



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 1968

6th November – 13th November 2021 – 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 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 : Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

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

Alleluia!

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next Week: Dan 12:1-13, Heb 10:11-14.18, Mk 13:24-32

Ramblings. Reflection from Sr Macrina Wiederkehr OSB

Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary

“All too often we bemoan our imperfections rather than embrace them as part of the process in which we are brought to God. Cherished emptiness gives God space in which to work. We are pure capacity for God. Let us not, then, take our littleness lightly. It is a wonderful grace. It is a gift to receive. At the same time, let us not get trapped in the confines of our littleness, but keep pushing on to claim our greatness. Remind yourself often, “I am pure capacity for God; I can be more.”

“Holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary. There are burning bushes all around you. Every tree is full of angels. Hidden beauty is waiting in every crumb.”

“The seasons of my heart change like the seasons of the fields. There are seasons of wonder and hope, seasons of suffering and love, seasons of healing. There are seasons of dying and rising, seasons of faith.”

“O Tree of God—Tree of Life, in the gift of your shade, I stand, my heart raised to your Creator. Your branches call me to reach out in all directions to many people. Your branches remind me of the sheltering arms of God. Your roots call me to be rooted in all that is good and nourishing. Your roots ask me to spend time in the ground of my being. Teach me, like you, to praise God in the silence of my being. Help me to surrender unnecessary words. Draw me, like a magnet, into the abiding love of God. And when it is time for me to die, teach me to die gracefully and joyfully. Teach me to let go as you let go of your leaves each autumn. In living and in dying, teach me to

praise God by living well and dying well. May it come to pass!”

Diary Dates

Sun 7 Nov
2pm Baptism Alfie Lohan
Mon 8 Nov – Sat 13 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 9 Nov Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
10.30am Coffee Morning after Mass – Hall. All welcome
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11.30am Meditation – EC Meeting Room
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2pm Craft Circle – Scout Hall
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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
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7.50pm Choir practice in the church. New singers, all ages, are always welcome.
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8pm Pastoral Parish Council meeting in parish hall.
Wed 10 Nov St Leo
6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall
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No Praise Group – due to sickness
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7.30pm-9pm RCIA EC Meeting Room
Thurs 11 Nov St Martin of Tours
6.30pm – Meditation – EC Meeting Room

Diary Dates cont

Fri 12 Nov St Josaphat
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 13 Nov
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sun 14 Nov
<p>5pm Our In Memoriam service for those in our parish who have died in the past year 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.</p> 

This weekend we would normally have a second collection for the **Sick and Retired Priest's Fund**. However, you may still make a donation if you wish by visiting [Sick & retired Priest Fund](#).
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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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Information about the **Synodal Conversations** that Pope Francis wants us to have in our parish. He wants us to share our experiences of our faith, our faith community and church and how the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. He wants us to talk about it and for us to listen to what others have to say.

In that spirit the Pastoral team thought it would be best for you to decide how you would want this to happen. We want to maximise the opportunities

for everyone in the parish to share so the first stage is to ask you how would be best for you.

To simplify this, we have put together a questionnaire which asks you to choose your first, second and third choices for the methods which would suit you, your name and email address. Hard copies are available in the porch for those who have received an email. Completed sheets should be placed in the red box at the back of the church.

If you haven't yet completed the survey on line then could you click on the link below and answer the 4 questions which should take you less than a minute.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CNPW5Z5>

In preparation for these conversations you can click on the [Participant's guide](#) which explains what this is about and gives you the questions that we want you to consider for when we come together to share and listen so you feel prepared for the occasions when you come.

Thank you so much for considering this and hopefully taking part. We really do want to hear what you have to say.
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Latest Covid Health and Safety Advice We have received information from our Health and Safety department which is confirming that we still need to do the following:

- Use hand gel on entry points
- Continue to wear facemasks in church
- Continue to maintain distancing in church
- Not to use fan blowing heaters such as those we have in our church.

