



# 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 1972

4<sup>th</sup> December – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:3-6.8-11, Luke 3:1-6

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Psalm:** **What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.**

**Intercession:** Lord hear us

**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!

**Next Week:** Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18




**Ramblings** Later John the Baptist will announce Jesus Christ as he begins his ministry in Judea but, in Advent, John speaks of the birth of Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one of God, our Saviour. The words, springing forth from the readings, speak of joy, of light, of love, of goodness, and most of all of peace. Christ truly is our Prince of Peace! How much we need him today. In our journey through Advent, let us seek that inner peace for which we yearn. The peace that forms the bedrock of our lives. This is a peace that reassures. It affirms us in how we are living our lives and that we are living in God's way. It is ready to face the many challenges and difficulties we encounter in our lives but it is a peace that strengthens our faith to know that we will eventually emerge successfully on the other side, just as the Prophet Baruch tells us: *"That we can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for us; for God will guide us in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort."*

### An Acrostic Poem of P E A C E for Advent (*grace wulff*)

Peace,  
a Promise  
by the ONE  
who is **PEACE**.  
"My Peace I leave with you,  
do not be afraid!"  
Even in the midst of  
chaos  
suffering  
Emmanuel – God with us  
entering our world  
Always,  
"I am with you, always",

Jesus said.  
Able, Ageless, Abundant  
as Close as our breath  
Creating Calm  
our Creator cares and provides for us  
Everything we need,  
in the light of  
eternity.

### Diary Dates

Sun 5 December	
9.15am-10.15am & 11.30-12.30	Synodal Pathway conversation in Hall. (Session 2) 
+++++	
3pm	Healing and Wholeness Service in the church a time of prayer, during which the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing will be celebrated. 
Mon 6 Dec	
10.45am-12.15pm	Synodal Pathway conversation in Hall. 
Tues 7 Dec	
10.30am	Coffee Morning after Mass – Hall. +++++
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. To Zoom click on <a href="#">Eucharistic Service</a> +++++
<del>7-8.30pm</del>	<del>Synodal Pathway – Online Conversation</del> <b>Cancelled as no take up</b>
Wed 8 Dec Immaculate Conception	
10.30am - 11.30am	Praise Group Hall +++++
6pm	Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall +++++
7.30pm-9pm	RCIA EC Meeting Room

## Dates cont ...

**Thurs 9 Dec**

**6.30pm Meditation** EC Meeting Room

**Fri 10 Dec**

**11.30am Funeral Kath Shell RIP** . May she rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort her family.

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

**Sat 11 Dec**

**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 intend to continue the great work from the last session.

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

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**6.45pm-7.45pm Synodal Pathway** conversation in Hall. (Session 2)



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

**All Masses this Christmas need to be booked.**

### Mass times

24<sup>th</sup> December 5pm Children's Mass with nativity enactment – for families with children only

24<sup>th</sup> December 9pm Vigil Mass

25<sup>th</sup> December 8.30am and 10.30am

Note there is no evening Mass on Christmas day.

**To book please email**

[christmas\\_OLIASA@outlook.com](mailto:christmas_OLIASA@outlook.com)

with your **name** and **contact details** and the number of people you want to book for.

For the 5pm Children's Mass please state the **number of adults** and the **number of children**.

Please also state if you want the front rows (not taped off), back rows (still distanced) or no preference. This is important for seat allocation. We will endeavour to meet your request.

**If you are not able to book using an email please give your details to Cheryl (01462 459126) or Trish in the office and we will send them to Julian who is co-ordinating booking this year (and we are very grateful for his help)**



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.

We recommend to your prayer: **Sister Anne-Marie SAMSON** (Sister Gilles-Thérèse) who passed away on November 30, 2021. She was 81 years and 6 months old. Sr Anne-Marie was a much loved pastoral assistant in this parish for many years and readers of the newsletter will remember that Frank Benucci and Trish visited her in January of last year.

Her funeral was celebrated in the chapel of the Mother House in Saint-Jacut-les-Pins on Friday, December 3, 2021.

**We will have a memorial Mass for her at 10am on 17<sup>th</sup> December.** If you would like to read a tribute to her or write one to be read at the Mass please let Trish know.



Susanna Hawksley has sent a recipe for an Apple cake that Sr Anne-Marie gave her which she recommends to us all. You can access this at [Sr AM Apple cake](#)

### Future Dates

**Monday 6th December 2021 7-8.30pm**, the Religions for Peace UK Interfaith Youth Network is inviting you to attend an online Zoom panel discussion on "**My Faith & the Environment: COP26 Aftermath**". [Click here for more details](#).

Please register with the Eventbrite link below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**7th December 7.30 - 9pm Churches Together**

in Hitchin Council is at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. It will include the Annual General Meeting, with reports and appointments including **our own Fr Tom as Chair** of CTH for the coming year, then a session on *Emerging from the pandemic (if indeed we are.....?) - recovery and renewal*. Members of four churches will share the experience of their congregations over the last 20 plus months, describing both the problems and the new opportunities for worship and witness. We hope this will lead to a wider conversation as we look to the future with realism and hope. Members of all churches are welcome.



**Tuesday 7 December 2021 6-7pm North-East Herts, Stevenage & Welwyn Community Sponsorship group - online info session**  
[SIGN UP AT THIS LINK](#)

A small group from Hertford, Stevenage and Welwyn are looking to connect with like-minded folks around North-East Hertfordshire to form a local community sponsorship group to support a refugee family to come and settle here.

The UK Government has made provision for a Community Sponsorship Scheme through which a group of local volunteers can sponsor and support a refugee family and assist them in moving to the UK and supporting their integration into the local community.

On 7th December, they are hosting a no-commitment information meeting to introduce the UK's [Community Sponsorship Scheme](#), talk through the obligations the Home Office requires of the community sponsorship group, outline some initial ideas for the group, and how you may be able to assist.

If you interested to support an additional refugee family to settle locally, and would like to hear more - please signup [via this eventbrite](#), and / or email Gareth, Lucia and Federico on [sponsorship4refugees@gmail.com](mailto:sponsorship4refugees@gmail.com). Alternatively, please feel free to message Gareth directly by sms or whatsapp on 07855506661

**12th December 6.30 - 7.30pm Hitchin Theological Society** in St Mary's Church. Bearing in mind that we are approaching the Christmas season, the theme is **The stars in the bright sky** and we will be tackling issues related to science and faith. Andrew Jackson, a science teacher, will *look at* how theology and cosmology have interacted in the past, and the lessons this

holds for us in the present, and Paul Meacham, an engineer who works on the ExoMars Rover (he will explain!) will ask the question: What does life elsewhere in the Universe mean for Christianity? All are welcome - we have had good and growing numbers at our first two meetings, and we look forward to more at the next.

**Other items of interest**

**CAP Job Club 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb Wednesday 2022 10am-12 noon each week**

If you know of anyone looking for work, we are running an 8-week course. You can just turn up at Zeo Centre Bedford Rd, Hitchin SG5 1HX and receive help and support with job searching.

For more info contact: [lsmith@capjobclubs.org](mailto:lsmith@capjobclubs.org) / mobile 07931833838.

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**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.**



**Focus on past Assistant Priests** Most of us will remember Fr Michael Lee as our parish priest but forget that for ten years he was the assistant priest (1951-1961) The parish priest did not drive and so Fr Michael became the one who undertook all the active tasks in the parish until he was made parish priest in 1961.

**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 260** *Love made fruitful* Love always gives new life. The family is the setting in which a new life is not only born, but also welcomed as a gift of God.

**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>
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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> } 01462 459126 press 4 Trish Bonnett <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }
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