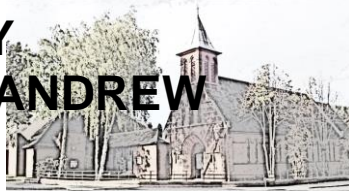




CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

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 1976

1st January – 8th January 2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY - 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: [Ecc 24:1-2,8-12](#), [Eph 1:3-6,15-18](#), [Jn1:1-5,9-14](#)

Entrance Antiphon: When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Psalm **The Word was made flesh, and lived among us. Alleluia!**

Intercession: Lord in your Mercy


Response: Hear our Prayer!

Next Week: Readings: [Is 40:1-5,9-11](#), [Tit 2:11-14.3-4-7](#),
[Luke 3:15-16.21-22](#)

Ramblings anticipating the Epiphany

Deep down what are you searching for? Initially, it may be for money to pay the bills? The Magi were looking for the one who they believed would be the true hope of the world but they also wanted to pay him tribute – a sign of their gratitude for all that they had received in life - thanksgiving that they were given the opportunity to see him - thanksgiving for his presence. Whatever our search, whether for abilities or virtues or anything else, do we reflect on what we want to offer Jesus in thanksgiving? When I was small, I would receive one big gift at Christmas each year. One year it was a scooter, another time a pair of metal roller skates. I used my scooter so much the metal eventually wore out but my dad repaired it at work. I loved that scooter. I used my skates the same way but left them outside one day and they were taken. I mention this because one way of reverencing Jesus is to use the gifts he has given us to their fullest - in thanksgiving. If we could look on each of our gifts with this kind of gratitude, we will want to use them until they wear out – although Jesus would never let that happen. Look and see and experience everything with gratitude and your whole life will be a life of thanksgiving. Remembering that Eucharist means Thanksgiving surely we can't do better. It leaves very little time to search for anything else!

Diary Dates

Sat 1 January <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>
Tues 4 January
No Coffee Morning – planning to resume on 11 th January
Wed 5 January
6pm Feed Up Warm Up Scout Hall
Thurs 6 January <i>Epiphany</i>
 12pm Funeral Mass of Marie Smith. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort her family
Fri 7 January
2-4pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall
Sat 8 Jan
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry Scout Hall

Would you consider proclaiming the Word of God as a Reader (Minister of the Word) at our Masses? This is an important ministry as it is through our proclaiming of the scripture at Mass that the Holy Spirit can speak to us. Children and adults are welcome to undertake the training.

If so we would like to invite you to a training session for new readers.

Can you let Trish know which of the following times would suit you best for attending the training?

- Monday]
- Tuesday]
- Wednesday] Please specify Morning,
- Thursday] Afternoon, or Evening
- Friday]
- Saturday]
- Sunday]

The training will cover:



Good delivery techniques, engagement, pace, volume and expression
Reading the bidding prayers and Announcements.

Depending on numbers who wish to be trained this may be one or two sessions of 60 minutes.

If you wish to take part in this training please let Trish know the best days and times for you asap and the training sessions will be arranged to suit as many people as possible.

††††††††††††



We pray for Robert O'Dell (Fr Andrew's brother) whose funeral is on Wednesday 12 January 2022. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort his family.

††††††††††††

For the Letter of His Holiness **Pope Francis to Married Couples** for the "Amoris Laetitia Family" Year, 2021-2022 (26 December 2021) click on [Amoris Laetitia Family Letter](#)

††††††††††††



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/>

Other items of interest

As Boxing Day and New Year celebrations are behind us, and clearing out and tidying-up comes to all homes, here are some suggestions to increase our recycling in the area:



1) Take your real Christmas trees to the Letchworth Garden City Hospice - book your collection before Wed 5th Jan, to have it collected between the 6th and 10th January, go on-line to <https://www.ghospicecare.org.uk/events/christmas-treecycling-2022> or phone: 01462 679540 or email events@ghospicecare.org.uk - Please ensure your tree is stripped of all decorations.

2) Take all unwanted, out-grown toys that are complete and in good condition to charity shop so they can continue to be useful in the community, or take them to a toys exchange fair/party, consider organising one of them!

3) Recycle your damaged or incomplete Hasbro toys and games by bringing them to the parish and placing them in the "GREY" recycling bin provided, to help raise funds for PHASE. (except electrical and electronic toys and games - as those should be disposed of via the council WEEE waste stream) Please note that this programme accepts all the Hasbro games and toys, such as Hasbro Gaming, NERF, Play-Doh, Littlest PetShop, Monopoly, My Little Pony, Mr Potato Head, Transformers, etc. For the full list, please visit the Hasbro website. NO other brands toys can be recycled in this scheme, we will be penalised. NO toys that use batteries.

4) Any L.O.L. Surprise! products, including packaging and accessories - these can be recycled with Terracycle, please take them to Corner of Campers Avenue and Westbury Place, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3SR - on Saturdays only, and place them in the outside bins provided on the corner.

5) The Mattel® PlayBack Programme, facilitated by TerraCycle, allows you to recycle your Barbie®, Matchbox™ and MEGA™ toys for free. Go to Mattel Playback website <https://www2.mattel.com/en-gb/playback> and see also <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/mattel-uk> for instructions on how to do it from your home.

6) The Foil Balloons Recycling Program - Recycle all foil balloons and banners at participating Card Factory stores, like the Hitchin branch, there is a recycling box on the counter to



the left hand side as one goes in the door. They will take all brands of foil Balloons and foil air walkers, all their plastic packaging, and all brands of foil banners and sashes. They do not take ribbons, nor weights, and no other party accessories.

7) The Gillette Recycling Envelope Scheme - Recycle any brand of razors and razor blades via post directly from your home! See instructions how: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/gillette-envelope-uk>



Focus on past Assistant Priests We Assumptionists always look upon Christmas Day as our founders day. It was on December 25th 1850 at the midnight mass that Fr d'Alzon made his first vows having been made to wait five years by the bishop of Nimes. Four others started their novitate on that day.



AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 264 *Love made fruitful - Love and pregnancy*
Pregnancy is a difficult but wonderful time. A mother joins with God to bring forth the miracle of a new 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

Parish Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Assistant Priest	Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	Parish 01462 459126 E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders		cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk }	
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk }		01462 459126 press 4
	Trish Bonnett	trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk }		