



# 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 1963

2<sup>nd</sup> October – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

**Prayer:** Lord help those striving to protect the earth, our common home. May God strengthen us all in our work to heal the planet. Inspire us to be guardians of the precious gift of creation. We pray especially for the work of CAFOD and the communities they support. Make us healers of Creation that we may in turn be blessed by the earth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Ramblings** Assessments usually begin with positives and end with negatives to help provide people with the full picture. Reflections on marriage often begin with the words of St Paul about being kind and patient, not thinking ill of others or jumping to conclusions, and being ready to forgive. Yet our understanding of marriage has changed radically since its origins when it was seen as a contract often between two families rather than two people; an understanding still very much alive today. Divorce was seen as the contract being broken by one or other or both parties. Marriage today is understood as a relationship of love not just between two parties but also with God and particularly with God's love. It would be better to think about a covenantal relationship built on love and trust, loyalty and fidelity rather than signed documents but they have both become intricately intertwined. Gradually, but all too slowly, political parties and businesses are coming to realise the necessity of putting people first before considering financial or political strategies. In **Amoris Laetitia** (the Joy of Love) Pope Francis asks us to think first about people before examining the rules and regulations of divorce. Francis shows a deep respect for the integrity and dignity of people and trusts that they are able to come to healthy and holy decisions, however difficult that may be. Francis reminds us that Jesus asks us not to judge others or jump to conclusions; **121. Marriage is a precious sign, for "when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage, God is, as it were, 'mirrored' in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God's love for us. Indeed, God is also communion: the three Persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity... In marriage: God makes of the**

**Readings : Gen 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

**Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.**

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!

**Next Week: Wis 7:7-11, Heb 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30:**

*two spouses one single existence" ... in the simple ordinary things of life they make visible the love with which Christ loves his Church (us) and continues to give his life for her.*

## Diary Dates

**Mon 4 Oct – Sat 9 Oct**

**10am Mass** in the church

**Mon 4 Oct St Francis of Assisi**

**Tues 5 Oct**

**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 offer this as a Zoom at the same time. Click on [Eucharistic Service](#)

**Wed 6 Oct**

**6pm – Feed Up Warm Up** – Scout Hall

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**7.30pm-9pm RCIA** EC meeting room

**Thurs 7 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary**

**Sat 9 Oct St John Henry Newman**

**9am-12pm Gardening session** in church grounds. All welcome.

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**2pm Baptism** Nicolo Patrick Lomonaco

**Sun 10 Oct**

**10.30am Baptism** during Mass of Emily Igie

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**6.30 to 7.30 pm CTH Theological Society** in St Mary's Church theme, presented by a panel of speakers, will be **'What is theology?'**

At Masses this weekend we have a **Pastoral letter from the Cardinal**. In starting what can be described as a 'Church-wide listening process' Pope Francis is inviting us to listen again to each other, hearing experiences of faith with all its joys

and disappointments, and to find new ways of strengthening each other.

Pope Francis envisages what is called a 'Synodal process'. The language may sound a bit technical, but the word 'synod' means quite simply 'journeying together'. Copies of the letter are available in the porch and on the parish website.

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### **Our first coffee morning was a huge success!**

Many thanks to the members of the Pastoral Parish Council (and others) who helped to set up, supply the cakes and serve to about 50 parishioners, after 10.30 Mass, who were happily sitting at distanced tables and enjoying the social time. Surrounding the hall was the food which has been supporting the needy people of the area. This will be moving out this weekend for the new **Community Pantry** initiative (more details in future newsletters.) We are hoping that the regular groups who offered the coffee mornings will return soon (probably after Christmas). In the meantime if there are any parishioners who want to do a coffee morning (after 10.30 Mass only) to raise funds for a charity please do get in contact with [Cheryl Saunders](#) and she will supply instructions on what is currently required.



### **The next church gardening session will be on Saturday 9th October.**

As per usual the outline hours are 9am until midday but as always we will be delighted to see any existing or new volunteers at any time between those hours. Mary will once again be providing tea, coffee and biscuits at around 10.45am. We made excellent progress the last time so we hope to build on that on this occasion to work towards getting everything tidied up for the winter.

