



# 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 1965

16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 – 29<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.

**Readings :** [Is 53:10-11](#), [Heb 4:14-16](#), [Mark 10:35-45](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

**Psalm:** **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

**Intercession:** We pray to the Lord

**Response:** Lord hear us!

**Next Week:** [Jer 31:7-9](#), [Heb 5:1-6](#), [Mark 10:46-52](#)

**Ramblings** In reflecting on the death of Jesus, Ronald Rolheiser writes that, during his passion, *Jesus was alone, betrayed, humiliated, misunderstood, the object of jealousy and crowd hysteria, that he was a stone's throw away from everyone, that those who loved him were asleep to what was really happening, . . . this moral loneliness, mocked by those outside, tempted him against everything he had preached and stood for during his life and ministry. What made his sacrifice so special was not that he died a victim of violence nor that he refused to use divine power to stop his death. What made his death so special is that, inside all the aloneness, darkness, jealousy, misunderstanding, sick crowd hysteria, coldness, and murder, he held out, he gave himself over, without bitterness, without self-pity, holding his ideals intact, gracious, respectful, forgiving, without losing his balance, his meaning, or his message.* Reflect on this a while. Now think of the appalling, cruel, abusive and brutal way we have treated creation. Remember, creation bears the imprint of its creator, God, and reflects God's image to us. This is why we are often stunned by its beauty. Yet, despite all that we have done to creation, it too is without bitterness or self-pity. It remains gracious, respectful, forgiving and balanced - a reflection of Jesus? If we could only recognise this, we would make any necessary sacrifice to bring it healing and show it love and respect. During the first pandemic lockdown, CO2 emissions fell sharply, allowing the environment, almost immediately, to show signs of a new beauty as its colours became brighter and richer. It was creation's way of saying thank you. If we truly love God, love Jesus Christ, we will do everything we can to reverse the downward slide of our climate and allow us to enjoy its wonder of new birth for generations to come.

## Diary Dates

<b>Sun 17 Oct</b>
<b>Mon 18 Oct – Sat 23 Oct</b>
<b>10am Mass</b> in the church
<b>Mon 18 Oct – Fri 22 Oct</b>
<b>Monday Feast St Luke</b> +++++
<b>4-6pm</b> Meetings with Fr Tom for Admission to John Henry Newman School for those who have signed up.
<b>Tues 19 Oct</b>
<b>10.45am</b> We pray for Doreen Timmons whose funeral is today. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort her family. +++++
<b>2-4pm Crafting Group</b> restarting in the Scout hall. All are welcome. Enquiries to Carol 01462 643533. +++++
<b>6.45 for 7pm First Holy Communion Parent Session 2</b> in the hall. This is essential to attend if you want your child to make their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion in 2022. +++++
<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 offer this as a Zoom at the same time. Click on <a href="#">Eucharistic Service</a>
<b>Wed 20 Oct</b>
<b>6pm – Feed Up Warm Up</b> – Scout Hall +++++
<b>7.30pm-9pm RCIA</b> EC meeting room
<b>Thurs 21 Oct</b>
<b>6.30pm – Meditation</b> – EC Meeting Room





This weekend sees the launch of the Synod 2021-2023 in the Diocese of Westminster. Trish Bonnett will be our representative at the launch Mass at the Cathedral on Saturday

evening.

*"The Holy Father is offering us the opportunity to participate in a time of listening and reflecting. He hopes this will help us to discern how God's presence comes into our lives and what the Spirit of God is prompting us to do anew, so that we might be more alive and creative in our response to the call of Jesus, our Way, Truth and Life."* (Pastoral Letter 2-3 October 2021, Cardinal Vincent)

*"...the heart of the synodal experience is listening to God through listening to one another, inspired by the Word of God."* (Synod Vademecum)

**More information about how we will be involved** will be shared as we receive it. You can find all the information we have on the parish website at [Synod 2021-2023](#)

### The Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. The version below was adapted by Fr Tom for the Church's Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023

We gather together in the Holy Spirit who guides us and make a home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance misdirect or influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity as we journey together to eternal life Let us not stray from the truth and what is right. This we ask of you at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever. Amen.

**Our next Baptism Preparation** will be at 10am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October via Zoom. Please sign up online through the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/JnKhq6zYcK>

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**We are delighted to welcome Br Adams** to the parish this weekend. We know that everyone will



ensure he is made to feel a part of the parish and he will get to know us all very soon.

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### Keeping warm and safe in church.

The boiler for the church and hall needs to be replaced and whilst that is happening we will not have any heating available. When it is operational we will only have the heating on before the Masses not during. You are advised to wear warm clothing. As the numbers of covid cases continue to increase we will not be removing the remaining tape in the church any time soon. The front three rows are untapped but the rear rows are still distanced for those who are more comfortable at a distance. We still ask that people wear masks at all times if possible and particularly at 10.30am when we have singing.



To ensure you get seats at the 10.30am Mass you are advised to arrive early as we are beginning to get full at this Mass. There is still plenty of space at the Sat 6pm and Sunday 8.30am Masses.



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Children's liturgy** We plan to start the Children's liturgy at the 10.30 Mass at the start of Advent. This will take place in the hall at present. As the number of children attending Mass is quite low we plan on having one group of school age in the hall and if there are sufficient younger children we will resume the liturgy for the parents and young children also. We can only offer this if we have the support of adults to help so if you are willing to help once a month please let Trish know as soon as possible. Training is available.

