



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 2098

4th May – 11th May 2024 – SIXTH 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.

Ramblings As we approach Pentecost, the Sunday readings help us start thinking about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the love that the Holy Spirit offers us through Jesus Christ.

John Foley sj describes the Holy Spirit as the one who makes us able to say "yes" to faith. The Holy Spirit does not treat us roughly or try to overpower us but offers us what we can call a "respectful love." This is a divine presence that never overpowers but always respects and guides our choice(s). Rather than dictate, the Spirit wants to be a close companion, respectful of our being, not contradicting it but bringing out what is most truly our own self.

He adds that the Holy Spirit always waits for us to open ourselves to Jesus' life. For Christ is not gone, he is inside us, knocking at our inner door. Of course, we can say no but we can also say yes with our lives using the same respectful love given by Holy Spirit.

So, love becomes an essential part of our being and of our doing. We are therefore made to be channels of God's love as shown to us by our mothers:

*At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
for those who loved and laboured for so long,
who brought us, through that labour, to fruition,
to flourish in the place where we belong.
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,
who buckled down and did the work of two,
whom governments have mocked instead of
praising,
who hid their heart-break and still struggled
through;
the single mothers forced onto the edge
whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,
invisible to wealth and privilege,
but in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.*

Malcolm Guite

Readings: Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48, 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Psalm: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations. Alleluia!

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, hear us!

Next Week: Acts 1:15-17.20-26, 1 Jn 4:11-16, John 17:11-19

Diary Dates

Sun 5 May



Coffee Morning proceeds after 8.30am and 10.30am Masses will go to support Diapalante's education centre in Senegal. Cakes, preserves and books will be on sale. All are welcome.

Mon 6 May Bank Holiday

9.30am Parent & Toddlers Bank Holiday

Tue 7 May

10.30am Tuesday Chat Hall

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2pm Craft Circle LCR

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7pm Confirmation Session 4 Hall

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7pm Scouts – Scout Hall

Weds 8 May

10.30am Praise Group LCR

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11am Funeral of Grace McDonald RIP

(There will be NO 10am MASS today)

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6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall

Thurs 9 May

10.30am St Pio Group Hall

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6.30pm Brownies – Scout Hall

Fri 10 May

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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2.30pm Scripture Fr Andrew Christopher House

Sat 11 May

1pm-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Many thanks to all who came and supported the Coffee Morning last week in aid of Dementia UK. A total sum of **£195.30** was raised.

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We pray for Grace McDonald whose funeral is on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at 11am. May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort her family.

 **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** LCR
- Thursday** 6.30pm **Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

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.

There will be a second collection next weekend (11th/12th May) in aid of the **Catholic Communications Network**. On World Communications Day we are asked to keep those who work in the media in our prayers and there will be a second collection for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN provides support for the bishops of England and Wales and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues.

Quiz Night Saturday 18th May 7pm Back by


popular demand, our parish quiz night will take place in the hall. Bring your own refreshments; tea and coffee provided. Admission £3, all proceeds to Cafod. You don't need to be in a team, we will make up teams on the night. Do come, we guarantee a good time. Further information from Pam Brannigan 07400669772.


Health and Safety Audit we were hosts to an external auditor of the Diocesan Health and Safety service which went well. We have two areas that we need to address – It was suggested by the auditor that the weekly health and safety checks are best done by a number of people who will have fresh eyes when they undertake the checks. If you are willing to be part of a team to do this please let [Trish](#) know asap. We also need to undertake a full evacuation of the church which will take place in the next couple of months. Information to remind you what needs to happen will be published in the newsletter. Our church facilities H & S inspection is taking place on May 20th.

Other dates
11th May 10.30am-4pm **National Justice & Peace Network** AGM and networking day. Go to [NJPN](#) for details.

Other Items of interest
For details of job vacancies at the Diocese, St John Henry Newman School and St Richard Reynolds school go to [Job Vacancies](#) on website.

 **Prayers for our intercession 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, Joe Darby, Antoinette Fernandes, John Clark, John McGill, Janette Duffy, Margaret Noel, Joseph Osborne, Betty Crawford, Margaret and Sasha.
We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Domenico Franco, Desmond O'Mahoney, Rosario Guarisco, Matthew Kay, John O'Mahoney, Dora Vega, Brian Green, Maria Mareri, Andrew Cresswell, Elizabeth Cassidy, Ann Kennedy, David Wilson, Trefor James, James Devaney, Ted Wallace and George Callaghan. We also pray for Grace McDonald whose funeral is on Wednesday.
Need for prayer? Contact Mary on 07759195487 with your prayer intentions.

 Mary; Our Lady of Hope and Mother of the Church intercede for us so that the Holy Spirit may accompany us at all times in our mission to extend the Kingdom of your Son in fraternity and unity. (General Chapter 2023)

 **Amoris Laetitia the joy of love 383** *Pastoral Perspectives - Preparing Engaged Couples for Marriage*
Couples - be encouraged to discuss what each of you wants from the other and what kind of life you would like to build together.

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	Awaiting news	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
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