### **Can you please help?**

We have a new parishioner who has beautiful twin boys who are not yet one and she is expecting her next baby in December. She and her husband have no family in this country having come here from Uganda. She will need help when the baby comes and I am appealing to the parish for your help.



It would be good if we have parishioners with or without children who could get to know this family now so that when the baby comes, her boys are familiar with other people and will be happy to have them come in to play with them, keep an eye on them so the mother can rest and look after the new baby. If you can help please let Trish know.

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### **✚ Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

We have an increasing number of parishioners who are not able to get to Mass and we need Eucharistic Ministers who are willing to take communion to them in their homes. This is such an important ministry as it is our community reaching out to other members of the Body of Christ in a unique and very special way and making them feel part of that Body when they receive the Lord. Baptised and Confirmed Roman Catholics are eligible to undertake this ministry. Teresa Hyde is offering a training programme for anyone interested. The dates are Saturdays 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October all in the afternoon. If you would like to train and want more details please contact Teresa at [teresahyde@btopenworld.com](mailto:teresahyde@btopenworld.com)

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**Calling all future Altar Servers** If you have made your first communion you are eligible to train to become an Altar Server and be part of the Guild of St Stephen in our parish. The Altar Server plays an important role in the Mass supporting the Priest as he is saying the Mass. It is also wonderful for our Parishioners to see young people on the sanctuary, it gives such hope for the future of our church.

*New servers in training at the weekend*

If you would like to train to become a Server can





you please email [Richard Bradford](#) who is in charge of the Guild letting him know your name and contact details and the Mass you regularly attend.

Richard will arrange initial training sessions and then you will have the opportunity to continue the training by sitting on the Sanctuary during the Mass that you attend.

We look forward to being inundated by our younger parishioners eager to train to become a Server in our parish.

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**Br ADAMS TATSIDJODOUNG a.a.,** an Assumptionist brother will be joining our parish in the next couple of weeks. He will be living in the flat above Fr Andrew. (Rob is moving to a flat locally) Br Adams is from Cameroon, born 30th July 1985. He is the son of TATSIDJODOUNG and the late Tch  MANTO HONORINE.

He made his first profession on 30th August 2014 in Sokode – Togo and his final vows on the 18th May 2019 in Nairobi-Kenya. He was ordained Lector on 21st November 2017 and Acolyte on the 13th November 2018. He should be ordained a Deacon on 30th October this year at Bethnal Green.

Before joining the Augustinians of the Assumption, he received a diploma from the University of Douala in Mathematics, Physics and Computer Sciences. He then joined the International Institute of Water and Environment of Ouagadougou where he graduated in Environment engineering. As an Assumptionist he studied and graduated in Philosophy and Theology. He is knowledgeable in electricity, gardening and not bad at cooking, so will be an asset to our parish for sure!

He found that the Assumptionists reflected the kind of religious commitment he wanted to live. They seek to live simple, poor lives and serve Our Lord wholeheartedly. He believes the challenge that awaits him at Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Parish is important, and he is ready to face it with joy and a smile. His only will is to serve and offer everything that he can for the benefit of people.

His message to all you parishioners is **DO NOT HESITATE TO MAKE USE OF ME.**

We look forward to welcoming Adams to the parish and doing just that!!

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We thank Deolinda Eltringham for her service as the Justice and Peace representative for our parish for many years. We welcome Ann Milner to the role and are very grateful that she has taken this on. Ann will communicate to the parish about

Justice and Peace issues over the coming months.

