



# 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 1959

4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 23<sup>rd</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.

**Ramblings** The blind see, the deaf hear and the dumb speak, no wonder the people were astounded at Jesus. However, there is also spiritual blindness, spiritual deafness and spiritual dumbness. Through Baptism Jesus gave us power to heal people of these spiritual ailments, but in order for this to happen, we need to recognise our own spiritual blindness, spiritual deafness and spiritual dumbness. Our difficulty, however, is not always being aware of how or when we heal others, or how God uses his power to work through us. For too long, even before the pandemic, we have been blind, deaf and dumb about the harm we have inflicted on creation which has led to an increase in the severe weather conditions we are experiencing today. These will only increase and be more devastating in the future. *Laudato Si* the encyclical on ecology and creation was published in June 2015 and we have been playing around pretending to do something for 6 years. Because of our blindness, deafness and dumbness, we are only just beginning to wake up to the fact that it might already be too late. If we are, then we will be responsible for killing **billions** of people because we have taken away their future. We need to take radical steps now, like Nineveh's response to the call of Jonah to repent and be saved by God.

*"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs". Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her...This is why the earth herself, burdened and*

**Readings : Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37.**

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Psalm: My soul, give praise to the Lord. Alleluia!**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response: Lord, hear us!**

**Next Week: Isaiah 50:5-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35**

*laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor. . .*

## Diary Dates

**Sun 5 Sept – Sat 11 Sept**

**10am Mass** in the church

**Sun 5 Sept**

**10.30am First Sung Mass with choir.** The congregation are encouraged to join in with the singing – the Bishops have advised we must wear masks at Masses with singing. Please help yourself to a hymn book as you come into Mass. There will be singing at this Mass from this time forward.



At present the 8.30am Mass will have no singing but we are grateful to Mike O'Neill for playing the organ.

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**Baptism 2pm** Matthew Da Costa Hills

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**3.30pm Healing and Wholeness service** in the church! Parishioners who feel the need for these gifts are invited to share in this time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated in a safe format. This will also be livestreamed for those who are not able to be with us. If you have a need for prayer or want us to pray for others in need please let Trish know and they will be included.

**Tues 7 Sept**


**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. ID 883 2249 625 Passcode 491615

<b>Tues 7 Sept cont</b>
<b>7.30pm</b> Pastoral Parish Council meeting <b>Hall</b>
<b>Wed 8 Sept</b> <b>Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
<b>6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 12 Sept</b>
<b>11.30am – 3.30pm Party in the</b> in Hitchin Market Place. All are invited to the open air service at 11:30 - After the service, the party begins - church stalls, BBQ, inflatables, prayer tent, music and much more. Don't forget to bake small cakes and bring them along, so that the team from St.Faith's can give them away. And there is a harvest stall for people to bring their excess produce which will be distributed through Feed Up Warm Up. Please pray for sunshine.

### Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?

Have you pondered on questions you may like to ask? Are you an adult who has not been confirmed yet? If so, why not come along to a **RCIA** (rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) session starting on Wednesday **15 September 2021** at 7.30pm-9pm in the Emmanuel Centre. For more details, please contact Rob Hitchcock at [roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk) or on 07862 764884.

RCIA

 We shall shortly be starting our **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programme** for children and their parents. The first meeting will be for **PARENTS ONLY** on Tuesday **21 September 2021 at 7pm** in the Hall.

**Counting** – We have resumed “Monday” counting (which includes the Offertory money) and we need some help making up the counting teams so that it doesn’t come around too soon. If you can help by counting on a Monday or Tuesday morning please can you let Cheryl know so that she can make up the teams. Counting usually takes an hour max and is done before, during or after the 10am Mass depending on the preference of those involved and if enough people sign-up it should be once every 6 weeks. Thank you in advance.

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**Rob Hitchcock, our Sacramental co-ordinator, is urgently looking** for self-contained accommodation to rent - ideally a one bedroomed property –will consider other options. If you know anyone who can help, please let Trish or Cheryl know. Many thanks in advance.


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### Other items of interest

**Is this for you OR for someone you know?** St Scholastica’s Retreat – Open Day – Saturday, 25th September The Retreat offers sheltered housing to Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £562pcm – more from The Warden: Deacon Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437. Email: [info@stscholasticas.co.uk](mailto:info@stscholasticas.co.uk) [www.stscholasticas.co.uk](http://www.stscholasticas.co.uk)


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**Sunday 19th September 5 -6 pm St Mary’s Church**, Churchyard, Hitchin. You are invited to join with us in a celebration & thank you to the Staff and Volunteers of the Hitchin Vaccine Rollout on: An opportunity to hear from those involved, along with some great hymns and music. We look forward to seeing you.

 (Fr E d'Alzon) We are of the family of Jesus Christ, we have the same Father who is God, we have the same brother, Jesus Christ, we have the same Spirit, through whom charity fills our souls. And if this is the case, what are we to do but become worthy of such a Father, of such a Brother, and such a source of Love ?

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 247** *Passionate Love - Marriage and virginity*  
The family is a sign of Christ. It manifests the closeness of God who is a part of every human life, since he became one with us through his incarnation, death and resurrection.

**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 <b>Pastoral Assistants</b> Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> } <a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> } 01462 459126 press 4 <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	

 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)