



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 1967

30th October – 6th November 2021 – ALL SAINTS - Year B

Prayer for COP26 Loving God, we praise your name with all you have created. Present in the whole universe and in the smallest creature, we acknowledge the responsibility we have as stewards of your creation. May the Holy Spirit inspire political leaders at COP26 to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of our Common Home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Readings : Apoc 7:2-4.9-14, 1Jn 3:1-3, Matt 5:1-12

Entrance Antiphon: Let us all rejoice in the Lord as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Psalm: Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy

Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44

Ramblings. The readings for this celebration are vivid and challenging but also stimulating. We are presented with a God who out of love for us sent Jesus who lovingly died for us and, with his blood, freed us from sin and opened up heaven for us. In art the halo is used to represent the presence of God in a person and that is who saints are for us. They speak clearly and encouragingly about God's presence and how that presence has shaped their lives. We ask for the help and support of the saints. St Anthony who so often finds things that are lost. St Jude the patron saint of hopeless or impossible cases; St Cecelia the patron of music; Luke the patron of doctors, and the list goes on. On this feast we also remember the uncatalogued saints, the saints we have known and have lived with. People who have inspired, motivated, encouraged and affirmed us – who have loved us - especially our parents. In fact all who have spoken to us of God's presence and reassured us in our faith. This feast gives us the opportunity to give thanks and praise to God for giving them to us and also to thank them for their love and inspiration and once more to seek their blessing and presence anew.

In celebration:

*For those who walked with us,
this is a prayer.*

*For those who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.*

*For those who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.*

*For those who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,*

*in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction. Jan L Richardson*

Diary Dates

Sunday 31 Oct All Saints
Mon 1 Nov – 6 Nov
10am Mass in the Church followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30-11.30 for time for prayer for COP26. Please can you sign up on the sheet in the porch so there is someone in attendance each day.
Tues 2 Nov All Souls
11am Blessing of Graves at St John's cemetery. Meet up at Fr Michael and Fr Christopher's grave and the Priests will walk round to the graves that you want to have blessed. ††††††††††
11.30am Meditation – EC Meeting Room ††††††††††
2pm Craft Circle – Scout Hall ††††††††††
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 3 Nov
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall ††††††††††
7.30pm-9pm RCIA EC Meeting Room
Thurs 4 Nov St Charles Borromeo
6.30pm – Meditation – EC Meeting Room
Fri 5 Nov
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 6 Nov
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Envelopes and sheets for recording names for the month of **Holy Souls** are at the back of the church and can be returned any time to the black box provided, **for prayer** during the month for your deceased loved ones.

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Our In Memoriam service for those in our parish who have died in the past year will be held in the church on **Sunday 14th November at 5pm**. We weren't able to hold it in the same way last year so we welcome all parishioners to this service where we read out the names of those who have died since our last service and prayer for all those we have loved and who have died.



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By next weekend you will be receiving a request to let us know what would be the most convenient method for you to share in the conversation Pope Francis is asking us to have, as we travel together



on this Synodal pathway. To prepare ourselves to share we are asked to consider the following questions:

- What has been your experience of the Church 'journeying together', throughout the pandemic and wider? When does the journeying bring joy? When might it bring pain?
- When we say 'Church', who do we mean?
- What might the Spirit of God be saying about how we journey together as the Church?

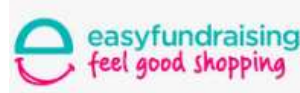
Please do take part in these conversations.
We want to listen to what you have to say.

Calling all young people On the 2nd November at 6.30pm, Westminster Youth Ministry will gather at the Archbishops House where Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be present, to guide them in a time of reflection, prayer and conversation and they would LOVE for you to join them.

They are trying to gather together as many young people as they can, from all different faith backgrounds and denominations so that they can get a really great reflection on the Church. If you have any friends or family who are not currently church go-ers but would love to join the conversation, they really encourage you to get them to join too!

