



# 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 1970

20<sup>th</sup> November – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Christ the King - 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 :** Dan 7:13-14, Apoc 1:5-8, John 18:33-37

**Entrance Antiphon:** How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Psalm: **The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** Hear our Prayer!

**Next Week:** Jer 33:14-16, Thes 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28.34-36

### Ramblings Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe Year b 2021

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty and then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book... He never held an office... He never owned a home. He did none of those things we usually associate with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away... He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had an earth, and that was his coat. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed tomb through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have passed and today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of humanity upon the earth as has that one solitary life. **WHY?**

His name is **Jesus** whom we celebrate as King of the Universe. This same Jesus inspires our faith, motivates and challenges us in the way we live our lives and what we value most. He inspires movements of Justice and Peace, care for the homeless and the refugee and so much more.

To help answer the question, Pope Francis has invited us to speak about it with each other in what is called a *synodal process*; to tell each other about our journey of faith and why it and the Church are so important to us. **Don't miss out!!**

### Diary Dates

#### Tues 23 Nov

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

#### Wed 24 Nov



**12pm Funeral Mass for Joan Gentle**

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.  
May the Lord comfort her family.

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**6pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall**

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**7.30pm-9pm RCIA EC Meeting Room**

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**7-8.30pm Synodal Pathway conversation** in Hall. Please bring your **Share your thoughts** sheet with you.



#### Thurs 25 Nov

**6.30pm Meditation – EC Meeting Room**

#### Fri 26 Nov

**2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall**

#### Sat 27 Nov

**1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall**



The **Synodal Pathway** sharings begin this Wednesday evening 24<sup>th</sup> November. **Can you please sign up on the sheets in the porch** so we have an idea of numbers for each session.

The sessions are as follows:

**3 sessions with different themes on three consecutive Saturdays and Sundays after the Mass.**

Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	November	Session 1	6.45 – 8.15pm
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	December	Session 2	“
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	December	Session 3	“
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	November	Session 1	9.15 – 10.45am
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	December	Session 2	“
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	December	Session 3	“
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	November	Session 1	11.30am – 1pm
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	December	Session 2	“
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	December	Session 3	“

**Other sharing opportunities in the hall**

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> November 7pm-8.30pm  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> December 10.45am-12.15pm

**Other sharing opportunities online**

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> December 7pm-8.30pm  
Tues 7<sup>th</sup> December 11am-12.30pm

Anyone wishing for a **One-to-One session** in the parish or at your home should let Trish know and we will arrange this as soon as possible.

There is a special sheet **Share your thoughts** attached to the newsletter (or in the email)

This will help you in prayer and preparation for the session. We ask that you return this sheet to the red post box at the back of the church. What you write will contribute to our feedback to the Diocese.

**We are really looking forward to listening to what you have to say.**

The Diocese is offering other listening events which you are welcome to join also:

With Bishop Nicholas Hudson:

**Eastern Area** – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7-9pm at Commercial Road Parish, Lukin Street, London E1 OAA

**Central Area** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7-9pm at Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QJ

With Bishop John Sherrington

**Northern Area** – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7-9pm at Golders Green Parish, 700 Finchley Road, London NW11 7NE

With Cardinal Vincent Nichols

**Western Area** - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7-9pm at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, London W5 2DY

With Bishop Paul McAleenan

**Hertfordshire** - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 7-9pm at Garston Parish, Crown Rise, Garston, Watford WD25 ONE

Booking is required for these Area Listening Events through [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

**Online Listening Event**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 7–9pm on Zoom.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

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**Children's liturgy reintroduction to be delayed.** At present there is a lot of work to do around the Synodal Pathway so we will delay the reintroduction of Children's Liturgy until the New Year. We also need to recruit more helpers to lead and to support the leaders for Children's Liturgy. If you are willing to help please let Trish know.

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**Applications for the Sacrament of Confirmation** are open please

click on the link below for the application. Please note if your child was not baptised here in the parish, you will be asked to upload a copy of their Baptism certificate. The first session will start on Tuesday 11th January 2022. Arrivals from 6.45 for a 7pm start. The sessions will be every other week.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/sacramental-prep/confirmation/>

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Our parish preservers have got out their pans for the last time this year and have added pickles, chutneys and relishes to their range of goods. Now available are:

**Pickles:** Spicy Mexican; Spicy Quince.

**Chutney:** Red tomato.

**Relish:** Green and red tomato.

**Marmalades:** Seville Derek's treacle 4 fruits Quince and Orange.

**Jellies:** Crab apple Hedgerow fruits Sloe Elderberry and apple.

**Jams:** Greengage Greengage and ginger Greengage courgette and lemon

Fig and lemon Blackberry and elderberry Lemon and ginger.

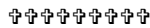
Over the past two years over £500 has been donated to support the work of the Sisters of Charity and Diapalante's education centre in Senegal from the sale of these products. All are available from Pam Brannigan (01462 632587) who will deliver to your door. Suggested donation £2.



Hitchin Pantry is not getting any food donations at all apart from the odd tin and they are struggling to keep the shelves stocked without having to go shopping. Could you please donate using this [Advent Calendar](#)



They already have 72 family members registered which breaks down to 116 adults and 83 children so we are feeding lots of people in the community every week and we need your support. The advent calendar is a great and an easy way for parishioners to get involved.



