full details. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch if you plan to attend.

Other dates

16th April Herts Welcomes Refugees 2024 AGM at the Verso Vineyard Church in St Albans. The formal meeting commences at 7:30pm with drinks and food served from 6:30pm. If you are planning to attend the AGM, please ensure you register if you have not already done so: <https://bit.ly/hwragm24>

12th to 18th May Christian Aid Week Could you help this year by using their Deliver Only envelopes? This involves choosing a street or streets, putting your own address on for them to be returned, then contacting Helen Richardson (07880 682681) once you have received some. She'll deal with emptying, counting the money and banking it. If you can help, please let Helen know how many envelopes you need for your chosen street(s). She will be ordering these early April.

Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral. 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**




Other items of interest
The Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School currently have vacancies for foundation, community, and Priest governors. The current team of Governors are highly committed, and aspirational, and form a Governing Body which sees its purpose as one of service to our School




Prayers for our intercession *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Mary O'Carroll, Betty Duncan, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell & Conetta families, Stella Patterson, Maria Victoria Lahitte-Martins, Regine Hallinan, Evie Roberts, Niall Heffron, Ann Milner, Ann Harte, Joe Darby, Antoinette Fernandes. Ava Risdon-Stapley, and John Clark.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Leda Bolden, Rosie Gannon, Madeleine O'Carroll, Ecaterina Boundy, Giuseppe Corda, Helena Pickup, Vincenzina Logan, Joe Waters, Liam Murray, John Barrow, Helen Snowdon, Giuseppe Benucci and Doreen Rolfe. We pray also for William O'Reilly and Elizabeth O'Reilly, who died recently and for Wanda Dec who died on Maundy Thursday.

If you have a need for prayer, contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions.

 "Peace be upon you" .Jesus said, then he went on "Why are you disturbed, look and see. It is truly me" How understanding our Lord is! The earthbound instincts of the Apostles are still wondering whether it is really Jesus. They think it is a ghost and not a man raised from the dead. What is really going on here ? It's the situation of somebody to whom our Lord "has spoken heart to heart. "It's me. It's your Jesus who has come to bring you peace, strength and love. Are you going to turn these gifts down ? (Fr d'Alzon. Easter Tuesday conference).

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 378** *Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage*
Marriage preparation should provide couples with the help they need to receive the sacrament worthily and to make a solid beginning of life as a family.

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

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
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Parish Tel no 01462 459126
Administrator	Cheryl Saunders cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	press 2
Pastoral Assistants	Ciara O'Reilly ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk }	01462 459126 press 5
	Trish Bonnett trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }	press 5

community and the wider community. Remember that the gift you bring is of YOURSELF. This will entail life skills and experience, qualification and business skills, no prior experience of working in education is required. If you would be interested in joining the Governing Body – in the first instance please contact the clerk to the governors:-

Lesley Radcliffe radcliffel@jhn.herts.sch.uk