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### **Message from Fr Christopher's brother Bob.**

On a recent family visit to Fr Christopher's gave they were dismayed to see that his memorial bench was in a poor state of repair. On contacting Hitchin Cemeteries Department an inspection was carried out and it was discovered that the bench had been treated with water-based fence paint which had rotted the wood in places. They have arranged for the necessary repairs to be carried out. To this end the bench will have to be temporarily removed. They are arranging for its continued maintenance. *'Our entire family are extremely grateful for the good offices of those parishioners who so lovingly have kept the grave in such a lovely condition and we offer our heartfelt thanks.'*

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### **Ecobricks have finished at the end of September - message from Walsworth Road Baptist church.**

They will accept 'fully compliant' ecobricks for the next two weeks - in case you still have one being filled at home - until we can arrange a final delivery to the farm where we have taken some 3000 bottles so far! Please understand however that this ending is not a sign of fatigue or frustration, but rather a recognition - as was hoped when we started out four years ago - that the science of recycling plastic would improve to a point where much more of our plastic waste could be sent for recycling. This must be a better alternative to the virtual landfill that ecobricks actually are! And indeed that hope has been fulfilled and that day has now come. Hopefully you will have seen that most of the supermarkets now have the facility at their store for collecting all soft and flexible plastics to enable these to be recycled. Sainsburys in Hitchin is the closest such point to our church, but there are now many other supermarkets offering this service. We are grateful to you all and for the support of the local community, and expect to deliver one more full trailer-load of ecobricks to the farm in the middle of October.

### **Other items of interest**

In this season of Creation Fr Tom thought this reflection on living more simply would help us shape our thoughts and lives.

### **Letting Go of Things**

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves*

treasures in heaven. . . . For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —Matthew 6:19–21

Minister Adele Ahlberg Calhoun believes that by simplifying our lives, we bring ourselves into greater alignment with God's will.

Jesus wants us to know that we don't need all the things or experiences we think we do. What we really need is to keep first things first—Jesus and his kingdom. Life becomes much more simple when one thing matters most. . . .

Simplicity creates margins and spaces and openness in our lives. It honors the resources of our small planet. It offers us the leisure of tasting the present moment. Simplicity asks us to let go of the tangle of wants so we can receive the simple gifts of life that cannot be taken away. Sleeping, eating, walking, giving and receiving love. . . . Simplicity invites us into these daily pleasures that can open us to God, who is present in them all.


Aging has always been about simplifying and letting go. Sooner or later we realize that we can't manage all the stuff and activity anymore. We have to let go. The practice of letting go and embracing simplicity is one way we prepare ourselves for what is to come. One day we all will have to let go of everything—even our own breath. It will be a day of utter simplicity—a day when the importance of stuff fades. Learning to live simply prepares us for our last breath while cultivating in us the freedom to truly live here and now.


## Here are some of the practices for simplifying Calhoun suggests:

- Uncomplicate your life by choosing a few areas in which you wish to practice "letting go." Clean out the garage, cellar, cupboard or loft.
- Go on a simple vacation. Eat more simply. . . . Intentionally limit your choices. Do you need six different kinds of breakfast cereal, hundreds of TV channels or four tennis rackets? What is it like to limit your choices? Does it feel free, or do want and envy surface? Talk to God about this.
- If someone admires something of yours, give it away. Find out just how attached you are to your things. . . .
- Make a catalogue of all the gadgets you have in your home, from the dishwasher to the lawnmower. Which gadgets have made you freer? Which could you share? Which could you get rid of and not really miss?
- Where have you complicated your life with God? Consider what actually brings you into the presence of Christ. Spend time there.


[Experience a version of this practice](#) through video and sound.

Richard Rohr reflections <https://cac.org/what-do-we-do-with-money-weekly-summary-2021-09-25/>

 **Focus on past parish Priests** The first Assumptionist parish priest was Fr Evariste Buytaers who took over responsibility for the parish in 1926 from the Edmundian Fathers. Fr Evariste also taught at St Michaels College and was appointed head teacher in 1932. Though he was French Fr Evariste spent most of his life in England and died aged 69.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 251 THE TRANSFORMATION OF LOVE**  
Longer life spans now mean close and exclusive relationships must last for four, five or even six decades; consequently the initial decision has to be frequently renewed.

**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> <b>01462 459126</b> 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>
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<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> }
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 This week's counting teams: <b>Sunday Team: Monday Team:</b>	 If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: <b>01438 285519</b> or Email: <a href="mailto:spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net">spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net</a>
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