So when our boiler is repaired this week we will follow the regime of last winter.

The church will be heated prior to any service but that once the church is open the MCs will turn off the heaters. You are advised to still continue wearing warm clothing when you come to Mass.
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We need to reinstate **weekly vacuuming** of the church to ensure our church is in a clean state for worship. We have appealed before for people who can help once a month so this is a further appeal for help on a

Saturday morning prior to 10am Mass. With teams of 2-3 the vacuuming and dusting can be done in about 45mins. If you can help please let Trish know asap.



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@ourladays.herts.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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Future Dates

Saturday 13th November 9am-12pm the next church gardening session. We

will be delighted to see any existing or new volunteers at any time between those hours. Tea, coffee and biscuits is 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.

Sunday 14th November 6.30-7.30pm at St Mary's. The second meeting of the **CTH Theological Society** 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. If you would like to know more, contact Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale on 01462 435497

Monday 15th November at 2.30pm One World/Live Simply AGM will be held on in the Scout Hall. This year our guest speaker will be Veronica Raymond from Herts Welcomes Refugees, an organisation which supports refugees settled in our county including those from Syria and Afghanistan. Veronica will describe the work HWR does to help people beginning a new life here. ALL are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

Weds 17 November 2021 6pm Medjugorje prayer evening for LGBT people, their families and friends, and others who are interested, at St. Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, W2 5DJ, beginning with prayer and praise, and continuing with Mass (6.15pm), Adoration, testimonies, Rosary and opportunities for confessions and conversation / prayer with LGBT Catholics, concluding with refreshments afterwards.

Thursday 18th November 7-9pm. CAP Money Course at the Zeo Centre in Hitchin

Thursday 25th November The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on the theme Bohemian Rhapsody, featuring popular works by Dvořák, Mahler and Smetana. The performers includes Andrei Ioniță, Cello; Anush Kovhannisyán, Soprano; Streetwise Opera; Toby Purser, Conductor; and the Orion Orchestra. Full details and booking at <https://passage.org.uk/night-under-the-stars-2021/> or telephone 020 75921856.

Tuesday 7th December 7.30-9pm CTH Council Meeting at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. This three week course is for everyone: young, retired, single, families, those setting up a new home for the first time or struggling to make ends meet at the end of each month.

Contact Leigh Smith for further details or to register by phone 07931 833838 or by email: lsmith@capjobclubs.org

Other items of interest

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.



November. Many resources are available to help in our prayers and CTH particularly commends those produced by Tear Fund via the following link: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/cop26> In addition, if you have access to Facebook, please take a look each day at the Churches Together in Hitchin page for prayers relating to climate change and COP26.

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White Peace Poppies supporting the work of the Peace Pledge Union will be on sale **Sunday 31st October and 7th November between 10-00 and 11-30am at Christchurch**, in the lead up to the annual November Remembrance events. Alternatively they can be bought by contacting Kathleen Tuck on 01462 452432

If one wishes to know more about the work of the Peace Pledge Union there is information on their website

www.peacepledge.union.org.uk

GCSE RE teacher required. Check the [Job Vacancy page](#) on the parish website.



OP26 – Glasgow Along with many Christian organisations, Churches Together in Hitchin (CTH) is encouraging prayer for the COP26 gathering in Glasgow, 31st October to 12th

Focus on past parish Priests Fr Joseph Scally was named parish priest in 1968. At the time when the church (present hall) was far too small for the congregations Fr Joseph made more room by turning all the benches and using the sanctuary for the congregation. The altar was in the area now used for serving tea and coffee. He will also be remembered for his gentle nature and sense of humour.

AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 256 THE TRANSFORMATION OF LOVE As the couple ages, he or she reaffirms the decision to belong to the other and expresses that choice in faithful and loving closeness. The nobility of this decision, by its intensity and depth, gives rise to a new kind of emotion

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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