Head to our website to sign up or to find out more information: <https://dowym.com/events/synod-listening-event/>

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Please support Our Lady's RC Church Hitchin by raising free donations when you shop online

through #easyfundraising. In the lead up to Christmas, it's the best time to support us and help ensure this year means more! It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to join! Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will match it! Sign up now: [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com)

Future Dates

As you are aware, the decision was made not to have second collections this year due to the pandemic. We would normally have a second collection for the **Sick and Retired Priest's Fund** the weekend of **6th/7th November**. However, you may still make a donation if you wish by visiting [Sick & retired Priest Fund](#).

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you will help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners. The fund will be used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest. It could ensure a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery. Rest assured, the Diocese works closely with the NHS, local councils and social services, but there will nevertheless be gaps in funding and we need to ensure our priests have peace of mind in their senior years. Please be as generous as you can in your support of this appeal and continue to pray for our priests. Thank you very much

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Come and help us plant trees!
Just bring a spade or a trowel.

North Herts Interfaith Forum has been working with the owner of a field in Little Hadham to start an interfaith peace forest. We now have dates for the first planting of 150 saplings: **Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th November 2021, 10 am - 12 noon**. Meet in the car park at Little Hadham



Village Hall, SG11 2BP. Trees don't just combat climate change - they are symbolic in many faith traditions of growth, harmony and reaching upwards. Bring your friends! Bring the family! There will be children from the local school helping too. Bring your own refreshments. The saplings are small so the work shouldn't be too hard.

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Sunday 14th November, 6.30-7.30pm at St Mary's Hitchin Theological Society are holding the second meeting. The theme will be **'The pursuit of happiness'** and a panel of speakers will explore this from Christian and Buddhist perspectives. All are welcome to be part of this monthly space when we think together about the place of faith in God in the challenges of 21st century life.

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THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021, 7.30pm – 9pm NORTH HERTS INTERFAITH FORUM



We warmly invite you to an evening talk and Q & A by the Director of Research at the Woolf Institute, Cambridge's research and education centre

for the study of interfaith relations across the UK and internationally....

At our church face to face. Masks required. Sanitising gel available.

And streamed online (link details to follow)

SPEAKER: Dr Julian Hargreaves will introduce his findings from the Diversity Study of England and Wales 2020 – the largest survey of diversity undertaken in the UK. The study focuses on ethnicity, nationality and religion. For his presentation to the North Herts Interfaith Forum, Julian will focus on data related to religion. How religiously diverse are we? What does the British public think about religious diversity in the UK? What are people's attitudes towards a family member marrying someone from a different religious background? **Come along and find out!**

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Saturday 20th November "TAKE A BREAK WITH IGNATIUS"

These sessions are free - donations are always welcome to help support the LJC programme

Venue: London Jesuit Centre

Register: For a place on the retreat on 20 November, [please click here](#).

The Saturday Retreat offers a time of reflection and prayer around a theme, through words of Scripture, poetry or literature, and visual images. There is time for guided prayer and silent prayer

and the opportunity to share with others. The afternoon closes with an opportunity to explore any points that have arisen for you and concluding prayer. The Saturday Retreat is led by a member of the spirituality team at the London Jesuit Centre.

The IGNATIAN YEAR is encompassing many events in the life of the world and the church, including COP26 and the SYNOD convoked by Pope Francis. In that context, TAKE A BREAK WITH IGNATIUS offers a conversation with Ignatius about both "the care of our common home" and the "art of listening". May God, Our Creator and Lord who spoke to Ignatius and speaks to us in so many ways join us on our "Break".

Other items of interest

The SVP are distributing **11,500 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.70 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support.



