



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 19

27th November - 4th December 2021 – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C

Prayer: We pray for the healing of creation: God, source of all goodness, we call you Creator; you have made our wonderful world out of nothing and constantly keep it alive. Help us to be full of care and grateful for our home received from you as a gift. May we work to keep this, our common home, filled with peace and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings : [Jer 33:14-16](#), [Thes 3:12-4:2](#), [Luke 21:25-28.34-36](#)

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalm: **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Intercession: We pray to the Lord

Response: Lord hear us!

Next Week: Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:3-6.8-11, Luke 3:1-6

Ramblings. Jeremiah reveals the inner purpose of our Synodal Meetings, just replace David with **the Church**. “I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.” (Jer 33:15). We are being asked to respond to God’s call so as to allow God to create a virtuous Church that practices honesty and integrity in a new and more creative way. Jesus encourages us to *pray at all times for the strength to do this*. (Lk 21:36) Pope Francis reflects God’s belief and trust in the ability and the invaluable contribution the lay-faithful have to help make this happen. The Church in Vietnam is founded on the lives of 130,000 martyrs, the vast majority of whom were lay-faithful. Witnessing to our faith does not only mean being put to death for the faith but the contribution we make towards nurturing and spreading the faith by the way we live our lives and allowing God’s grace and blessing to work through us. Supporting and contributing to the synodal conversations is a very special way in which each of us can witness to the faith and help grow a renewed Church. As Advent approaches:

Listen with the ear of your heart and hear the voice of God, calling us to respond creatively and share the gifts we have.

We are one family, building God’s Kingdom here on earth today.

Living the message of the Gospel in our lives, we must strengthen one another in faith.



Sow the seeds of faith, hope and love: what you plant will yield abundant fruit.

Work for peace and justice, freedom for all; then shall the whole world live in harmony.

Whatever you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto me.

When you gather in my name, I am there.
(Weston Priory USA)

Diary Dates

Sun 28 Nov
9.15am-10.15am & 11.30-12.30 Synodal Pathway conversation in Hall. (Session 1) Please bring your Share your thoughts sheet with you. 
Tues 30 Nov St Andrew Fr Andrew’s Special Feast Day
10.30am Coffee Morning after Mass – Hall. All welcome ††††††††††††
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 share communion. We offer this as a Zoom at the same time. Click on Eucharistic Service
Wed 1 December
11.30am Funeral Anne Marshall ††††††††††††
2-4pm UCM Bring & Buy - Hall ††††††††††††
6pm Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall ††††††††††††
7.30pm-9pm RCIA EC Meeting Room ††††††††††††
7-8.30pm Synodal Pathway Online Conversation Look below for link. 
Thurs 2 Dec
6.30pm Meditation – EC Meeting Room
Fri 3 Dec
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Diary Dates cont

Sat 4 Dec

10am-11am FHC - Hall

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1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

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6.45pm-7.45pm Synodal Pathway conversation in Hall. (Session 1)

Please bring your Share your thoughts sheet with you.



The Synodal Pathway sharings began this week and the first session was excellent and fruitful. If you haven't signed up yet please do so but go in after Mass too if you wish. This Saturday evening has been cancelled due to low numbers.

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

Sun 28 th November	Session 1	9.15 – 10.15am
Sun 28 th November	Session 1	11.30am – 12.30pm
Sat 4 th December	Session 1	6.45 – 7.45pm
Sun 5 th December	Session 2	9.15 – 10.15am
Sun 5 th December	Session 2	11.30am – 12.30pm
Sat 11 th December	Session 2	6.45 – 7.45pm
Sun 12 th December	Session 3	9.15 – 10.15am
Sun 12 th December	Session 3	11.30am – 12.30pm
Sat 8 th January	Session 3	6.45 – 7.45pm

Other sharing opportunities in the hall

Mon 6th December 10.45am-12.15pm

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.

Online sharing opportunities via Zoom

Wed 1st December 7pm-8.30pm

Meeting ID: 890 7429 2634

Passcode: 228201

Tues 7th December 11am-12.30pm

Meeting ID: 842 2181 4592

Passcode: 165700



We pray for Nora Comiskey whose funeral is on 30 November 2021 at St Hugh of Lincoln Church, Letchworth and for Anne Marshall whose funeral is here on Wednesday 1 December 2021. May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may the Lord comfort their families.

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Please remember Tassimo disks stop on 14th December. This part of our recycling scheme will

be finishing in two weeks so please get your disks in soon before the crates disappear.

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Advent is here which means **Christmas is coming!** So we need help with some things.



Our Crib will be up in its usual form this year rather than the reduced version of last year.

