



# 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 1961

18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

**Prayer:** We pray for the healing of creation: God, source of all goodness, we call you Creator; you have made our wonderful world out of nothing and constantly keep it alive. Help us to be full of care and grateful for our home received from you as a gift. May we work to keep this, our common home, filled with peace and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Ramblings** Pope Francis begins his message for the 107<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees with: In the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, I expressed a concern and a hope that remain uppermost in my thoughts: *“Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’”* (No. 35). This makes us a very big family, very many of whom we have never met . . . We are learning - too slowly - that many of the issues we face today can only be met by joining with others. This became apparent in the initial divisions separating Christian denominations, most of which now work together, and everyone benefits. Different faiths also work together to resolve common challenges and all have been enriched. We have overcome obstacles that could not be moved alone. Welcoming Migrants and Refugees is welcoming a brother, a sister, a branch of the family. Welcomed not as a problem but as a strength. It is like welcoming a part of yourself that had been lost or mislaid and has now surfaced. **They help make us whole.** The theme *“Towards an ever wider we”* is an invitation for all of us to commit ourselves to restoring our human family. We are like many grains of sand, all of us are different and unique, but together we can form a beautiful beach, a true work of art! We are all in the same boat and we are called to commit ourselves so that no more walls separate us, so that there are no longer others but only one **we**; a we as wide as us, an us as great as all of humanity. (Bishop Mark Seitz). Helping a family across a border he adds: *I realised our destinies were somehow linked. It was no longer about us and them. I felt the presence of God, calling us to build a world*

**Readings : 2:12.17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**Psalm: The Lord upholds my life.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response: Hear our Prayer!**

**Next Week: Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48**

*where everyone has a place, a chance to flourish, to live with dignity; God calling us to build a world with a we as wide as humanity!*

### Dates for Diary

<b>Sat 18 Sept</b>
<b>9am-12pm Gardening Team meet.</b> All welcome to help keep the church grounds beautiful. ††††††††††
<b>2pm Baptism</b> Emilia Grace McDonald-Payne
<b>Mon 20 Sept – Sat 25 Sept</b>
<b>10am Mass</b> in the church
<b>Sun 19 Sept</b>
<b>10.30 Mass</b> will focus on the World Day of prayer for Migrants & Refugees (which is actually 26 Sept) For a message from Pope Francis about the day click here <a href="#">Pope's Message</a> ††††††††††
<b>5 - 6 pm Hitchin Vaccine Thank You Service,</b> St Mary's Church
<b>Tues 21 Sept St Matthew</b>
<b>10.30 to 11.30 am International Peace Day Event, Friends Meeting House,</b> Tilehouse Street Rotary, Inner Wheel and Hitchin Quakers have come together for an event to mark International Peace Day. It will be held in the Peace Garden at Friends Meeting House and will include two minutes silence at 11am. All are invited to share in this time of prayer for peace in our world in a lovely setting. ††††††††††
<b>7pm Eucharistic Service</b> – 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. Click on <a href="#">Eucharistic Service</a>

<b>Tues 21 Sept cont</b>
<b>7pm First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion</b> programme for children and their parents. This meeting will be for PARENTS in the <b>Hall</b> . For details and application form please go to <a href="#">First Holy communion Programme</a>
<b>Wed 22 Sept</b>
<b>11am Prayer service at Milford Lodge</b> at the present time this will be for residents only. ††††††††††
<b>6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall</b> ††††††††††
<b>7.30 to 9 pm Churches Together</b> in Hitchin Council, in church Hall, All welcome to attend.
<b>Fri 24 Sept Our Lady of Walsingham</b>
<b>Sun 26 Sept</b>
<b>All Masses will be said by Fr Tom</b> and will focus on the Season of Creation.



The Saint John Henry Newman School warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on **Thursday 30th September, from 5.30 – 8.30 pm.**

Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening and there will be three opportunities to attend the Head-teacher's address at 6.00pm, 6.45pm and 7:30pm. There will be opportunities for parents to view the School the following week.

The last tour will be at 7:00p.m. and the school will close to visitors once the final Head-teacher's address starts at 7.30pm

**Meetings with Fr Tom for Admission to John Henry Newman School.** All admission applications for Catholic children require a Certificate of Catholic Practice and this year we are inviting people to meet with Fr Tom to discuss this with him. You can sign up for your meeting on the sheets in the church porch. **Dates 18-22 October with appointments from 4-6pm each day.** You need to bring a photo of your child and their baptism certificate.

††††††††††

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 1st October 2021  
CLIMATE CRISIS APPEAL**

Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate to change and protect our common home. This Family Fast Day, donate in the parish using a CAFOD envelope or online through the CAFOD website ([www.Cafod.org.uk.climatecrisis](http://www.Cafod.org.uk.climatecrisis)) and help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. You can also add your voice to our

online petition calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis Thank you for your support. Envelopes will be distributed before Masses next weekend (25/26th September) and collected on 2nd/3rd October.

††††††††††

Last Wednesday Our Lady School celebrated **Miss Andrea Shannon's** 50th year of teaching at the school. She joined in September 1971 as an NQT and has taught not only the parents of the pupils but also some of the teachers! The Executive Head Teacher, Mrs Nicholson held a touching assembly to mark this special event and to say thank you for her loyalty and hard work over the years.



**Recycling update**



Since the bins have been outside the recycling is picking up which is good for all the charities who are benefiting and for our environment as we recycle our waste. However we need to do our recycling responsibly with care for those who are spending time packaging all the items up to go to Terracycle for the money for the charities. Deolinda and Michael Eltringham spend hours preparing these recycled items because those of us donating them haven't spent a few minutes preparing the items suitably.

