



# CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS

(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 1924

Daily Mass at 10am is open to the public and is livestreamed on [Livestream Mass](#) and posted to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. If you can come another day please leave Sunday for those who can't.

2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas Year B the gospel according to Mark

**Parish Prayer:** Lord Jesus, as the world copes with coronavirus, help us to remember that you are always with us. Grant wisdom to decision makers and bless all health workers. Bring healing to the sick; give peace to the anxious and comfort those who are sad. Stir us to show your love and mercy most especially to the poor and weak. This we ask in your name. Amen.

Readings: Eccles:24:1-2,8-12,Eph 1:3-6,15-18, John 1:5,9-14

Psalm: **The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

Next week: Is 55:1-11, 1 John 5:1-9, Mark 1:7-11

**Ramblings** St Paul writes to the Ephesians (and to us): *May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.* Wisdom: what is it? Wisdom provides us with discernment in all our decision making. It leads us to a knowledge and understanding of God's will. It is entirely God given. *"The fear (deep reverence and veneration) of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding!"* (Psalm 111:10) Wisdom opens us to and gives us access to the Truth, to Jesus Christ, to the Word of God. It opens our lives to the power of the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of God who develops in us the mind of Christ. The gift of wisdom perfects in us the virtue of charity. Wisdom empowers us *"to judge and order all things in accordance with divine norms that flows from a loving union with God and unites us to the heart of Jesus."* It helps us recognize the gifts God has given us through the Holy Spirit. The birth of Christ, the light, opens us to the gift of wisdom with which we have been blessed. It gives us the ability to recognise God's presence in the smallest as well as the greatest moments of our lives. May this most precious gift of Wisdom guide and encourage us throughout 2021.

**We will never fully understand,**  
no matter how much we try,  
God's ways are outside our realm,  
along with the reasons 'why'.  
We analyse and intellectualise  
what we do not understand,  
we need God's wisdom in our hearts,  
not the intellect of man.  
I wonder how almighty God,

all knowing and divine,  
how He could care about my world  
and give undivided time.  
But this is the complexity of the holy, great 'I Am',  
we often do not fully grasp  
and we fail to understand.  
Just how much God really loves us,  
beyond what we can comprehend  
for God is more than omnipotent,  
he is our dearest friend. © By M.S.Lowndes Abridged

## Diary Dates

Sun 3 January – Sat 9 January
10am Mass in the church.
Wed 6 January
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

**A very big thank you** to everyone who has kept our church going in so many ways over the past year. We have achieved a great deal under difficult circumstances because of your help and generosity. God bless you .

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Fr Andrew lent someone a book - **Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts** by Christopher de Hamel. He can't remember who he lent it to but if possible he would like to get it back as he is quite fond of it. If you are that person can you hunt it out and pop it by for him sometime soon - or Trish could collect it

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We pray for **Liboria Maurello** whose funeral is on **Monday 11 January 2021 at 11.30am**. We also pray for **Felicia Comparetto** whose funeral is on **Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 11.30am**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families.

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We have a quantity of small 2021 **Parish Diaries** for sale at 50p each in the porch. Please put the money in the "Papers" box on the wall. Many thanks.

**We hope to begin our next confirmation programme soon in 2021 subject to tier 4 restrictions.**

We need parishioners who can help Rob and his small team of catechists to do this. Are you willing to share your faith with the next group of young people who are exploring the sacrament. You need to be prepared to listen and encourage the young people to discuss issues of faith and be happy to talk about your own faith journey. This is vital and important work.



Passing on the faith is what Jesus commissions us to do in Mark 16:15 'Go to all the world and proclaim the good news.' We all are responsible for passing on the faith to the next generation and we need you to help us do this with our young people. All training provided.

Are you willing to come and help?

Do not miss this opportunity to strengthen your faith by sharing with others

If so please contact Rob at [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk)

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**Retrouvaille** England and Wales is delighted to offer a: Virtual Retrouvaille programme commencing with a weekend on the

**25th - 28th February 2021.**

Retrouvaille realises this is a very difficult time for many couples and has input to help. Please call

or email in confidence and without obligation.

+ 44 788 729 6983 / +44 797 338 0443.

E-mail: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com)

<https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/>

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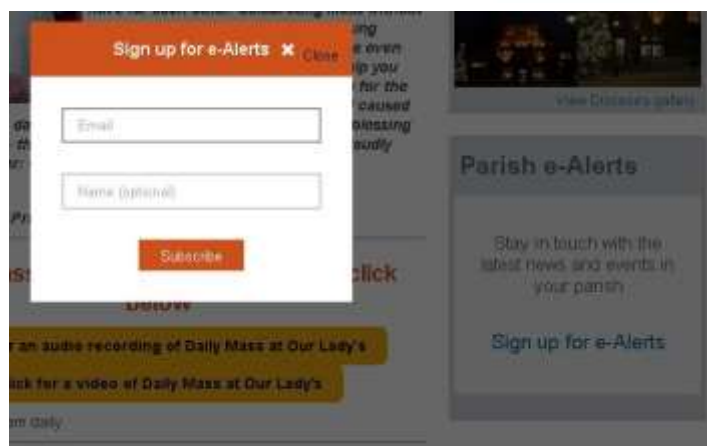
**London Jesuit Centre.** Bringing inner peace during this difficult time, Dealing with Anxiety is offered by Malachy Keegan on Saturdays 16 and 23 January 2021. Booking is now open.

<https://londonjesuitcentre.org/dealing-with-anxiety>

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**If you want to be the first to see updates on the parish website** don't forget to sign up to email alerts.

Go to the homepage <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/> and on the right of the page you'll see the box below. Click on Sign up for e-alerts and the next screen appears.



Fill in your details and click subscribe. Easy!



Jesus Christ is my God who became man to reconcile the world with its Creator and to teach us to worship His Father.... Have I any conception of the reverence, worship, gratitude and honour that I should offer Him in union with the adoration and glory given Him by His Son ? (E d'Alzon)

### Faith Development Helpline

If you (or someone you know) needs to chat about your faith or have been feeling lost

**Ring 07398821315**

Tues/Wed/Thurs 8pm-10pm.

Confidential service provided.

No need to identify yourself



### AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 212

Growing in Conjugal Love - Dialogue We ought to be able to acknowledge the other person's truth, the value of his or her deepest concerns, and what it is that they are trying to communicate, however aggressively.



If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

**Parish Priest** Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570

**Assistant Priest** Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647

**Parish** 01462 459126  
E-mail: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk)  
Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/>

**Parish Administrator** Cheryl Saunders [cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Pastoral Assistants** Robert Hitchcock [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk) 01462 459126 press 4  
Trish Bonnett [trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk)

This week's counting teams:  
**Sunday Team: Monday Team:**



If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: [spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)