### Future Dates

**Tuesday 23 Nov 7pm-9pm** LGBT+ Catholics Westminster is actively involved in the Westminster Diocesan Synodal Pathway, enabling the voices of LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families to be heard at parish, diocesan, national and global levels. They are holding a face-to-face **Listening Session** in the Arrupe Hall, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 3AH. Register your attendance [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 7th December, 7.30 to 9pm** CTH Council Meeting is at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church.

The meeting will include our Annual General Meeting, with reports on the past year and recommendations for appointments in 2022. We will also have a session on 'Emerging from the pandemic - recovery and renewal' in which some Council members from different churches will share their experience and prompt wider discussion as they reflect on continuing concerns and signs of hope. We hope this will be a time that is practical and positive as we face the future in faith.

### Other items of interest

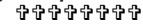
The **AGM of the One World/Live Simply (OWLS)** was held on Monday 15th and was well attended. We welcomed as guest speaker Veronica Raymond representing Herts Welcomes Refugees, North Herts.

She gave a very interesting talk on the work done throughout Hertfordshire and specifically in North Herts in housing and offering assistance to refugees entering the local community.

Help is given in enabling our guests to learn English, find schooling for children, applying for work and, where needed, financial assistance, in setting up their new homes and arranging social activities. It was good to hear that local residents

are generally very welcoming to their new neighbours and refugees have given positive feedback on their reception, formal and informal. As a parish we can help by supplying clothes, toiletries etc and there is a particular need for volunteers who are able to teach English as a second language.

It's good to know that our local authorities are so supportive of these people who have arrived in this country often from desperate situations and often without money or possessions.



### Honouring Sunday

**The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist** an extract from a recent letter from the Bishops.

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.

At this time, we recognize that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognize that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

For the full letter click on [Honouring Sunday](#) on the parish website



**Advent Bible studies:** *'Mauro will walk you through the forthcoming Sunday Gospel with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions & transform your Advent journey'*

Delivered by Mauro Iannicelli over five Wednesday evenings 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time)

<https://www.comeandsee.org/>



**Catholic Listeners Telephone Helpline** - Are you a good listener? Do you enjoy helping others with their queries? Can you assist with finding basic information about a service or an organisation? Catholic Listeners Helpline Service is staffed by volunteers who are trained and operate with the ethos of compassionate listening. All calls and the caller's needs are dealt with sensitivity and due diligence. Catholic Listeners is funded by the Cardinal's Appeal and operates in the Diocese of Westminster. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, email Ade for details at [catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclisteners@gmail.com)



**COP26** is finished last weekend and there is plenty we can do to support any agreement made in our local area. **Eco Tip:** Don't be afraid to use your voice: ask your councils what measures they are really taking to reduce carbon emissions, improve sustainable transport, cut air pollution which hugely damages our health, build carbon zero social housing etc and ask your MP to push for a strong Environment Bill (since leaving the EU, our parliament is still debating amendments and has not yet managed to bring a UK Environment Bill into law); and sign global environmental petitions asking for global action to halt the Climate Crisis.

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**Job Opportunities at SPEC Retreat Centre in Pinner** Westminster Youth Ministry is recruiting a Senior Retreat Leader and two Retreat Leaders. These are live-out job roles crucial to restarting retreat programmes at SPEC Retreat Centre while emerging from the period of lockdowns. To be part of these exciting opportunities, and for more information and application form please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>

This is a reminder that Virgin Money Giving have made the decision to close Virgin Money Giving (VMG). A subsidiary of Virgin Money, VMG was created 12 years ago when Virgin Money began its sponsorship of the London Marathon. This year the sponsorship comes to an end. As a result VMG will stop operating on **30 November 2021** following the race in October.

The Diocese are currently working towards

providing an alternative donation platform As Sikhs around the world prepare to celebrate **Guru Nanak Jayanti** – the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism – the Vatican has released a message calling on Christians and Sikhs to work together to foster a “culture of care”.

The link below will take you to an explanation about the celebrations and to the message released by the Vatican.


<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/vatican-calls-on-christians-and-sikhs-to-build-a-culture-of-care/>


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**The Westminster Cathedral's annual Christmas Celebration**, a wonderful evening of music and readings for all the family in the magnificent Mother Church of the Diocese, is taking place this year on Wednesday 15th December and Thursday 16th December at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm, with organ music being played from 7pm. Tickets are now available at Ticketmaster:

<https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-tickets-london/venue/254582>


The programme includes some of the finest Advent and Christmas choral music from across the centuries, sung by the world-famous Cathedral Choir, and favourite congregational carols. Westminster Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will be conducted by Simon Johnson, the Cathedral's new Master of Music. This year's selection of readings ranges from the Scriptures to writers such as GK Chesterton, all read by an array of celebrities.

	The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, 1900–1990, Indian diplomat and politician
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	<b>Focus on past parish Priests</b> This Sunday we celebrate Christ the King. It also happens to be the date (Nov 21) when we Assumptionists remember our founder Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon. The clash this year is most fitting as Fr d'Alzon gave us the words of the Our Father 'Thy Kingdom Come' as our motto as we work for the coming of God's kingdom. We have a special joy this year as Fr Joseph Quong who was ordained priest three weeks ago at Bethnal Green will be the main celebrant at the 10.30 mass.
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	<b>AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 258</b> <i>THE TRANSFORMATION OF LOVE</i> The marriage bond finds new forms of expression and constantly seeks new ways to grow in strength. These both preserve and strengthen the bond.
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**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> }	Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }	01462 459126 press 4
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