So we are featuring each item for us to rethink about how we prepare them before we bring them to the bins.

**Colgate Oral Care items:**

We are collecting All brands of: Toothpaste tubes and caps, Plastic Toothbrushes and outer packaging, Electric and



battery toothbrush HEADS only, Toothpaste cartons, and Floss containers and their outer packaging.

**Necessary preparation before you bring these items to the bin**

Please use scissors to cut open the toothpaste tubes and make sure all leftover product has been used and washed out, rinse and let them dry before bringing them to us.

**Please note, waste that is NOT accepted:**

- Inter-dental Brushes
- Battery Toothbrush handles
- Toothache Kits
- Mouthwash Plastic Bottles
- Denture Cream Tubes
- Breath Sprays
- Denture Adhesives or Tablets Packaging
- All tubes that did not contain toothpaste
- Outer packaging that did not contain toothbrushes
- Cartons that did not contain toothpaste
- Wooden toothbrushes

### **Future Dates**

#### **Great Big Green Week - 18-26th September**

Starting Saturday, people from all walks of life will be hosting events across the UK to celebrate action to tackle climate change and protect our planet. There are more than 2500 events planned in over 700 different locations (and online).

Search all events at

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/find-an-event/>

North Herts and Stevenage Green Party will be hosting **Food and Farming: Towards a Healthy Future - Friday 24th September, 7pm**

Baroness Natalie Bennett, Green peer and former party leader (2012-16), speaks about what a healthy and sustainable future for food and farming might look like. <https://qrco.de/bcMpqu>

††††††††††

**Friday 1st October 1.30pm St Mary's. The World Day of Prayer** is normally celebrated in March each year but, due to Covid, was postponed. Here in Hitchin, the service, is prepared and led by members of different churches. The theme, chosen by women in churches in the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, is **Build on a Strong Foundation** and the service includes prayers and music from that part

of the world. All are welcome to be part of what has been called 'the largest ecumenical time of worship in the world!'

### **Other items of interest**

**Request for help** from a member of a church in Hatfield who would like help in a removal to Highbury Road, Hitchin, at a date in October to be specified. She is willing to pay £10/ hour and she comments: 'So long as they are feeling strong, any gender and any age are welcome to do the job with us!' if you are interested or would like to know more, ring Lorna on 07593 772147.

††††††††††

**Caritas as us to support some campaigns**  
Write to your MP regarding the **Keep the Lifeline** campaign

**URGENT** The British Government is planning to cut Universal Credit at the beginning of October, taking away a lifeline that was given to people at the start of the pandemic in March 2020 while the economic impact of that pandemic is still being felt.

Please write to your MP about this. Find out more at [Keep the Lifeline](#)

††††††††††

### **Afghan Refugee Response**

Caritas Westminster is co-ordinating the diocese's response to refugees newly arrived from Afghanistan. In particular they are looking for :

- Anyone who can help find accommodation, including homes for large families
- Speakers of Pashtu, Dari or Farsi who could help with interpretations
- Teachers of English (ESOL)
- Co-ordinated groups of volunteers who can welcome and befriend Afghans arriving in your area as part of a longer term resettlement.

The response will need to be well co-ordinated and you will need to work with your local authority. Please contact Caritas Westminster Volunteer Service if you or the organisation you are involved in might be able to help: go to <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteer-to-support-afghan-refugees.php> or email [cvs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cvs@rcdow.org.uk)

††††††††††

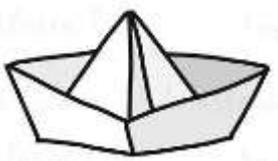
### **A way to make YOUR voice heard at COP26**

Hundreds of young Christians are on a pilgrimage which spans the length of the country. They set off immediately after the G7 summit and will reach Glasgow in time for COP26, taking this opportunity to call on world leaders to address the climate crisis.

In support of the relay, Christian Aid are calling on people to make prayer boats and send them to COP....

We are building a fleet of prayer boats that will set sail for climate justice and cannot be ignored by world leaders.

Send your boat to COP26 - Thousands of boats from across the country will come together in a special installation at COP26 to deliver your prayers and messages written on the boat - to world leaders.



To add your boat, send it to **PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT**. Please ensure your

boats arrive by **October 15** to be part of the fleet. Your prayer boats will join with thousands of others in Glasgow and help us make sure decision makers cannot ignore our calls for action.

††††††††††

The Church of God is convoked in Synod. The path entitled **“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”** will solemnly open on the 9th – 10th of October 2021

in Rome and on the following 17th of October in each particular Church. One fundamental stage will be the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, in October 2023, which will be followed by the implementation phase that will again involve the particular Churches (cf. EC, arts. 19-21). With this convocation, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: “It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.” This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church’s “renewal” proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our “journeying together” is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God. Watch the newsletter for how we will get involved as a parish.



 Civilisation is neither having electric lights nor airplanes, nor producing nuclear bombs. ... Civilisation is holding mutual affection and respecting each other.  
*Venerable Nichidatsu Fuji, 1885–1985, Japanese Buddhist monk, founder of peace pagodas in Britain*

 (E d'Alzon). Let us love the Church enough to take pleasure in all the good that others may accomplish. Let us not exclude any form of holiness or of charity: we can't presume to take credit for them all ourselves. Let us love, let us admire, let us encourage in others what we ourselves are incapable of doing. May the common good be our unique preoccupation.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 249** *Passionate Love - Marriage and virginity*  
Virginity and marriage are different ways of loving.

**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> } 01462 459126 press 4 Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
--	---

 This week's counting teams: <b>Sunday Team: Monday Team:</b>	 If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: 01438 285519 or Email: <a href="mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net">spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</a>
--	---