



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 2095

13th – 20th April 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 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: 3:13-15,17-19, 1 Jn 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Psalm: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Alleluia!

Intercession: We pray to the Lord...

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

Ramblings Although we do not speak about it often, in being baptised or brought into the church there follows one more stage we call **Mystagogy**. A time for the newly baptised who are old enough to reflect on the journey that they began well before Easter but were baptised at the Easter vigil. It is an opportunity to reflect on the commitment they have made. Our faith needs mystagogy first and foremost because we celebrate and proclaim a *mystery*. One might simply describe it as a reflection on what it means to participate in the life of Jesus Christ.

Faith begins and ends in mystery, most especially the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, *"the central mystery of Christian faith and life . . . the source of all other mysteries of faith"* (CCC 234). In the scriptures, liturgy, and sacraments, we truly encounter and participate in the life of the Trinity, the life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But no matter how intelligent or astute we are, we will never fully appreciate or grasp God's glory in its totality.

Mystagogy is a Greek word meaning, *"to lead through the mysteries."* The Catechism describes mystagogy as a *"liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ"* (CCC 1075). Mystagogy leads us from the external signs and rituals of the liturgy to the inner, spiritual meaning of the divine life they signify. Mystagogy can help us unpack and explore the spiritual treasures contained in the sacraments by continuously reflecting on their meaning and significance in our faith life.

In fact, all followers of Christ are invited to live a continuous mystagogy, deepening their lives of faith. Gabriel Marcel is attributed as stating, *"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived."* Mystagogy encourages us to learn to live this mystery of our faith.

Diary Dates

Sun 14 April



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

6.30pm Hitchin Theological Society is in St Mary's Church. The theme is *'Stewards of God's Creation'*. All welcome.

Tue 16 April

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

2pm Craft Circle LCR

7pm Confirmation session Hall

7pm Scouts – Scout Hall

Weds 17 April

6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 18 April

1pm Italian Club Hall

6.30pm Brownies – Scout Hall

Fri 19 April

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House


Sat 20 April

1pm-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Repairs to the church heating begins Monday 15th April It will not be possible to enter the church nor the hall via the ramp side of the porch. Please go around to the front road entrance and up the steps. The Hall Kitchen cannot be accessed from the car park. Inside the church the Sacred Heart alcove and aisle to it from the main door, and the aisle along the north wall will be cordoned off.

 **Prayer diary**

- Tuesday** 11.30am **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Next Eucharistic Service 30th April
- Wednesday** 9.30am **Rosary** Church
 12pm **Charismatic Prayer** Church
- Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

 If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary you can attend the **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** at Westminster Cathedral on **25th May at 2.30pm**. Give Cheryl in the Office details of: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by **Monday 15th April 2024**. **Don't miss this!!**

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Our next Baptism Preparation Course is **Saturday 18th May 12-2pm** and **Saturday 25th May 9.30-11.30am** (Both dates to be attended) If you have been on a course within the past three years you do not need to attend. Please email Ciara O'Reilly ciaraoreilly@rcdow.org.uk if you wish to attend the next course.



Other dates

16th April 6.30 refreshments 7.30 **AGM Herts welcomes Refugees** At Verso Vineyard Church 7 Brick Knoll Park, St Albans AL1 5UG **RSVP** at <https://bit.ly/hwragm24>

19th April 10am-2pm **Deep time and Foraging walk**, Church Farm, Ardeley – see details at [DT&FW](#)

11th May 7.30pm **Christian Aid Quiz night** at Christchurch (SG5 1HF) Contact [Sue Covington](#) for tickets.



19th May 3pm **Clifton Hughes Concert** at Christchurch (SG5 1HF) followed by tea and cakes Contact [Sue Covington](#) for tickets.

Other Items of interest

Reflections for Adults children and young people can be found at [Reflection](#).

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Could you offer the North Herts MS Society 'Wednesday Club' help on one Wednesday per month- perhaps less, depending on numbers? At the 'Wednesday Club', Physiotherapists provide a weekly group physio session, (at Hadleigh in Letchworth) and then participating members have the option of a lunch afterwards. Each member suffers from Multiple Sclerosis at varying stages. It is also a much needed social occasion too, as tea/coffee/biscuits are provided beforehand and then the provision of lunch afterwards.

This is where your help is desperately needed. Could you spare one Wednesday per month, (less depending on volunteer numbers) to provide a lunch- which can be light, made on site or bought pre - prepared and heated and served. (All food costs incurred are of course covered). If you are able to help (please) please contact **Helen Ilsey** (Lead Support Volunteer) on: **07788991589**.



Prayers for our intercession *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* 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, John Clark, Greg Knight, Owen McFarlane, John McGill and Margaret Noel.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Robin Payne, Fr Hilary Carter, Orwell Armantrading, John Lee, Oonagh Trumble, Marjorie Best, Joe Fox-Topps, Noel Holton, George Bancroft-Livingston, Carmela Canella, Francesca Maurello, Victoria Beben, Bernard Mallett, Enid Middleton, George Moore and Paul Bogeja and for Margaret Jolly, Grace McDonald and Brian Romain-Valz who died recently. **Need for prayer? Contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions.**



Essentially there is but one virtue: charity; all others are summed up in it. But how many ways there are to manifest it.Is there anything smaller than the word 'love'? Is there anything greater than its effects? (Fr d'Alzon reflections)



Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 380 *Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage* For every couple, marriage preparation begins at birth within their own 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

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