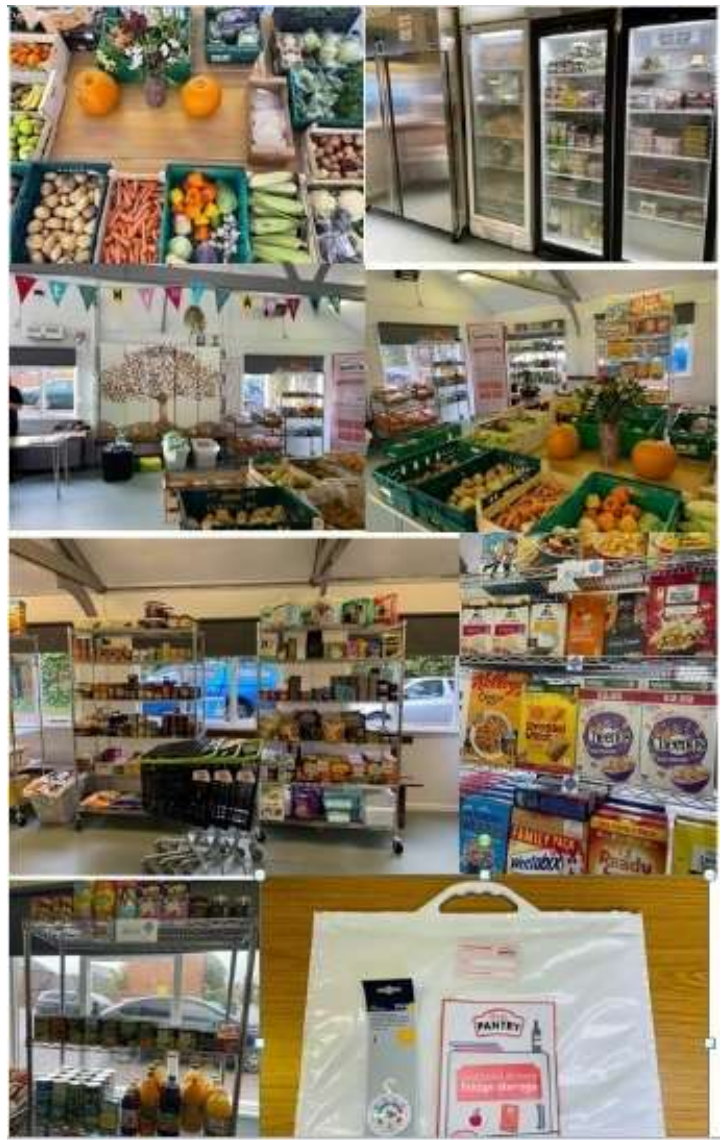
Could you pack up Christmas angels for Phase?!

During November, Phase are looking for home based volunteers to assemble single packs of Christmas story leaflets + Fair-Fairtrade chocolate angels for 420 Year 6 children. Any offers of help would be greatly appreciated. Please email [the Phase office](#) or call them on 01462 422940 if you are interested in helping.

Do you have unwanted toys or gifts?

Phase currently need good quality soft toys or unwanted presents to help them run one of their regular fundraising stalls. Please email [the Phase office](#) or call them on 01462 422940 if you have items for them to collect.

Hitchin Pantry is OPEN Bishop Paul McAleenan opened the Pantry yesterday with the help of Liz Wills and her amazing team. See the picture story below and on the parish website and please keep those food donations coming into the basket in the porch!



For details of Hitchin Pantry and how you can help go to [Hitchin Food Pantry](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/diocese/safeguarding-in-our-parishes/)

Focus on past parish Priests After ten years as assistant Fr Michael Lee was made parish priest in 1961. The thing for which he would want to be remembered was the building of the new school in Old Hale Way. It seems strange that our present church stands on the site of the old school and presbytery. The present car park was the school playground. Fr Michael left Hitchin for Brockley in 1968



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 255 *THE TRANSFORMATION OF LOVE* As the couple ages, even if others can no longer see the beauty of a person, the spouse continues to see them with the eyes of love and their affection does not diminish.

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

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