

# 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 1973

11<sup>th</sup> December – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – 3<sup>rd</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 :** [Zeph 3:14-18](#), [Phil 4:4-7](#), [Luke 3:10-18](#)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Psalm:** **Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Intercession:** Lord in your Mercy

**Response:** **Hear our Prayer!**

**Next Week:** [Micah 5:1-4](#), [Heb 10:5-10](#), [Luke 1:39-44](#)

**Ramblings** The song for this Sunday as we light the pink candle is **Gaudete! Gaudete! Rejoice! Rejoice!**

It seems that C.S. Lewis, in his Narnia books, says that creation was sung into existence. This Sunday suggests that the melody was one of rejoicing. Every morning the birds greet the new day with song. The Advent season offers us an opportunity to hear the *Song of God* in his creation in each other but most of all within ourselves.

*"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem's of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.*

*An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.' The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us be so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos — the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."* (Edward Hayes)

"Loving God, gracious provider and giver of life, we await with expectation the celebration of your birth. Like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we, too, are in need of light, in need of direction, in need of your Word, to show us the way. Our busy lives and the consumerism that surrounds us make it difficult to recognize your presence and to hear your voice. Help us Lord, to focus on you and the song you sing to us. Amen."

## Diary Dates

### Sat 11 & Sun 12

**Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival** at Holy Saviour Church. See details below.

### Sun 12 December

**9.15am-10.15am & 11.30-12.30** Synodal Pathway conversation in Hall. (Session 3)

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**6.30 - 7.30pm Hitchin Theological Society** in St Mary's Church theme **The stars in the bright sky**

### Mon 13 Dec **St Lucy**

### Tues 14 Dec **St John of the Cross**

**10.30am Coffee Morning after Mass** Hall.

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**11.30am Meditation** Hall

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**2pm Craft Circle** Scout Hall

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**6.45pm FHC Session 4** Hall

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**7pm Eucharistic Service** – Please join us to consider the readings for next Sunday and share communion. To Zoom click on [Eucharistic Service](#)

### Wed 15 Dec

**2pm UCM Carol Service/Social** Hall

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**6pm Feed Up Warm Up** Scout Hall

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

### Fri 17 Dec

**10am Memorial Mass for Sr Anne-Marie** please feel free to pay your tribute to her at the end of the Mass

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

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**7pm Reconciliation service** in preparation for Christmas

## Diary Dates continued

Sat 18 Dec

10.30am FHC Session (non faith Schools) Hall

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1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

**The Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival 2021**

Holy Saviour Church  
Radcliffe Road  
Hitchin  
SG5 1QG

Saturday  
11th December  
10.30am - 6pm

Sunday  
12th December  
12noon - 6pm

Light refreshments available

**Admission £5**  
Accompanied children FREE  
Email: [ctf@holysaviourhitchin.org.uk](mailto:ctf@holysaviourhitchin.org.uk)  
Facebook: HitchinChristmasTreeFestival

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)

There is an assortment of **Christmas Cards** for sale in the Parish Office priced at 30p each. If you wish to make a purchase, please call in the Parish Office Monday to Thursday between 10am and 3pm. All donations will be given to the Cardinal Hume Centre in London. Many thanks.

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## The Bishops have issued the following information regarding Covid Safety in our churches

With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- People displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- Hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church and should be used on entrance and exit.
- **It is now mandatory for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship unless there is a genuine exemption.**
- We maintain good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, please wrap up well in church!
- We encourage people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when.
- People who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

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## CHRISTMAS MASSES

All Masses this Christmas need to be booked.

### Mass times

24<sup>th</sup> December 5pm Children's Mass **is now full.**

**No more bookings will be accepted.**

24<sup>th</sup> December 9pm Vigil Mass **Space available**

25<sup>th</sup> December 8.30am and 10.30am **Plenty of space available**

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**.



**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/>

**Cheques for Christmas Collections.** It would be appreciated if cheques for the Christmas collections are made out to the Parish – i.e. Our Lady’s Church and not to the Order. This will make accounting more straightforward. Please be assured that all such donations will end up in the right place !

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Please make a date in your diary **22<sup>nd</sup> December 6.30pm** for our **Service of Carols and readings** for Christmas. Thanks to all the readers younger and more mature who have offered to help. The readings will be sent out to you soon.

**Other items of interest**

**Pick up your free tree sapling this December**

You can grab a free tree from specific locations in North Herts this month. Help improve local biodiversity and air quality, and help reduce your own carbon footprint, by nurturing a sapling at home – or give as an eco-friendly Christmas gift!

Trees are some of the most powerful tools in the fight against climate change – every tree planted will help us grow a greener future together. All tree saplings are native to the UK and deciduous (they will shed their leaves each year) and include field maple, silver birch, sweet cherry and hazel.

**Letchworth – 14 December** Howard Gardens, 11am-4pm

**Hitchin – 16 December** Bancroft, 11am-4pm



**Great Ashby – 17 December** Community Centre, 11am-4pm

Alternatively, you can collect a tree from NHDC’s contractor Arborcare’s depot at Todds Green, Stevenage (SG1 2JE) 7.30am-11am each Saturday up to Christmas.

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**Kieran from PHASE** We have a matched funding campaign by some wonderfully generous people who will double any donation in December up to £2,500! So £10 becomes £20, £20 becomes £40 and so on! You can donate online: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/phasehitchin> or you can drop cash or cheque to the PHASE office or give us a call (01462 422940) and we can sort it from there.

**Thanks for bringing your items to Hitchin Pantry**



**Focus on past Assistant Priests** Fr Malachy Corbett was assistant priest here from 1961 to 1972. Fr Malachy was particularly drawn to the care of the sick and elderly. He became chaplain to the Lister hospital where he spent many hours with the sick and also giving great support to their families.



**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 260** *Love made fruitful - Welcoming a new life.* Each new life ‘allows us to appreciate the utterly gratuitous dimension of love, which never ceases to amaze us. It is the beauty of being loved as God loves us. Children are loved even before they are born.’ Catechesis (11 February 2015) : L’Osservatore Romano, 12 February 2015, p8.

**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>
<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> }			