



# 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 1975

25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 THE HOLY FAMILY - 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:** 1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24, Luke 2:41-52  
**Entrance Antiphon:** A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.  
**Psalm:** I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.  
**Intercession:** Lord Hear us  
**Response:** Lord graciously hear us!  
**Next Week:** Ecc 24:1-2,8-12, Eph 1:3-6,15-18, Jn1:1-5,9-14

### **Ramblings Christmas Is for Healing** *Macrina Wiederkehr OSB.*

Loving you, of course  
I am not at all interested in how much money you are spending on Christmas gifts this year but rather, in how much blood, sweat, and tears you are shedding to make Christ a vital part of your life.  
For you and I will never be able to erase the fact that Jesus came:  
to touch lives - to break bread  
to heal hurt - to forgive sins  
to wash feet - to calm seas  
to walk on water - to give us the Spirit and to care immensely.  
Yes, to care enough to be born in our Bethlehem to live in our land, and weep over our cities and die and rise again.  
So now it's Christmas and I am not sure what part of you is crippled or where you need to feel God's saving power but with everything in me I believe that Christmas is for healing. And Jesus came to heal.  
So, if you can trust Jesus enough to walk out on the waters of getting involved, of washing feet and anointing people, of breaking bread and working miracles, I am almost sure his saving presence will touch those blind and crippled parts of your life and Christmas will come to you.  
More than anything else I want to give you Christmas this year  
It's a gift, an offer.  
You can take it if you like but I can't really give it to you like a wrapped up package.  
It is deeper than that,  
It is warmer, brighter, holier.  
It is more personal.  
Christmas is more challenging than a wrapped up package.

It is an offer  
It is a mystery  
It is birth  
It is hope.  
It is Christmas and God can never be born enough. . .

### **Diary Dates**

<b>Sun 26 December</b>
<b>Mass at 8.30am &amp; 10.30am</b>
<b>Wed 29 Dec</b>
<b>6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall</b>
<b>Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>
<b>10am Mass for the Bethany Club</b> +++++
<b>2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall</b>
<b>Sat 1 Jan Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b>Happy New Year</b>



**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/>

+++++

Unfortunately it would appear that we will not be receiving our usual supply of small diaries for 2022. However, we have secured a small supply from St Paul's Bookshop. They are not personalised with information from our Parish. When they arrive, they will be on sale in the Porch for £3.50 if you wish to purchase one.

As you are all no doubt aware, Virgin Money Giving ceased on 30 November 2021. The Diocese will remove the VMG "Donate" button from the website in due course. In the meantime, please do consider donating using our cashless card system located in the porch. Gift Aid may also be selected. We continue to be extremely grateful for all your donations – Loose Offertory, Weekly Envelopes, Standing Orders etc - particularly during these challenging times. Thank you all. Wishing you all a Happy, Holy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas.

### Future Dates

**Sunday 16th January, 6.30 to 7.30 pm** The fourth meeting of our Theological Society in St Mary's. The theme is '**Unity in Diversity (disagreeing kindly)**' and four speakers will share their thoughts on how our different theologies affect our one-ness in faith.

††††††††††

**Sunday 23rd January** CTH gathering for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on, precise time to be confirmed but round about 'tea-time' at Our Lady's. Rather than hold a united service, we are having a time of reflection, prayer and conversation on the theme of 'Journeying together'. This is inspired by the call from Pope Francis to Catholics worldwide to join a 'Synodal Pathway'. Father Tom and friends at Our Lady's want this to be a shared journey with Christians of other traditions and I hope that a good number of us will join them.

### Other items of interest

St Richard Reynolds College is looking for

outstanding practitioners who can teach GCSE and A-level to join them from September 2022 to deliver high-quality lessons to ensure great learning. Current vacancies:

- Deputy Subject Leader of Maths
- Teacher of RE
- Subject Leader of Physics
- Teacher of Economics

For more details go to [Job Vacancies](#)

**Thank you for all your help  
this year and this Christmas**

The Priests and Pastoral team would like to thank everyone who has helped to make our church safe over the past year and your patience in following the rules with the restrictions that we have had to have in place.

We also thank everyone who has been involved with preparing the church and our Christmas services.

You now get to have a little rest so do enjoy it!

**God bless us all everyone!**



May we work together to advance towards a new horizon of love and peace, of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance. *Pope Francis in his message for 2021 World Day of Peace*



**Focus on past Assistant Priests** Frs Brendan O'Malley (1980-1981) and Columba O'Leary (1958) both spent short periods as assistant at Hitchin but Fr Christopher Burgess broke all records with 46 years (1968-2014) here and saw all the changes; buildings, school and liturgy. All appreciated his calm approach and fidelity at all times. He is well remembered by many parishioners.



**AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE** *Love made fruitful - Welcoming a new life.* The gift of a new child, entrusted by the Lord to a father and a mother, begins with acceptance, continues with lifelong protection and has as its final goal the joy of eternal life

**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>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Cheryl Saunders	<a href="mailto:cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk">cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		01462 459126 press 4
<b>Pastoral Assistants</b>	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	<a href="mailto:roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk">roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk">trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk</a> }		