



# 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

Monday – Saturday 10am

Reconciliation Saturday 10.30am  
during Exposition. All Masses are  
livestreamed [Livestream Mass](#)



## Newsletter No 1955

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – 19<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

**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:** Kings 19:4-8, Eph 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51

**Entrance Antiphon:** Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

**Psalm:** **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** **Hear our Prayer!**

**Next week:** Apoc 11:19, 12:1-6, 10, Cor 15:20-26, Lk 1:39-56

**Ramblings** We are reminded once again that Jesus is the Bread of Life, making us increasingly aware of the importance of the Eucharist. Although controversial for some, we speak about the **real presence** of Jesus in the Eucharist. This has been the subject of great debate throughout history. Philosophical and theological language have been used to seek a clearer understanding. In the past when the register was called in school, you answered "Present!" This was never the subject of debate because you were either present or you weren't! Sometimes in conversations when the one speaking goes on too long, your mind wanders. You are no longer present to the person speaking. This can happen in a lecture and even in our prayer. When two people are in love, there are times when words are no longer necessary - being physically present to each other is enough - while being apart is painful. When Jesus returned to his Father at the ascension, he said *he would be with us always until the end of time*. One of the ways he chose to be with us is in the Eucharist in which Jesus is physically present. In the Eucharist we can touch and consume Jesus who then becomes fully part of us. True love needs physical presence which is why we celebrate the Eucharist every day. It offers us the opportunity to spend time with the one we love and who loves us. As we do this, we become aware that Jesus is not only present in the Eucharist but in each of us. In fact, we discover Jesus is in everyone. It is a felt presence that we take away with us and enables us to experience and reveal that presence in others and, of course, in creation itself. We so need the Eucharist to remind us of that divine presence within us which it stimulates and strengthens.

## Diary Dates

Sun 8 Aug – Sat 14 Aug
10am Mass in the church
Sat 7 Aug
2pm Baptism of Joseph Pryce
Mon 9 Aug St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Tues 10 Aug St Laurence
7pm Eucharistic Service – Please join us to consider the readings for next Sunday and pray for our needs and those of others. We share communion under both kinds in a covid safe way. We will still offer this as a Zoom at the same time. If you wish to have the link please email Trish.
Wed 11 Aug
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
Sat 14 Aug St Maximilian Kolbe
9am-12pm Gardening session at church

## GIFT AID TAX REBATE = £ 33,522.67

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has signed up to Gift Aid their Mass Offerings and other donations to the Parish. We have now received the Gift Aid tax rebate for offerings and donations made in the last tax year and this came to an amazing total of which, in practical terms, will help keep the Parish running for nearly 8 weeks!! The return reflects really really well on the fact that so many of you have signed up to Gift Aid your Offertory donations and choose to Gift Aid your other donations, including Mass Stipends, all of which make a valuable 25p in the £1.00 addition to our claim. Income from the Gift Aid tax rebate plays a very important part in financing the work of the Parish and, if you haven't signed already up to Gift Aid your offerings, it is never too late to do so – all we need is a signature and there's nothing else you need do; moreover, it's all done in confidence and you don't need to

commit to making an offering ...**AND IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY MORE !!**

To sign-up or to check whether or not you have already signed up or to get more information, please contact David or Elizabeth, our Planned Giving & Gift Aid Organisers, on tel: 01462-627784 or by email through the Parish Account: [hitchin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk) THANKS AGAIN.

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The next gardening session is planned for **Saturday 14th August**. We will be operational for at least 9 - 12 midday but will be glad to welcome all volunteers arriving within that time and for as long or short a time as you can manage. Mary McCready will once again kindly provide welcome refreshments at around 10.45am. Thank you for your help to make our lovely church grounds look beautiful again.

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In his prayer intention for the month of August, Pope Francis invites everyone to work for a transformation of the Church - a work that begins with "a reform of ourselves" through an experience of prayer, charity and service, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Watch the [Prayer](#)

[Video](#) The full text of Pope Francis' prayer video follows.

The specific vocation of the Church is evangelization, which isn't proselytism, no. Its vocation is evangelization; even more, the Church's identity is evangelization.

We can only renew the Church by discerning God's will in our daily life and embarking on a transformation guided by the Holy Spirit. Our own reform as persons is that transformation. Allowing the Holy Spirit, the gift of God in our hearts, remind us what Jesus taught and help us put it into practice.

Let us begin reforming the Church with a reform of ourselves, without prefabricated ideas, without ideological prejudices, without rigidity, but rather by moving forward based on spiritual experience -an experience of prayer, an experience of charity, an experience of service.

I dream of an even more missionary option: one that goes out to meet others without proselytism and that transforms all its structures for the evangelization of today's world.

Let us remember that the Church always has difficulties, always is in crisis, because she's alive. Living things go through crises. Only the dead don't have crises.

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

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For those interested below is the link to write to your MP (for Hitchin and Harpenden MP Bim Afalomi) encouraging him to push for a prompt start to the enquiry about the handling of Covid in the UK. [Write to your MP](#)



(Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon) Jesus is God-made-man. I must expect then that His life on earth will be inseparable from the Infinite, and so will be full of mysteries. These, being beyond the reach of my mind, are the object of faith, yet I can draw wonderful lessons from them. In their human aspect they captivate me by being brought within the range of my understanding; in their divine element they lift me up and out of myself, into the most intimate relationship with God.



**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 243** *Passionate Love - The erotic dimension of love*

In marriage, sexuality is inseparably at the service of this conjugal friendship, for it is meant to aid the fulfilment of the other.

**Safeguarding reminder** EduCare (now part of Tes) leaflets can be downloaded from our website at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/>



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

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	<b>Parish</b> 01462 459126 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hitchin@rcdow.org.uk">hitchin@rcdow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/">https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		
	Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		
		01462 459126 press 4		



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)