We need help to assemble the Crib on Wednesday 22nd

December at 10.45am so if you are able to help put it together under the watchful eye of Ben Smith please let Trish know asap.

We will need greenery, including evergreen branches and ivy and holly. Can you bring these by the morning of 22nd Dec and leave outside the back door to the office. Thanks in advance for your help.



Wednesday 22nd Dec evening we will have our Carol Service at 6.30pm. It will be lovely to have our children involved again with reading so if you have a young person who is happy to read at this service please let Trish know as soon as possible so we can arrange a practice.

Christmas Masses We are planning the Masses for Christmas and will give you more detail next week. All Masses will need to be booked as last year (who would have thought two years running!!) so please make sure you book early. Details of how to book will be published next week but so you can plan the Masses will be as follows:

Fri 24th Dec Children's Christmas Mass 5pm
Vigil Mass 9pm

Sat 25th Dec Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am

Please note that the Children's Christmas Mass is only for families with children. This is because many families have expressed concern about coming to Mass with their children and the risk to vulnerable parishioners who might be attending. (please use your discretion regarding grandparents coming too)

Future Dates

Saturday 4th December (10am-5pm) Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat to prepare for Christmas, with teaching, workshops, prayer, confessions and mass. Venue: Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square W8 5HN. Donations only. Register: tramy@assumptionreligious.org



Tuesday 7th December, 7.30-9.00pm the next CTH Council 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 Big Give From Tuesday 30 November until 7 December, any donations made to Herts Young Homeless via The Big Give Website, until their target is reached, will be doubled at no extra cost to you! The campaign will last for one week and they have an ambitious target of £10,000! Many thanks for your support.

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Experience the Christmas story in a new way.



See if you can spot Trish as the Innkeeper at Wintershall.

Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. The Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family.

Book your tickets to one of our sell-out 90-minute performances and enrich your experience of Christmas forever. General Performances 16th, 18th, 19th and 20th December. Go to [Nativity bookings](#)

ONLINE PRAYER GROUP

MOTHERS TOGETHER

As mothers we are vital to our children, our families and society. These 5 sessions aim to provide a space with God and ourselves, to nourish our vocation as mothers.

ONLINE SESSIONS WILL BE GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF VERBUM DEI AND FOCUS ON ASPECTS OF MOTHERHOOD. SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE REFLECTIONS ON THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES, PERSONAL JOURNALING AND SHARING.

THURSDAYS 7.30PM-9PM
2ND, 9TH, 16TH DECEMBER AND 6TH, 13TH JANUARY

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
KJGIANNOTTA@GMAIL.COM

To register click on [Mothers Together](#)



Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. "I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy." **Thank you for your support** which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

Laura is an experienced self-employed cleaner looking for work in the Hitchin, Hertfordshire area only. Available every weekend for:

- one off cleaning
 - domestic regular cleaning
 - monthly cleaning
 - fortnightly cleaning
- £10 per hour

Contact Laura on **07843 970857**

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St.Ippolyts Church Nativity Crib Festival



Sat 4 Dec, 11:00 - Sun 5 Dec, 17:00

Come along and see the beautiful medieval church packed full of Nativity crib sets from all around the world, looked over by a host of angels.

Each crib has a card telling its own "story", learning about what makes the crib important to its family is what really makes the Crib Festival so special. Come along and see for yourself!

Entry is £3, children are free



Hitchin Christmas Hamper Appeal

The Hitchin Christmas Hamper **Appeal** supports local individuals and families at Christmas with a festive food parcel. Last year due to Covid we changed the way we operated and provided 158 Vouchers to families for them to buy food for the festive period instead of a physical hamper.

This was a huge success and the feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive.

So this year we are asking you to help us raise **funds** so we can give our families supermarket vouchers plus our popular gift bags for the children with toys and extra treats for that personal touch.

If you can **donate** to the Christmas Hamper Appeal fund then please go to the JustGiving Page
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CCHT>
 or just scan the **QR code** below which will take you to the page automatically.














And finally the **daily emails of reflections for Advent** will start this Sunday. Please let Trish know if you do not want to receive these.



Focus on past Assistant Priests The first assistant priest here at Hitchin was Fr Finbarr Walsh from 1944 to 1950. During the illnesses of Fr Wilfrid, the parish priest, Fr Finbarr took over responsibility. He was also keen on sport and encouraged the younger parishioners to become involved in local teams.



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 259 *THE TRANSFORMATION OF LOVE* The marriage bond calls for daily effort and praying to the Holy Spirit for an outpouring of his grace, his supernatural strength and his spiritual fire, to confirm, direct and transform our love in every new situation.

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

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