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**Recycling News** **The Pet food scheme is closing the last day for drop off is Sunday 14 November.**

**The Tassimo pod scheme is closing the last drop off day is Friday 10th December.**

**We have a new Bakery Packaging scheme sponsored by Warburtons.** Any brand of plastic and wax bakery goods packaging is now accepted with the bread bags.

**We have been accepted to collect for recycling Marigold disposable gloves Marigold durable gloves, and Marigold plastic**



**packaging.** These can be added to the blue wheelie bin together with the Oral care and R&B home hygiene products.



We have also been accepted to collect for recycling all **GOOD** shampoo refill plastic pouch packaging for the brands **Head&Shoulders, Pantene, Aussie, and Herbal Essences only.** These can be added to the blue wheelie bin together with the Oral care and R&B home hygiene products. **No rigid shampoo bottles please.**



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**Our Lady Catholic Primary School Admissions Evening & Open Days** for Reception placements starting September 2022

Was your child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018?

Come along to our Admissions Evening on Thursday 11th November at 7pm.

You will be able to tour the school and hear from the Executive Head Teacher.

Bring your child along to one of our stay and play sessions on Saturday 13th and 20th November between 10:30am and 11:30am.

You and your child can explore our exciting learning environment, including our new outside garden and talk to our experienced staff about what we have to offer.

"The Catholic life of the school permeates the whole community in the outstanding opportunities it provides on a daily basis."

Catholic life of the school graded Outstanding  
For more information and to book onto either the Admissions Evening or a Stay and Play session, please contact the school office on 01462 622555 or alternatively email [admin@ourladysherts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourladysherts.sch.uk).

**Meetings with Fr Tom for Admission to Our Lady 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 15-17 November with appointments from 4-6pm each day.** You need to bring a photo of your child and their baptism certificate.

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### Other items of interest



We have only 23 days before Pope Francis and others kick off the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. Support Pope Francis now: [Sign the Healthy Planet, Healthy People petition.](#) COP26 is an opportunity like no other. World leaders will make decisions that will affect our common home for generations.

Everyone, no matter religion, country, or race, should respect creation. We are running out of time, and there's a lot to do. It's not easy to make this huge change, but we need to start somewhere. Why not sign and promote the petition?

By now more than 100,000 Catholics and 300 organizations have joined this initiative.

We are asking four simple things:

- Tackle the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis together
- Limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and promise no more biodiversity loss
- Ensure equitable global action, including support for those most affected
- Protect and respect human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in climate and biodiversity action

Pope Francis will be there. For the first time, a Pope is attending a UN Climate Change Conference. That's how important this is. Support Pope Francis: [Sign the petition.](#)

As Catholics, it is our responsibility to lift up the voices of the most vulnerable and advocate on their behalf. If we don't, who will? It's truly up to us. We must act now. Sign the petition. God's creation is suffering. And we're running out of time. Join the global Catholic family and take action now.

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**A message from Rob Hitchcock about the COP 26 Climate Summit.** I have been selected to attend the COP 26 Climate summit that is taking place in Glasgow. The summit is 2 weeks long and global leaders including Pope Francis will gather to share idea on how to tackle climate change. Leaders will examine the impact of climate change through different lenses e.g., the financial aspect, gender equality and youth and public engagement just to name a few. On Saturday 6th November there is planned an opportunity for people to gather to call on world leaders to commit to real change rather than it being another meeting about meetings; something that politicians are very good at. There are marches planned one in Glasgow the other in London. CAFOD will have representation in both locations and have spaces for people to join them. The COP 26 meeting will be considered successful if world leaders commit to keeping the global temperatures within 1.5° C of warming, and to ensure that nobody is left behind whilst

trying to achieve this.

The marches that are planned to happen on the 6th November is something physical that we can do. However, as people of faith we know that the world and humanity are closely connected, as we learn in Genesis how God fashioned humanity; it was from the earth; the same earth which is being destroyed by the few affecting the many. The negative effects include extinction of animals, more extreme weather, and the displacement of people.

Due to our closeness to the earth, I believe as well as physically preparing for these major talks, we must spiritually prepare. I think as a parish we should come together to prayer for real change. I invite you to come to pray for this intention in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Each day the week beginning Monday 1st November- Sunday 7th November after Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for an hour which will enable us to come together as a community to pray for the success of the meeting. I encourage you to get involved as much as possible, as this is something that affects us all. For more information about what you can do please see the link CAFOD link below <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/COP26-climate-summit>



Preparing for war never seems to prevent it, but rather to precipitate it, and in its conclusions war is just about as disastrous to the victor as to the vanquished.  
*Field Marshal Sir William Robertson, 1860-1933*



**Focus on past parish Priests** Fr Brendan Fox spent most of the war as an army chaplain. He was appointed to Hitchin in 1949. While he was parish priest the Legion of Mary and the Knights of St Columba started here. After the Sunday evening service there was always a social evening in the parish hall. These were the days of the St Andrews Players and the Hitchin Celtic football team. Fr Brendan left us for Rickmansworth in 1952.



**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 253 THE TRANSFORMATION OF LOVE**

Even amid unresolved conflicts and confused emotional situations, a couple can daily reaffirm their decision to love, to belong to one another, to share their lives and to continue loving and forgiving.

**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 Trish Bonnett	<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)